

Speech & Power

Written English



Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Founded 1890

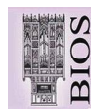
71 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AY
T: 020 7405 6483 E: info@vcexamms.com W: vcexamms@aol.com



SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF SPEECH & DRAMA



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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) LVCME(Hons) FIFL FRSA

Written English

Member of



CIE 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 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 ðHonoursð 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

1. Candidates are not permitted to refer to text books during the examination.
2. Worked papers are marked by an examiner and awarded a mark out of 100. The pass-mark is 65%; with Merit 80%; with Distinction 90%.
3. Each candidate receives a signed examiner's report and successful candidates receive a printed certificate. Worked papers are not returned.
4. This syllabus contains specimen examination papers on A5 pages. The actual papers are on A4, with print twice the size as the specimens.
5. Entries are subject to the regulations shown on the website www.vcmexams.com. These regulations include a robust Appeals Procedure.
6. The four levels of examination are pitched loosely on the four Key Stages used in schools in England, but teachers are free to enter candidates for whatever level they feel is suitable for their candidates.
7. Specimen papers are available from the College.

Requirements for

WRITTEN ENGLISH INITIAL LEVEL

Pupils will need to be able to:

- (a) recognise and write letters of the alphabet (both upper and lower case),
- (b) complete simple sentences,
- (c) spell simple words,
- (d) understand a short simple passage,
- (e) write legibly, with attention to spacing of letters and words.

Answers will be mainly tick the box style. Questions will be limited to commonplace situations such as home, family, school, shop, garden etc. and the vocabulary associated with them.

The format and mode of questioning will always remain the same at this level, so that teachers will be able to prime their pupils in the expectations of the test.

Time allowed: 30 minutes

WRITTEN ENGLISH PRIMARY LEVEL

Students should be acquainted with:

- (a) the alphabet and its order,
- (b) upper and lower case letters,
- (c) consonants and vowels,
- (d) phonetic relationships (e.g. consonant groups, vowel phonemes, rhymes),
- (e) punctuation, (use of full stops, capital letters, commas and question marks and exclamation marks)

2 In the written examination candidates should be able to:

- (a) recognise common vocabulary around familiar scenes and events (home, family, school, shops etc.), and to deduce meaning of less common vocabulary in context,
- (b) sequence events and organise ideas logically,
- (c) spell common words,
- (d) recognise the use of verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverb and pronouns,
- (e) understand singular and plural
- (f) recognise compound words,
- (g) construct sentences,
- (h) be imaginative in their writing.

3 In presenting their work, students should offer a legible style of handwriting, aiming for regularity in size of lettering, and appropriate spacing of letters and words.

4 Generally questions will be concerned with the student's experiences of the home, family, school, travel, shopping, pets, toys, etc. but there will also be questions on fictional scenarios. Prose and simple poetry may be used, and the student will be tested on his or her skills of comprehension.

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Requirements for

WRITTEN ENGLISH GRADE ONE

In the written examination candidates should be able to:

1. Write ten three-letter words, read aloud at the exam venue. Handwriting should be neat and understandable. (Radiant Way - step 1 standard)
2. Fill in the blanks, from a list of given words, to describe a given picture.
3. Draw and colour pictures according to given instructions.
4. Answer simple questions or fill in the blanks, based on the Nelson Grammar - Pupil Book A.
5. Read a short passage of about 50-70 words, answer questions, based on one or more of the following formats:
 - (a) Give yes/no answers
 - (b) To mark a tick or a cross
 - (c) To fill in blanks
 - (d) To give short answers

(The passage will be of the Radiant Way - step 1 standard)

Requirements for

WRITTEN ENGLISH GRADE TWO

In the written examination candidates should be able to:

