

Speak Up – Act Out Drama Competition 2025/26

Conditions and Regulations

Improvise to Devise

1. The Organiser

The Speak Up – Act Out Drama Competition 2025/26 is organised by the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), Education Bureau.

2. Aims

Drama provides students with greater exposure to authentic English and opportunities to use English creatively, contributing to whole-person development.

The aim of the Speak Up – Act Out Drama Competition is to empower students to use drama both within and beyond the English language classroom to:

- explore situations, characters, ideas and feelings;
- express themselves confidently and creatively in English, using both physical and vocal expression;
- develop their collaboration skills, communication skills and creativity; and
- develop positive values and attitudes, e.g. perseverance, respect for others and empathy.

3. Description of the Competition

SU – AO is open to secondary schools in Hong Kong adopting the CDC English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – Secondary 6).

Teachers and students are encouraged to regularly practise devising drama in English using improvisation techniques throughout the year as a curricular or co-curricular activity. The school team of four to six students will be given two weeks to devise a 4-5 minute drama based on a given stimulus for performance in the competition sessions in February and March 2026.

4. Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

Event	Date or Deadline	Document(s) and Remarks
Invitation to join the NET Section Competitions Briefing Session: SU – AO Drama Competition	September 2025	Email from the NET Section
NET Section Competitions Briefing – Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition 2025/26 (online)	25 September 2025 (Thu) 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	EDB Training Calendar System online application Course ID: CDI020260204
Deadline for submission of online entry form with School Confirmation	30 October 2025 (Thu) 5:00 p.m.	Online Entry Form School Confirmation
SU – AO Drama professional development workshop EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Rd, Kowloon Tong	18 November 2025 (Tue) 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	EDB Training Calendar System online application Course ID: CDI020260212 <i>Highly recommended for teachers new to SU-AO</i>

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Announcement of competition dates and venues	November 2025	Email from the NET Section
Submission of the online team name list	At least two weeks before the competition sessions	The team name list form will be emailed to schools together with the details of the allocated competition dates and venues. The team name list will be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on the day of the competition. Student no. 1 will be the team leader. • to issue the certificates. Please ensure that names are spelled correctly and in the correct format. Replacement certificates will <u>not</u> be issued.
Stimulus to be emailed to contact teachers	Approximately two weeks before each competition session	Email from the NET Section
SU - AO Drama Competition Sessions	9 February 2026 (Mon) 11 February 2026 (Wed) 19 March 2026 (Thu) 25 March 2026 (Wed)	Tsuen Wan Town Hall Pooi To Middle School Pooi To Middle School Ying Wa Girls' School All sessions will be conducted in the afternoon.
Collection of certificates at the NET Section office in Tsuen Wan	June 2026	

5. Conditions for Entry

- 5.1. The competition entry form must be submitted on or before the entry deadline.
- 5.2. Competition regulations and organisation may change year to year so the teacher-in-charge of the competition should attend the Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition Briefing Session (online) (see details above).
- 5.3. There are four competition sessions. Schools may enter only one team as places are limited. If the competition is oversubscribed, entries will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served** basis.
- 5.4. A Speak Up – Act Out Drama professional development workshop (6 hours) will be offered to teachers entering students in the competition. The workshop focuses on using improvised drama techniques to devise a staged drama performance. Schools and teachers that have not participated in the SU-AO staged drama competition are strongly encouraged

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to attend the workshop.

- 5.5. Teams must consist of **four to six students**, who are solely responsible for devising and performing a drama for the competition. The students may come from the same or different year levels.
- 5.6. The online Team Name List must be submitted no later than 2 weeks before the competition session. Student No. 1 on the list will be the Team Leader on the day of the competition. Team Leaders will be asked to announce the title of the drama before the performance begins. *The Team Name List will also be used to issue the certificates. Teachers are solely responsible for ensuring that names are spelled correctly and in the correct format. Replacement certificates will not be issued.*
- 5.7. If a student is ill on the day of the competition, teams can choose to perform with the remaining students in the team or to find a replacement student as a stand-in. The full name of the replacement student must be provided at the registration table on the day of the competition.
- 5.8. Certificates will be available for collection at the NET Section office in Tsuen Wan after the competition sessions. The teacher-in-charge will be notified by email when the certificates are ready for collection.

