

# LAMDA

## Exams

# Group Syllabus 2026

## Overview of Updates

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# General Amendments

**Included Remote Online Assessment (ROA) Information** – Enabling ROA Learners to take Group exams but adding a maximum of 10 Learners for all Quals in this Syllabus (except for Devising Drama higher grades which are not available in ROA format).

**Fail Mark added to Grade Band Descriptions** – Explaining the Fail banding (0 - 49 Marks) and noting that Learners can also Fail their exam if they achieve a Fail in one Assessment Criteria. Fail wording amended to reflect assessment marking accurately

**Structure change** – Recital and Choral Speaking exams appear first on the Syllabus due to only having 4 Grades as opposed to Acting, Devising Drama and Musical Theatre

**Syllabus Specification Updated** – Wording for this section has been amended to reflect the transferable skills Learners gain from this Syllabus exams

# General Amendments

**Examination Regulations** – Examination Regulations for the Qualifications amended to align with the Performance, Communication and Introductory 2024 Syllabi

**Examination Description** – Grade Descriptions, Learning Outcomes and Time Allowance merged to align with Levels in Regulated Examinations

Group Recital and Choral-Speaking group:

- Entry Grade - Grade 3

Group Acting, Devising Drama and Musical Theatre groups:

- Entry Grade
- Grades 1-3
- Grades 4-5
- Grades 6-8

# Group Recital

## **Performing either from memory or reading text**

Previously, Learners would memorise the recital and would choose either to read or memorise the introduction, linking statement and conclusion. For this Syllabus, Learners are asked to present a combination of read and memorised words for their recital as well as the introduction, linking statement and conclusion

## **Assessment Criteria 1.2**

This has been amended to reflect this new Recital examination requirements

2019 Group Syllabus - 1.2 Speak from memory

2026 Group Syllabus - 1.2 Perform with fluency a combination of memorised and read words

# Group Recital

## Grade 2 Recital Topic

Adding more range to the theme for this grade, from a list of topics to “a theme suitable for a school assembly or event”. This has been amended following feedback. It allows Learners to present a recital which they have prepared for their school assembly as their own choice for this exam

## Grade 3 Recital Topic

Giving Learners the option to either choose one of the authors from the LAMDA authors' list or choose a favourite author of their own choice. Additional authors have been added to the LAMDA authors' list as well as removing others to avoid the option being dated.

# Group Recital

## Recital Examination Regulations

Reminder specific to this Qualification that a technician is not permitted to be present in the exam room. Learners must operate their own music and/or sound effects (if applicable).

# Group Choral-Speaking

## Choral-Speaking Examination Regulations

Reminder specific to this Qualification that music and sound effects are not permitted.

Learners requiring an electronic device as part of a Reasonable Adjustment are permitted to bring it into the exam room.

## Purpose of the Qualification

Additional information added to this section introducing the Qualification and explaining the skills Learners will obtain from their Choral-Speaking exam preparation and exam.

# Group Choral-Speaking

## Choral-Speaking Assessment Criteria 1.3 and 1.4

Assessment Criteria (ACs) were amended to show progress in Learning for Learners from Entry Grades up to Grade 3. “Rhythm and Shape” was added to Grade 1 AC 1.3 alongside “Mood”, which was introduced in Entry Grade. For Grades 2 and 3, “Mood” and “Rhythm and Shape” are in separate ACs, indicating the importance of these individually at higher grades.

<b>Entry Grade</b>	1.3 Demonstrate an awareness of rhythm and shape
<b>Grade 1</b>	1.3 Demonstrate an awareness of mood, rhythm and shape
<b>Grades 2 and 3</b>	1.3 Demonstrate an awareness of rhythm and shape 1.4 Indicate changes in mood



# Group Choral-Speaking

## Choral-Speaking Grades 1-3 Assessment Criteria 2.6

This has been amended to align with the wording of the 2024 Performance and Communication Assessment Criteria.

**2019 Group Syllabus** - 2.6 Use gesture and movement appropriate to the demands of the text

**2026 Group Syllabus** - 2.6 Use posture and movement appropriate to the demands of the text

# Group Acting

## Grade Descriptions Wording

Additional sentences added in the grade description section for Group Acting to reflect the Interpretation and Technique Assessment Criteria and skills gained from the preparation for these Grades.

