



# Speech and drama

AMEB Speech and Drama offers students syllabi in Theory, Voice and Communication, Drama and Performance (for individuals) and Drama and Communication (for ensembles) all of which can aid other areas of study. But for the first time teacher, where do you start?

Through my eighteen years of teaching, I have often found that getting to know the students' abilities and interests is always a good start. Once you have established a good rapport with the students, you should be able to help them create their own program. Finding material that students are interested in will enable them to become better connected emotionally and intellectually and give them a sense of ownership of their work. Students in turn become more enthusiastic, committed and disciplined in your lessons and in preparation for the goal of the exams.

Students and teachers can speak with fellow Speech and Drama teachers, search the internet, purchase books online, download film scripts, visit the library or use the suggested material lists in the AMEB syllabus for inspiration.

In choosing the right exam ask yourself;

1. Is the child more academic?  
Answer: *Speech and Performance Theory*
2. Is the child better at public speaking?  
Does the child love literature?  
Answer: *Voice and Communication*
3. Is the child interested in solo performance in Drama?  
Answer: *Drama and Performance*
4. Does the group demonstrate skills in a variety of areas?  
Answer: *Drama and Communication*

After exams students generally find they have improved self-confidence and have greater skills in communication and performance. They are also left with a great sense of achievement.

**Peta Shannon, AMEB Speech and Drama Examiner**

