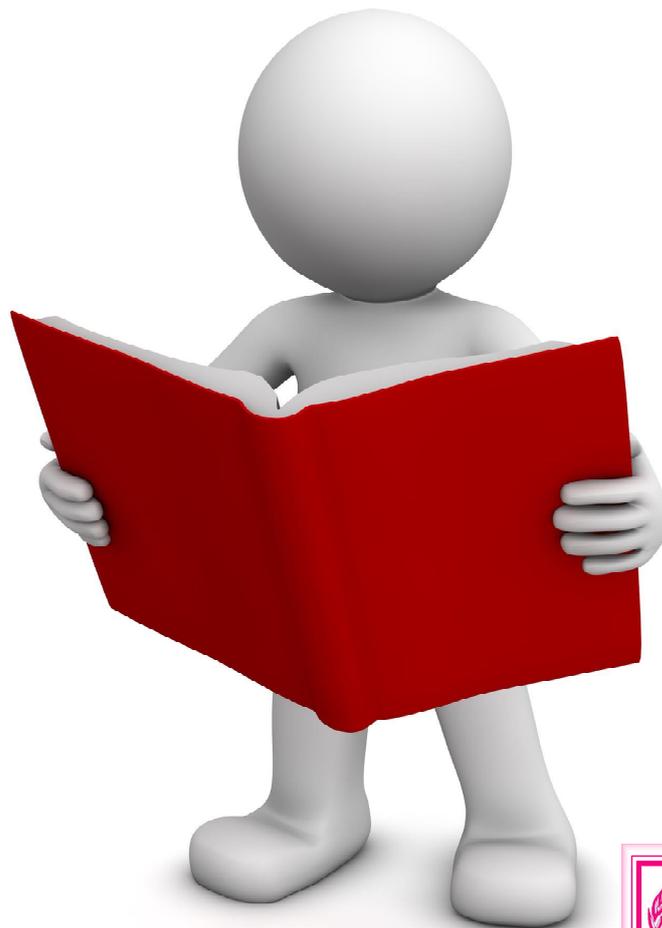


Speech Power

**READING
ALLOUD**

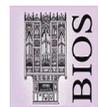


Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Founded 1890

71 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AY

T: 020 7405 6483 E: info@vcexamms.com W: vcexamms@aol.com



Governing Council:

Principal

Dr. Martin Ellerby HonDLitt DMA HonVCM FVCM GLCM LMusLCM FTCL FRSA

Chief Executive

Robin Wood HonVCM FVCM FCV FinstSMM ALAM FRSA

Chief Examiner

Claire C. Pashley MA BA(Hons) PGCE HonVCM FVCM LTCL ALCM(TD) FRSA AdvDip(Open)

Qualifications Manager and Head of of Music

Stewart L. Thompson BA(Hons) CT,FVCM FMCM FSCO FIGOC FCollt MNCMSoc ACIEA

Head of Speech & Drama

Stuart Morrison MA HonVCM FVCM(TD)(Hons) PGCE ALAM ALCM(TD) LVCMEd(Hons) FIFL FRSA

Curriculum Specialist

Dr June Fileti PhD MA(Mus)(Open), MEd BA(Hons) CT,FVCM, LMusEdASMC(Hons)

Subject Consultant

Stuart Morrison MA HonVCM FVCM(TD)(Hons) PGCE ALAM ALCM(TD) LVCMEd(Hons) FIFL FRSA

Oral Communication Syllabus

Member of



CEA Chartered Institute of
Educational Assessors
Excellence in Assessment (Schools)

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](http://www.Vcmexams.com) and you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

PASS MARKS

Introductory Grades, 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

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 should be emailed to entries@vcmexams.com at the time of entry. A statement signed by the teacher should certify that the work is wholly that of the candidate. 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.

READING ALOUD

These examinations are intended to help develop skills in the art of reading prose, verse and dramatic speeches aloud. The standard aimed at is both practical and artistic: examiners will expect speech that is expressive, clear and pleasant to listen to. An accent or regional dialect will not count against the candidate; conversely when selections require definite dialects and accents, these should, of course, be attempted.

For Grade VIII and upwards, a higher standard of reading will be required, together with a deeper understanding of the work. The examinations, therefore, encourage not only the young and help them gain confidence, but also those who feel that they would like to participate in what has become a neglected art.