1. Write twenty words, read aloud at the exam venue. Handwriting should be neat and understandable.
(Radiant Way - step 2 standard)
2. Fill in the blanks and answer questions on a given picture.
3. Answer questions, draw, match, name, etc., items based on the vocabulary list
4. Answer simple questions or fill in the blanks, based on the Nelson Grammar - Pupil Book A.
5. Read a short passage of about 60-90 words, answer questions, based on one or more of the following formats:
 - (a) Give yes/no answers
 - (b) To mark a tick or a cross
 - (c) To fill in blanks
 - (d) To give short answers

(The passage will be of the Radiant Way - step 2 standard)

Requirements for

WRITTEN ENGLISH GRADE THREE

In the written examination candidates should be able to:

1. Write twenty words, read aloud at the exam venue. Handwriting should be neat and understandable.
(Radiant Way - step 3 standard)
2. Write a short composition of about eight sentences on ONE of the following topics:
 - Myself
 - My Mother
 - My Father
 - My brother/sister
 - My pet
 - My school
 - My country
 - My best friend
3. Answer questions based on a passage (Radiant Way - step 3 standard)
4. Answer simple questions or fill in the blanks, based on the Nelson Grammar - Pupil Book 1
5. Read a short poem and answer questions based on it

Requirements for

WRITTEN ENGLISH GRADE FOUR

In the written examination candidates should be able to:

1. Write twenty words, read aloud at the exam venue. Handwriting should be neat and understandable. (Radiant Way - Fourth Step standard)
2. Write a short composition of about eight sentences on ONE of four given topics.
3. Answer questions based on a passage (Radiant Way - Fourth Step standard)
4. Read a short poem and then answer questions based on it.

Requirements for

WRITTEN ENGLISH GRADE FIVE

In the written examination candidates should be able to:

1. Write twenty words, read aloud at the exam venue. Handwriting should be neat and understandable.
2. Write a short composition of about eight sentences on ONE of four given topics.
3. Study a picture and answer questions on it.
4. Write five sentences about a given situation.

WRITTEN ENGLISH INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

- 1 Candidates must be fully conversant with the requirements of the Primary syllabus.
- 2 Students should have experience in a variety of forms of written English such as fiction, nonfiction, letter writing, poetry and play scripts. Test papers will also cover such forms as instructions, reports, reviews, explanations and opinions.
- 3 The examiners will look for aptly structured, well planned and organised presentation of material; with intelligent use of paragraphs and thematic connections. A higher standard of spelling will be expected than in the previous grade, and punctuation will include use of full stops, commas, question marks, exclamation marks, inverted commas and apostrophes. Credit will be given for the correct style used for a specific medium.
- 4 Grammatical knowledge should include the awareness of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and the definite and indefinite articles. There should also be an understanding of synonyms, antonyms, comparisons, common prefixes and suffixes, as well as syllables, word families and word roots. An ability to recognise complex sentences, phrases, clauses and connectives, and the use of statement, question and command, will be expected.
- 5 Standard of handwriting and spelling should be higher at this level.
- 6 Generally examination papers will include some tick the box style answers short written answers and short passage writing.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Requirements for

WRITTEN ENGLISH SENIOR LEVEL

- 1 Candidates must be fully conversant with the information as set down in the previous two syllabuses (i.e. Primary and Intermediate).
- 2 Students at this level will be expected to have a wider experience of:
 - (a) good fiction and factual style; literary devices including hyperbole, litotes, understatement, allegory and rhetoric; different poetic forms (e.g. ballad, ode, limerick, etc.), various poetic devices such as alliteration, assonance and metrical structure; plus theatrical techniques;
 - (b) a large vocabulary and accuracy of spelling;
 - (c) a comprehensive knowledge of grammar and the ability to analyse textual styles and techniques.
- 3 Examination questions will draw from writing forms such as different kinds of story, poems, play scripts, autobiographies, letters, diaries, reviews, articles, commentaries, essays and reports.
- 4 Presentation of work should display high standards of legibility and structured/ well planned, organised material.
- 5 Style of questioning may include comprehension, grammatical analysis, precis and essay writing.

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes