

Speech Power

ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE



Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Founded 1890

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English as a Second Language Syllabus

Member of



ABOUT THE VCM

Victoria College of Music, London, is an independent body providing examinations in Music, Speech, and Drama subjects. It has held examination sessions throughout the British Isles and certain overseas countries since it was founded in 1890. It no longer operates a full-time teaching institution.

Further details about Victoria College can be found on our website:

www.Vcmexams.com and you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

PASS MARKS

Introductory Grades	65%
Grades 1 to 8	65%
with Merit	80%; with Distinction 90% Merit is shown as %Honours+in Ireland
Medal examinations	75%
Diplomas	75% (85% with Honours)

ABOUT THIS SYLLABUS

This syllabus has been compiled using the popular strengths of its predecessors, and takes into account views and suggestions of teachers and advisers.

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

VCM examination requirements do not alter annually, the current syllabus is that listed on our website.

Any changes to the syllabus are announced well in advance on the College website, on Facebook and Twitter.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER EXAMINATION BODIES

VCM Grades 1 to 8 are intended to compare on a level for level basis with the grades 1 to 8 of other similarly recognised examination boards. In addition to Grades 1 to 8, VCM examinations are available at several introductory levels prior to Grade 1 as a means of encouraging beginners, or students with special needs. Medal and Diploma examinations are also available in all subjects. Candidates at all levels receive a written report and, if successful, a certificate or diploma.

REGULATIONS

All entries are accepted on the conditions laid down in *General Regulations and Information*, a copy of which is available free of charge. It is also on our website: www.vcmexams.com

Own choices

Scope has been left deliberately broad to allow for a wide range of own choice material. Teachers are encouraged to involve students as much as possible in the choice of pieces in order to give them a feeling of ownership of their work. While prescribed pieces are mainly of a traditional nature, there is no reason why own choices should not include modern material from less conventional sources.

Copies

Candidates must bring copies of the works being performed for the use of the examiner. This need not necessarily be a second copy of a book, especially when cost is a factor: many teachers encourage candidates to copy out works, preferably using word-processors, as part of the learning process. Photocopying should be avoided and copyright law must not be broken.

Essays, projects, dissertations, folios, etc.

These must be typed, word-processed, printed or neatly written. A statement signed by the teacher should certify that the work is wholly that of the candidate. Heavy binders should be avoided as essays are sent through the post and are photocopied for examiners' use. Marks are not awarded, essays are either Approved or Not Approved. Those whose essay is Not Approved but who receive a pass mark in the practical examination, may resubmit a revised essay within two years. The essay resubmission fee (see fee table) is payable in these circumstances.

Sight reading, impromptu work, etc.

Where the syllabuses specify Unseen Sight Reading as a requirement, this will be handed to the candidate during the examination. Sufficient time will be given for the candidate to read through it before being asked to attempt. Impromptu work - as opposed to sight reading - will be handed to the candidate before the examination by the person acting as steward on the day in time for the candidate to make notes and prepare. Candidates taking examinations that include impromptu work should therefore arrive in good time.

Costume and make-up

If candidates choose to use costume and or make-up the examiner will give credit for the effort involved rather than the material quality of the costume, props, make-up etc. See Equal Opportunities statement in *General Regulations and Information*.

Choices

The College is always willing to look over proposed programmes submitted well in advance and give guidance where necessary.

EXAMINERS

On occasions, two examiners may be present for purposes of Moderation or Training.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

At all levels a Sight Reading test is given, with subject matter and vocabulary suited to the grade. This passage, together with the passage prepared by the candidate, will form the basis of questions and discussion.

Grade II

To prepare and read a prose passage, fiction or non-fiction, from a book chosen by the candidate -about three minutes duration.

The Sight Reading test will be selected by the examiner from the same book.

Grade IV

To prepare and read a prose passage, fiction or non-fiction, from a book chosen by the candidate -about four minutes duration.

The Sight Reading test will be selected by the examiner from the same book.

Grade VI

To converse on a topic chosen from a list of three provided by the examiner.

The Sight Reading test will be a prose passage provided by the examiner.

Grade VIII

To give a short talk (about five minutes) on **either** the customs of the candidate's home country; **or** on the candidate's reaction to and understanding of the customs of the host country.

The Sight Reading test will be a prose passage provided by the examiner.

To discuss with the examiner, points arising from the talk and from the prose sight reading.

Silver Medal

To give a short talk (about five minutes) about the candidate's home country (or city) as a tourist venue.

To discuss with the examiner the difficulties the candidate has faced (and perhaps overcome) in understanding and speaking the English language; **or** the advantages that a fluent second language might bring.

Marks:

Fluency & range of vocabulary	40
Comprehension	40
Discussion	20
	100