

Speak Up – Act Out Drama Competition: Adjudication Criteria 2025/26

	Needs Work (0 – 7)	Working Towards Standard (8 – 15)	Meets Standard (16 – 23)	Exceeds Standard (24 – 30)
<p>A. Content (30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creativity & response to stimulus • plot structure • use of dialogue 	<p>Content is not original, does not respond to the stimulus & does not interest the audience.</p> <p>Plot, setting & characters are unclear with little dramatic tension.</p> <p>Dialogue is limited.</p>	<p>Creative elements interest the audience and respond to the stimulus.</p> <p>Plot, setting & characters are difficult to follow.</p> <p>Some exciting moments may be created.</p> <p>Dialogue may be partly successful in expressing character & advancing the plot.</p>	<p>Creative content engages & entertains the audience with an interesting response to the stimulus.</p> <p>Clear & satisfying plot, setting & characters which are coherently developed with dramatic tension throughout.</p> <p>Dialogue effectively & clearly expresses character & advances plot.</p>	<p>Original & creative response to the stimulus which excites & delights.</p> <p>Coherent & dynamic plot, setting & characters with fine dramatic tension throughout.</p> <p>Dialogue expresses character & advances the plot with flair.</p>
<p>B. Language (30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • language structures & vocabulary • pronunciation & fluency 	<p>A narrow range of language with many inaccuracies that affect comprehension.</p> <p>Pronunciation & fluency severely affect performance.</p>	<p>A range of language used. Inaccuracies do not affect comprehension.</p> <p>Problems with pronunciation & fluency do not affect comprehension.</p>	<p>A wide range of appropriate language used mostly accurately.</p> <p>Comprehension is not affected by minor pronunciation & fluency problems.</p>	<p>Language selected with flair & with only minor inaccuracies.</p> <p>Accurate pronunciation and fluent delivery.</p>

	Needs Work 0 – 9	Working towards Standard 10 – 19	Meets Standard 20 – 29	Exceeds Standard 30 - 40
<p>C. Performance skills (40%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vocal expression • voice projection • physical expression • use of space • dramatic techniques • teamwork 	<p>Limited use of vocal expression, physical expression and space.</p> <p>Lack of projection has a significant impact on performance.</p> <p>Limited use of dramatic techniques.</p> <p>Lack of teamwork & cooperation. Several actors do or say nothing. The drama relies on 1 – 2 main actors.</p>	<p>Vocal and physical expression convey character, action & setting with partial success.</p> <p>Voice projection is mostly adequate.</p> <p>Some use of dramatic techniques.</p> <p>Stage space used with partial success.</p> <p>Actors try to work together. There may not be a balance in the division of roles.</p>	<p>Vocal and physical expression effectively convey character, action & setting.</p> <p>Voice projection is consistently good.</p> <p>Dramatic techniques enhance the drama.</p> <p>Actors work together effectively to support & enhance the drama with an almost equal share of performance time.</p>	<p>Vocal and physical expression used with flair to convey character, action & setting.</p> <p>Projection of actors’ voices is consistently outstanding.</p> <p>Dramatic techniques create fine dramatic moments.</p> <p>Actors work creatively & fluently as an ensemble.</p>