## Group Acting Grade 6

Date Requirements for Scenes 1 and 2 included in Group Acting Grade 6. This was added to align with the Solo/Duo Acting Grade 6 exams, as well as create a linear progress from Grade 5 and provide the necessary support leading to Grades 7 and 8.

Style and period added to Assessment Criteria 3.1 reflecting new examination date requirements for each Scene and adjusted as per AC 3.1 for Grades 6, 7 and 8.

# Group Acting

## Group Acting Grades 6-8 Date Requirements

Date requirements for Scenes 1 and 2 have been amended to align with the Performance Syllabus.

- 1800-2000 in Scene 1 has been replaced with 1800-1979
- Post 2000 in Scene 2 has been replaced with Post 1980

# Group Acting

## Assessment Criteria 3.1 and 3.2

Wording amendment to align with the Performance Syllabus Acting Assessment Criteria.

In AC 3.1 of Grades 4-8, stance and gesture(s) have been replaced with body language and facial expressions.

## Assessment Criteria 3.2 Wording as it appears in the Group Syllabus 2026

- **Group Acting Entry Grade - Grade 5** - 3.2 Make appropriate use of the performance space
- **Group Acting Grades 6-8** - 3.2 Make effective use of the performance space

# Group Devising Drama

## Grades 1-5 Devised Scene titles

Learners are given additional titles for their prepared scene. In Group Syllabus 2019, Learners were only presented with one option. Multiple options presented in the Group Syllabus 2026, not limiting the Learners to only one setting.

Assessment Criteria 1.1 for these Grades have been amended to not include the scene titles and instead replace the respective title with “selected title”.

# Group Musical Theatre

## Examination Regulations

Additional wording on backing tracks have been included in the Examination Regulations under the Electronic Devices section. Reminder that all backing tracks must be downloaded on the electronic device due to the device being on airplane mode.

## Date Requirements for Grades 6-8

Date requirements for Grades 6-8 have been removed for this Group Syllabus. This allows Learners to perform songs from any era with no restrictions in the time period of the songs.

# Group Musical Theatre

## Assessment Criteria 3.1

Wording amendment to align with the Solo/Duo Musical Theatre Syllabus Assessment Criteria

Group Syllabus 2019 - 3.1 Communicate the individual characteristics of the characters

Group Syllabus 2026 - Grades 4 –8, 3.1 Communicate the personal characteristics of the characters through appropriate posture, movement, body language and facial expression

## Assessment Criteria in Entry Grade – Grade 5 has been split in two ACs in line with Solo/Duo Musical Theatre Syllabus

2019 Group Syllabus - Sing the melody and rhythm with accuracy

2026 Group Syllabus - Sing the melody of the songs with accuracy  
- Sing the rhythm of the songs with accuracy

# Group Musical Theatre

## **Musical Theatre Grade 5 Examination Content**

In order to create a progression between Musical Theatre Grades 4 and 5, Learners at Grade 5 will now be required to perform three contrasting songs with at least two of the songs featuring sections sung by the full chorus.

## **Musical Theatre Grade 5-7 Time Requirements**

The minimum and maximum performance times for the Grade 5-7 scene(s) have been updated

- Grade 5: a minimum of 13 minutes and no more than 15 minutes
- Grade 6: a minimum of 15 minutes and no more than 18 minutes
- Grade 7: a minimum of 17 minutes and no more than 20 minutes



# Group Musical Theatre

## **Musical Theatre Grade 8 Requirements**

In order to create a progression within Musical Theatre Grades 6, 7 and 8, Learners for Grade 8 exams are asked to devise and perform one musical scene. Learners are permitted to use a combination of devised and published dialogue from the musicals/film musicals of their choice.

With the introduction of the devised musical scene, Learners are also given the opportunity to create their own jukebox musical using four songs of a modern musical artist of their own choice. If the Learners choose this option, they must use four songs performed by the same artist.

## **Assessment Criteria 1.1**

Wording amended for the Examiner to accurately assess the combination of the devised dialogue and published songs the Learners must present through their devised musical scene

## **Glossary Term**

The term discography has been added to the glossary