

DIPLOMA IN SPEECH AND DRAMA FOR ADVANCED TEACHING

What is this and for whom is it?

This diploma is for those who have some experience in teaching the primary grades of Speech and Drama and who wish to expand their teaching practice. It focuses on how to teach Speech and Drama to students attempting Grades 4 – 8 of the CALSDA syllabus. At the end of the examination a teacher should not only be able to select her own material and prepare students for exams, but also be a confident performer herself.

Warning!

Teachers who attempt this diploma must be prepared for a lot of hard work and extensive preparation. Common pitfalls include the inability to memorise the long extracts required for performance, inability to memorise and apply the theoretical knowledge required, lack of preparation for the written paper, lack of confidence in performance skills, lack of fluency in reading, problems in pronunciation and lack of teaching experience.

Syllabus

I. Practical

- a) Performance of a passage of Prose / Narrative poem, a Dramatic extract, and a Lyric Poem
- b) Reading a passage of prose or verse for performance
- c) Discussion of a Study Journal
- d) Discussion of Literature and Speech Theory

A) General areas to be considered in performance

- i. Memory work
- ii. Understanding and sincerity
- iii. Intelligent use of pausing and phrasing
- iv. Facial and vocal expression
- v. Appropriate use of gesture and movement
- vi. Audibility and pronunciation
- vii. Characterisation
- viii. Suitability for the Grade - Extracts should be at Grade 7 or 8 level

B) Preparing the Study Journal

The requirements are the same as for the Primary Teaching Diploma.

C) Literature and Speech theory

Candidates are expected to know the background to their chosen extracts, about the authors and their contemporaries, periods of literature, meanings of words / phrases in the pieces etc.

When discussing speech theory, candidates are required to provide definitions, exercises used to teach the theory, practical application, common problems encountered and suitable solutions for the same as well as uses of mime and improvisation.

II. Written Paper

Candidates are required to answer 4 questions – on speech and voice production, teaching material and methods, performing skills such as mime and improvisation, the uses of drama.

III. Essay

The candidate is required to write an essay of approximately 1250 words on the work of a poet, dramatist OR novelist of their choice. It is advised to select one of the authors used in the practical.

Elements of a Good Essay

- i. Use the basic structure of Introduction, Body and Conclusion
- ii. Chapters are not required but use heading and subheadings judiciously
- iii. Make statements backed up by facts and examples
- iv. Quote from sources – give credit where credit is due
- v. Include sources in the Bibliography
- vi. Be methodical, focused and logical in your arguments
- vii. Give your personal opinion as well
- viii. Don't be superficial, but dig deeper into relevant areas
- ix. Be professional in your presentation