

DIPLOMA IN SPEECH AND DRAMA FOR PRIMARY TEACHING

What is this and for whom is it?

This diploma is for those who have some experience in teaching Spoken English and who wish to expand their teaching practice. It focuses on how to teach Speech and Drama to students attempting Introductory to Grade 3 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 Journal must include poems, passages of prose, lists of readers, dramatic extracts that will be used in teaching the subject. Sample readers may be taken in to the examination.

Based on the above, candidates will be asked to discuss how to use the material, why particular items were chosen, where material was obtained, problems encountered and solutions etc.

The material can be presented by grade or by type. Marks are awarded for the journal itself, therefore, candidates are encouraged to make it colourful and well organised with clear headings and divisions. When speaking about your Journal, speak with conviction and justify your choices effectively.

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.

Tip!

The more answers candidates write in preparation for the Written examination, the more likely they are to pass.

How to write an answer

Candidates are expected to be well-organised and logical in their writing approach. Basic writing skills and mastery of the language are expected.

Effective answers should have the following

- An introduction / definition of the key issues
- The importance of the subject under question
- Common problems encountered
- Means used to solve such problems
- Related areas that have an impact on the subject at hand
- An effective conclusion / summary

Example : “It is important for young learners studying speech and drama to master correct pronunciation.” Discuss this statement and explain how such skills could be taught.