

Summary of changes from the previous edition

The below table shows the main changes from the previous edition of these specifications, the *Acting and Speaking Syllabus from 2010*.

QUALIFICATION	GRADE/TASK	DETAILS OF CHANGE
All	Exam timings	Maximum timings have been assigned to all the performance pieces/programmes.
All solo and pair qualifications	Conversation/ Discussion task	Updated topics for some grades.
Speech and Drama/ Performing Text	Initial: task 1	The piece performed can now be either in the candidate's own words or spoken from memory. Text accuracy is not assessed in this task.
Speech and Drama	Grade 3: task 3 (formerly task 4)	The improvisation has been replaced by a performance of a prepared mime based on a theme arising from one of the candidate's prepared pieces from tasks 1 and 2.
	Grades 4 and 5: task 3 (formerly task 4)	The improvisation has been replaced by a performance of a play extract from memory.
	Grades 6-8: discussion	The optional improvisation has been removed from the discussion.
	Grade 8: task 1 – 5-minute talk	The 5-minute talk requirement has been removed.
Speech and Drama/Performing Text/Acting (solo)	Grade 8: task 1	The performance programme is no longer required to have a theme (although candidates may still use this as a way of linking their pieces).
Performing Text	Grade 1: task 2	The option of a 'reading of a passage from the candidate's own book' has been replaced by a prepared reading.
Performing Text	Grade 3: tasks 2 and 3	The requirements for the tasks are now: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A passage of prose or poetry performed from memory ▶ A prepared reading of a prose passage or a news item.
Acting (previously 'Individual Acting Skills')	Grades 4-7	The 'modification of one of the performance pieces in another style' option has been removed.
	Grade 8: task 1	The number of pieces required in the performance programme is now three instead of four.
	Grade 8: task 2	The requirement for this task has been adjusted from an improvisation arising from one of the prepared pieces or a version of one of the performances in another style to: working 'with the examiner on a modification of one of the pieces – the stimulus is provided by the examiner'.
Group Drama – Devised	Grade 5: task 1	Now there is a requirement for a brief written outline of the scene to be given to the examiner before the performance.
Advanced Performance Certificate	Performance programme	The second performer is now optional.
Plays in Production	Grades 1-8	Plays in Production now includes an extra option for productions where students are mainly focused on performance.

These specifications are valid from 1 September 2017.

EXAM OVERLAP ARRANGEMENTS

The 'from 2010' edition of these specifications are valid for exams until 31 March 2018. During this time, candidates may prepare for their exam using either that document or these 'from 2017' specifications.