Candidates will note that the mark for the *presentation* includes choice of material and general approach, projection and contact with the listener. *Clarity* includes not only precision of thought and diction but phrasing and an awareness of pitch, pace and pause. *Expression* covers the style required; the mood created and appreciation of the author's intentions. Presentation is important.

The books chosen for the examination must be suited to the candidate's age and ability. Candidates must not present the same work for more than one examination. The total time allowance mentioned for each grade includes the assessment time required by the examiner.

Some of the grades ask for a reading of a dramatic speech. This should be performed as a piece of reading given by an actor where movement and physical expression is used as a component of the reading.

Candidates must bring a separate copy of their selections for the use of the examiner.

There are no Theory requirements for Reading Aloud examinations.

INTRODUCTORY GRADES

Introductory A

Candidates are required to prepare and read aloud an own choice poem of about ten lines in length.

The examiner and candidate will briefly discuss the performed poem.

Introductory B

Candidates will be required to prepare and read aloud:

- (A) A short poem selected by the candidate.
- (B) An extract from a fairy story.

The examiner and candidate will briefly discuss the performed work.

Introductory C

Candidates will be required to prepare and read aloud:

- (A) A humorous poem.
- (B) A contrasting piece of prose.

The examiner and candidate will briefly discuss the performed work.

Introductory D

Candidates will be required to prepare and read aloud:

- (A) A passage of children's literature written in prose.
- (B) A contrasting own choice poem.

The examiner and candidate will briefly discuss the performed work.

GRADES I – VIII

Grade I

Total time allowance 6 minutes.

Candidates will be required to prepare and read aloud:

- (A) An own choice passage of fiction not to exceed 2 minutes.
- (B) A contrasting own choice poem.

The examiner and candidate will discuss the readings and any words or phrases from either, or both, of the pieces that have been read.

Grade II

Total time allowance 10 minutes.

Candidates will be required to prepare:

Prose reading:

- (A) Candidates must bring a suitable work of fiction and read aloud a prepared passage, not to exceed three minutes.
- (B) To read at sight a passage from the same book, chosen by the examiner.

The examiner and the candidate will discuss the book and any words or phrases from either, or both, of the passages that have been read.

Grade III

Total time allowance 10 minutes.

Candidates will be required to prepare:

Prose reading:

- (A) Candidates must read aloud a prepared passage from a contemporary novel, not to exceed three minutes.
- (B) To read at sight a passage from the same book, chosen by the examiner.
- (C) To read aloud a poem written by any Victorian poet.

The examiner and the candidate will discuss the book and poem, any words or phrases from either, or both, of the passages that have been read.

Grade IV

Total time allowance 15 minutes.

Candidates will be required to prepare:

Prose reading:

(A) Candidates must bring a suitable work of fiction and read aloud a prepared passage, not to exceed three minutes.

(B) To read at sight a passage from the same book, chosen by the examiner.

(C) To read aloud a prepared passage from a work of non-fiction which contrasts with that selected for part A which must not exceed three minutes.

The examiner and the candidate will discuss the two books and any words or phrases from either, or both, of the passages that have been read.

Grade V

Total time allowance 15 minutes.

Candidates will be required to prepare:

Prose reading

(A) Candidates must bring a speech from a play which is written in prose from any historical period and read this aloud, not to exceed three minutes. Appropriate movement should be used.

(B) To read aloud a poem which contrasts in theme and is of a different period from selection A.

(C) To read at sight a piece of literature after a short time of observance.

The examiner and the candidate will discuss the two books and any words or phrases from either, or both, of the passages that have been read.

Grade VI

Total time allowance 15 minutes.

Candidates will be required to prepare:

Prose reading 1

Candidates must bring a suitable work of senior fiction and read aloud a prepared passage, not to exceed three minutes.

Prose reading 2

To prepare a chapter or section from a work of non-fiction to provide a contrast to the above. The examiner will select a short passage.

To prepare and read aloud a short nature poem.

To read at sight a descriptive prose passage provided by the examiner.

The examiner and the candidate will discuss the books and the extracts and any words or phrases from either, or both, of the passages that have been read.

Grade VII

Time allowance 20 minutes.

Candidates will be required :

To bring a book, entirely of the candidate's own choice, a work of prose fiction, and read aloud a prepared passage, not to exceed three minutes. This passage must contain a large proportion of contrasted dialogue.