6. Regulations

- 6.1 The drama performance must be based on the given stimulus.
- 6.2 The order teams perform in will be chosen by lucky draw at the competition session.
- 6.3 No written scripts or notecards are allowed during the performance.
- 6.4 All students and teachers in a team must stay for the entire event, and no exceptions will be made. Teams that arrive late to the venue or after a break may be penalised.
- 6.5 The teacher-in-charge is responsible for ensuring that there are no offensive scenarios.
- 6.6 All team members must perform in the drama and be involved equally, or almost equally, in the performance.
- 6.7 8 seats will be allocated to each team, including 2 for teachers. If teachers would like extra seats on top of this allocation, they must contact the NET Section in advance to check whether there are seats available at the venue.
- 6.8 All team members must wear sports shoes, solid black T-shirts, and dark comfortable pants suitable for drama. Long hair should be tied back so that the judges can see the performers' faces clearly.
- 6.9 In order to encourage good dramatic development, **only very brief narration (of five seconds or less on one or two occasions) is permitted.**
- 6.10 The time allowed for each performance is 4 – 5 minutes. Performances that are too short may not be considered for a prize. A warning bell will be rung once at 4 minutes and a final bell twice at 5 minutes. On the final bell, the student speaking may finish their sentence but then the performance must stop and the team must return to their seats.

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- 6.11 The focus is on improvised drama, so lighting effects, music, costumes, props, stage sets and make-up are not permitted. Two chairs will be provided for the performance. **Standing on the chairs is not permitted.**
- 6.12 Teams must behave like a good theatre audience. They must be attentive and respectful, and mobile phones must be switched off. After one warning, teams may be penalised.
- 6.13 A stimulus for the dramas will be sent to the teacher-in-charge by email approximately 2 weeks before each competition session. After receiving the stimulus, teachers should play a supervisory role and provide the following support:
- Structure improvisations so that students can explore the stimulus and devise their drama “through play”.
 - Structure planning and reflection sessions, encouraging students to make their drama more interesting and entertaining by, for example, developing characters, action and dramatic elements like exposition, tension/conflict and dramatic climaxes.
- 6.14 During the planning and reflection sessions, teachers can use various strategies like brainstorming, mapping out the plot, storyboarding, developing dialogue with short writing and viewing photos and videos of their improvisations.
- 6.15 The decision of the judging panel is considered final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding adjudication.

7. Adjudication and Criteria

The judging panels will include representatives from the EDB, drama instructors, and English teachers with a background in drama. Student performances will be assessed on the criteria below:

A.	Content	30%	<i>creativity & response to stimulus plot structure use of dialogue</i>
B.	Language	30%	<i>language structures & vocabulary pronunciation & fluency</i>
C.	Performance skills	40%	<i>vocal expression voice projection physical expression use of space dramatic techniques teamwork</i>

The full criteria can be found [here](#).

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8. Awards and Certificates

Awards and prizes will be given for each session of the competition.

Team awards and prizes:	
1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd prize	Trophy + certificates + book coupons
Merit prizes (x2)	
Audience prize	
Individual prizes:	
‘Speak Up – Act Out’ Superstar Performer (best overall)	Trophy + certificates + book coupons
‘Speak Up – Act Out’ Star Performer (x2)	
Every team member will be awarded a Certificate of Participation.	

9. Competition Entry

Follow these steps to enter the competition:

1. Complete the School Confirmation with the school chop and principal’s signature.
2. Scan the School Confirmation as a pdf file so that you are ready to submit it with the online Entry Form.
3. Submit the online Entry Form.

The online Entry Form is available [here](#).



The School Confirmation is available [here](#).



Please submit your entry by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 30 October 2025.

10. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact:

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Alice LEUNG at 3549 8315 or by email at aliceosleung@edb.gov.hk