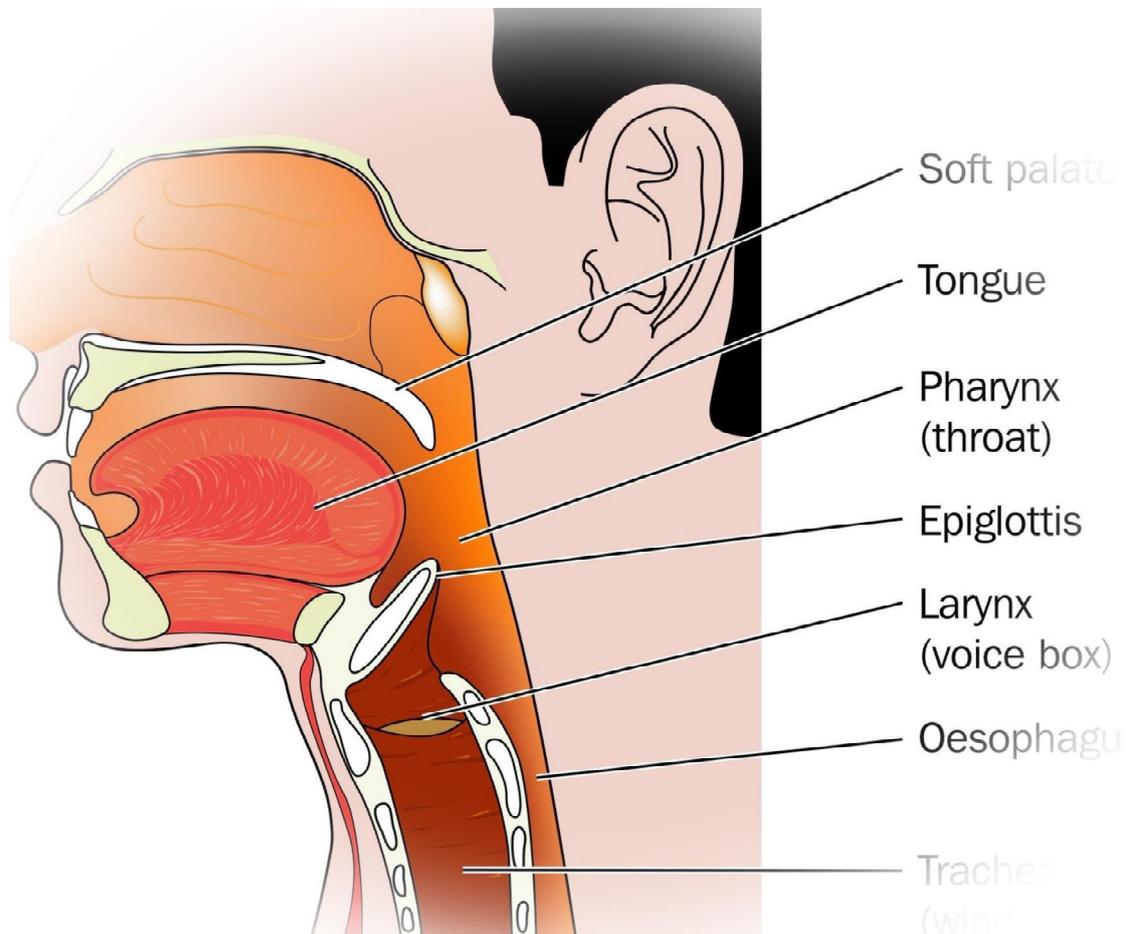


Speech Power

THEORY OF SPEECH



Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Founded 1890

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Theory of Speech 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.

THEORY OF SPEECH

Show on entry forms as:

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		TS	V

Grade V

As for Grade IV; also on tone quality and resonance, gesture, facial expression, characterisation, and on the method of preparing and presenting pieces. To comment on the metre, rhythm, words and ideas, and any poetic devices in a few lines of poetry. To show a knowledge of works by well-known poets and dramatists; techniques in amateur drama; lyric poetry, narrative verse; the sonnet. To give short answers to general questions on any Shakespeare Tragedy

Two hours are allowed for the completion of the paper at all Grades. There are five questions on each paper and 20 marks are allocated to each question.

To Pass 65, with Merit 80, with Distinction 90
Merit is shown as Honours in Ireland

Show on entry forms as:

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		TS	III

Grade III

The organs of speech; breathing methods; the formation and classification of vowels (including neutral vowel) and consonants, excluding diphthongs, triphthongs, and compound consonants. Poise, syllabic stress, inflections. The correction of common spoken grammatical errors.

Figures of speech: simile, metaphor and personification. Alliteration and assonance.

To answer questions on an unseen piece of poetry which may include some of the topics listed above.

Show on entry forms as:

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		TS	VI

Grade VI

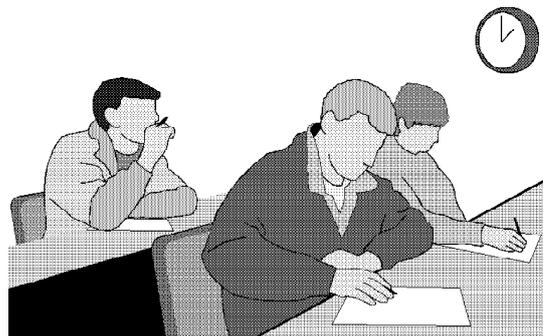
Theory of Speech as for Grades IV and V; also to answer questions on programme building and repertoire, characterisation and interpretation. Brief comments on programme items. (The works appearing in the College's lists for Speech Grades VII, VIII, Medals and Diplomas will provide a sufficient basis for this); choral speech; speech and drama festivals; also to transcribe a short passage of prose or verse into phonetic script; alternatively to answer questions on the Theatre since Shakespeare's time; and/or on 19th century English poetry. To give short answers to general questions on any Shakespeare History.

Show on entry forms as:

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		TS	IV

Grade IV

The organs of speech; breathing methods; the formation and classification of vowels and consonants, including diphthongs, triphthongs, and compound consonants; phrasing; the means of variety in speech (time, pace, pause, pitch, inflection and modulation); to show a knowledge of modern poets and/or dramatists and important works by each. Conversion of Direct Speech to Indirect Speech and vice versa. Poise for reading and reciting; types of verse and prose; rhythm and metre; blank verse; effective reading, including Bible Reading; to give short answers to general questions on any Shakespeare Comedy



**THEORY OF SPEECH
PAST PAPERS**

Sets of six recent past papers are available for each grade.

£8 or €10 per set

**Send cheque payable to Victoria College Exams with order
to Victoria College Exams
71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AY
or email info@vcmexams.com**