To read aloud a prepared passage of lyrical verse contrasting in them to the prose selection in section A, not to exceed three minutes.

To read aloud a dramatic speech written in prose from a play written in a different period from the other selections, not to exceed two minutes. Suitable movement should be used.

To read at sight a passage of verse or prose. The examiner and candidate will then discuss any, or all, of the passages, and the approach required for different styles of reading.

Grade VIII

Total time allowance 20 minutes.

Candidates will be required:

(A) To bring a book, entirely of the candidate's own choice, a work of prose fiction, and read aloud a prepared passage, not to exceed three minutes. This passage must contain a large proportion of contrasted dialogue.

(B) To read aloud a prepared passage of narrative verse contrasting in them to the prose selection in section A, not to exceed three minutes.

(C) **Either** read aloud a prepared passage from the Bible, any standard version, not to exceed two minutes.

OR To read aloud a dramatic verse speech written by William Shakespeare, not to exceed two minutes. Suitable movement should be used.

To read at sight a passage of verse or prose.

The examiner and candidate will then discuss any, or all, of the passages, and the approach required for different styles of reading.

Bronze Medal

Total time allowance 20 minutes.

Candidates will be required:

(A) To bring a book, entirely of the candidate's own choice, a work of prose fiction, and read aloud a prepared passage, not to exceed four minutes. This passage must contain a large proportion of contrasted dialogue.

(B) To read aloud a prepared passage of narrative verse contrasting in them to the prose selection in section A, not to exceed three minutes. This can be an extract if the poem is a long one.

(C) Either read aloud a prepared passage from the Bible, any standard version, not to exceed two minutes. OR

To read aloud a dramatic speech written in prose or verse from a play written in a different period to the other selections, not to exceed two minutes. Suitable movement should be used.

To read at sight a passage of verse or prose.

The examiner and candidate will then discuss any, or all, of the passages, and the approach required for different styles of reading and the techniques that can be used to strengthen the links between reader and listener.

Silver Medal

Open only to those who have passed the Bronze medal examination in Reading Aloud.

The syllabus is exactly the same as for Bronze medal, except that all four prepared readings must centre on a theme.

Gold Medal

Open only to those who have passed the Silver Medal examination in Reading Aloud.

The syllabus is exactly as on the lines for the Bronze and Silver medals, except that five prepared readings are required (the extra fifth piece may be prose, verse or drama) and the pieces must centre on one or two contrasted themes.

DIPLOMAS

Diploma – DipVCM

Total time allowance 20 minutes

The DipVCM in Reading Aloud is the next progressive step from Grade VIII and as such, it should contain an appropriate level of material and technique.

Candidates will be required to present a varied programme of three readings as if to an imaginary audience of people of the candidate's own age and background.

To read at sight a newspaper article provided by the examiner.

The examiner and candidate will then discuss any, or all, of the passages, and the approach required for different styles of reading and the techniques that can be used to strengthen the links between reader and listener.

Associate – AVCM

Total time allowance 20 minutes

The Associateship Diploma in Reading Aloud is pitched as a Level 5 qualification and as such, it should contain an appropriate level of material and technique.

The candidate must submit, at the time of entry, an essay of between 2,500 and 3,000 words on the subject of Reading Aloud in its widest sense.

Candidates will be required to present a varied programme of three readings as if to an imaginary audience of people of older people.

To read at sight a passage provided by the examiner.

The examiner and candidate will then discuss any, or all, of the passages, and the approach required for different styles of reading and the techniques that can be used to strengthen the links between reader and listener; as well as the subject matter of the essay.

Licentiate – LVCM

Total time allowance 30 minutes

The Licentiateship Diploma in Reading Aloud is pitched as a Level 6 qualification and as such, it should contain an appropriate level of material and technique.

The candidate must submit, at the time of entry, an essay of around 3,000 words on the subject of the relative importance Reading Aloud through the ages.

Candidates will be required to present a varied programme of four readings as if to an imaginary audience of people of mixed ages and backgrounds.

To read at sight a passage provided by the examiner.

The examiner and candidate will then discuss any, or all, of the passages, and the approach required for different styles of reading and the techniques that can be used to strengthen the links between reader and listener; as well as the subject matter of the essay.