

Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition

Adjudication Criteria 2026/27

	Needs Work (Level 1)	Approaching Standard (Level 2)	Meets Standard (Level 3)	Exceeds Standard (Level 4)
A. Content • Creativity & response to stimulus • Character development • Use of dialogue • Plot structure	Content is not original, does not respond to the stimulus & does not interest the audience. Plot, setting & characters are unclear with little dramatic tension. Dialogue is limited.	Creative elements interest the audience and respond to the stimulus. Plot, setting & characters are difficult to follow. Some exciting moments may be created. Dialogue may be partly successful in expressing character & advancing the plot.	Creative content engages & entertains the audience with an interesting response to the stimulus. Clear & satisfying plot, setting & characters which are coherently developed with dramatic tension throughout. Dialogue effectively & clearly expresses character & advances plot.	Original & creative response to the stimulus which excites & delights. Coherent & dynamic plot, setting & characters with fine dramatic tension throughout. Dialogue expresses character & advances the plot with flair.
B. Use of Language • Range of vocabulary & language structures • Pronunciation & fluency	A narrow range of language with many inaccuracies that affect comprehension. Pronunciation & fluency severely affect performance.	A range of language used. Inaccuracies do not affect comprehension. Problems with pronunciation & fluency do not affect comprehension.	A wide range of appropriate language used mostly accurately. Comprehension is not affected by minor pronunciation & fluency problems.	Language selected with flair & with only minor inaccuracies. Accurate pronunciation and fluent delivery.
C. Performance Skills • Voice projection • Vocal expression • Physical expression • Dramatic techniques • Use of space • Teamwork	Limited use of vocal expression, physical expression and space. Lack of projection has a significant impact on performance. Limited use of dramatic techniques. Lack of teamwork & cooperation. Several actors do or say nothing. The drama relies on 1 - 2 main actors.	Vocal and physical expression convey character, action & setting with partial success. Voice projection is mostly adequate. Some use of dramatic techniques. Stage space used with partial success. Actors try to work together. There may not be a balance in the division of roles.	Vocal and physical expression effectively convey character, action & setting. Voice projection is consistently good. Dramatic techniques enhance the drama. Actors work together effectively to support & enhance the drama with an almost equal share of performance time.	Vocal and physical expression used with flair to convey character, action & setting. Projection of actors' voices is consistently outstanding. Dramatic techniques create fine dramatic moments. Actors work creatively & fluently as an ensemble.