

## GCSE Spoken English Examination

### Preparation Materials

#### Why is this spoken language exam important?

- ✓ You will get a PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION based on your speech and responses to the audience
- ✓ Your grade will appear on your GCSE English Language certificate
- ✓ Employers, Colleges and Universities may use your Spoken Language grade as a deciding factor when you apply



#### Use this workbook to:

- Prepare to give a 3 minute persuasive speech, prepare to answer questions about your speech
- Write your speech
- Add in persuasive language features/devices
- Cut down your speech so that only words and phrases are on a cue card
- Practise your speech over and over using your cue card
- Be prepared to deliver your speech and answer questions about your topic from the audience

## Speech Structure

<p>What is your chosen topic area?</p>
<p>What is the overall point of your speech? What message do you want to put across?</p>
<p>What are the key ideas that you want to cover in your speech? Your speech must have a clear structure and so you will need to consider the order of your points.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li><li>4.</li><li>5.</li><li>6.</li></ol>
<p>Is there any information that you will need to research to support your points?</p>



## You're ready to write your first draft (600 words)

Remember to include some **AFOREST** techniques:

### Alliteration

School has relentless rules and regulations.

### Facts

Studies show students work best before lunch.

### Opinion

I strongly believe.....

### Repetition

Why can't school be fun?

### Emotive language

Desperate students suffer endless demands...

### Statistics

More than 85% of students attend intervention.

### Triplet

We believe in aiming high, working hard and being kind.

**When editing your first draft, check for the following:**



Checklist for your speech	Y/N
Is the message that you want to put across clear for the listener?	
Do you have a strong opening and closing? Make sure that you emphasise your overall message in the closing of your speech.	
Does your speech have a clear overall structure? Have you used a logical sequence for your ideas?	
Have you used connectives to link your ideas and to help to guide the listener through your speech?	
Have you used rhetorical questions to engage your listener?	
Have you used repetition to emphasise key ideas?	
Have you used anecdotes to make your speech personal and entertaining?	
Have you anticipated objections that the audience may have to your ideas and pointed out the error in their objections?	
Have you used emotive language to engage the emotions of your audience?	
Have you used hyperbole (exaggeration) whether for serious or comic effect?	
Have you used personal pronouns such as 'you', 'our' and 'we' to involve the listener in your speech?	

## Reducing your 600+ words to Cue Cards

**You cannot get a good grade if you read every word. You need to reduce your 600 words into a single cue card or perhaps several**

- Reducing a cue card means taking out 'function' words and leaving only 'meaning' words
- Eg. I would like to talk to you today about a topic I feel passionate, enthusiastic and almost obsessive about. Musicals. becomes:

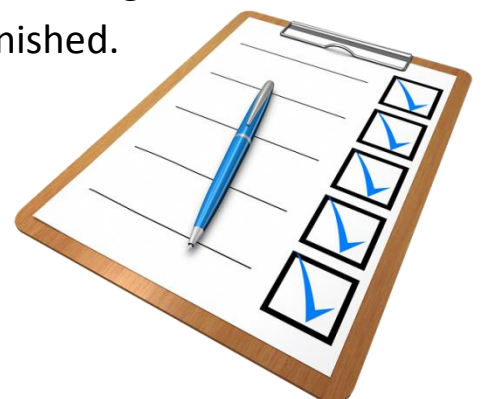
Passionate, enthusiastic almost obsessive

### Final Preparations

(Tick when done – please involve your family/parents etc.)

**The more you prepare and practise, the more confident you'll be, you need to be:**

- ✓ Putting your ideas down on paper in full sentences
- ✓ Adding in language devices
- ✓ Adding in a very strong conclusion.
- ✓ Finding the right picture/props.
- ✓ Reading the speech at least 5 times over and over again over a number of days.
- ✓ Shortening the script into sentences.
- ✓ Then shortening the speech into single phrases.
- ✓ Writing these phrases onto a cue card.
- ✓ Practising with the cue card – in front of the dog, in front of family member, sat on the sofa etc.
- ✓ Recording your speech on a mobile phone to check timing – at least twice.
- ✓ Getting a friend to ask questions after speech is finished.



## **Practise, Practise, Practise**

Practise and ask a friend or family member to tick these points as they listen to you :

- Make sure a strong, lively sense of your own voice or viewpoint comes through.
- Structure your speech to get your listeners interested straightaway, keep their attention with new points or ideas, and finish strongly.
- Speak directly to the audience by using inclusive pronouns (you, we) and rhetorical devices.
- Use informal language, shorter sentences and questions to make a personal connection with your listeners and keep them interested.
- Use humour, personal 'everyday' references and powerful imagery or emotive language, as appropriate to your topic and audience.



## Success Criteria

**To be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction a student must:**

- be audible, and use Spoken Standard English;
- be intelligible, and generally use language appropriate to the formal setting of the presentation.

Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>In addition to the <b>general criteria</b>, to be awarded a Pass a Learner's performance in his or her spoken language assessment must meet all of the following criteria –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ expresses straightforward ideas / information / feelings,</li> <li>○ makes an attempt to organise and structure his or her presentation,</li> <li>○ makes an attempt to meet the needs of the audience, and</li> <li>○ listens to questions / feedback and provides an appropriate response in a straight forward manner.</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to the <b>general criteria</b>, to be awarded a Merit a Learner's performance in his or her spoken language assessment must meet all of the following criteria –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ expresses challenging ideas / information / feelings using a range of vocabulary,</li> <li>○ organises and structures his or her presentation clearly and appropriately to meet the needs of the audience,</li> <li>○ achieves the purpose of his or her presentation, and</li> <li>○ listens to questions / feedback responding formally and in some detail.</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to the <b>general criteria</b>, to be awarded a Distinction a Learner's performance in his or her spoken language assessment must meet all of the following criteria –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ expresses sophisticated ideas / information / feelings using a sophisticated repertoire of vocabulary,</li> <li>○ organises and structures his or her presentation using an effective range of strategies to engage the audience,</li> <li>○ achieves the purpose of his or her presentation, and</li> <li>○ listens to questions / feedback, responds perceptively and if appropriate elaborates with further ideas and information.</li> </ul>



**Take a break, you're really well  
prepared for your spoken**