

AMEB Exam program Questions



Why do an exam?

"There is overwhelming evidence demonstrating that childhood music and speech education leads to well-rounded, high performing adults across all fields. For students to set and then achieve a goal such as an exam, they are learning the value of hard work, discipline, and the incredible feats they are capable of in their lives ahead."

Exam program preparation and delivery is aligned with Learning Assets and Executive Functioning growth and development. It also signals to future employers, scholarship committees, and mentors that you have “stick-to-it-ness” and grit – the ability to work hard at something and succeed. Exams also teach us that the greatest teacher can be mistakes. All good life lessons for our young people. Exams can seem scary but they are excellent tools for growth and our students enjoy their exams and the sense of achievement. Here are some other good reasons to commit to an exam:

1. To assist in setting goals

Preparing for an exam requires a significant amount of planning and hard work. Exams provide clearly defined goal posts that are a powerful motivating force. Educators set realistic and appropriate goals within AMEB syllabuses and examinations are an opportunity for students to measure themselves against these goals.

2. To encourage the development of a broader range of skills

AMEB exams challenge students not only to perform repertoire on their subject of choice, but also to demonstrate other important skills like sight reading, technical prowess, aural recognition and general knowledge. These additional requirements support their learning and provide context and meaning to the experience. Gaining this full range of skills supports their overall Speech and Drama education creating successful students and giving them the tools required to develop into well-rounded, professional speakers with transferable skills.

3. To gain valuable performance experience

For many people, one of the hardest parts of taking an exam is presenting your programme on stage in front of an audience of strangers. Performing in front of others helps to develop poise and confidence: life skills that are useful for all sorts of future endeavours including making presentations, public speaking or even just giving a toast at a party.

4. To get constructive feedback

Every candidate that completes an exam receives a personal written report from their examiner. This independent feedback encourages the student to progress by highlighting areas of strength and challenges under performance conditions to help guide students in their development. The feedback provided can confirm issues previously identified by the teacher and also introduce areas for improvement and further study.

5. To recognise achievement

Each successful candidate receives an official AMEB certificate recognising their achievement. This certificate is a tangible reminder of a milestone achievement and a source of great pride. Certificates are presented on Speech and Drama Studios Drama Day in November as a measure of individual achievement in our community of thinkers and actors.

The AMEB Exam Process – exam date is usually the final weekend of June

1. In term 1 we will send out a link to an enrolment form.
2. Complete and upload the form
3. We will invoice you the exam fee plus an admin fee. (Usually between \$100-\$200 depending on the exam level)
4. AMEB will schedule your child's exam and we will notify you by email of that date and time.
5. We will give you a "how to prepare for the exam" handout and this will also be emailed.
6. In class the teacher will make sure your child has each piece ready to prepare but the practise is up to you and your child at home.
7. A few weeks before the exam we will upload ALL of your child's program into the AMEB system (which is why it must be printed not handwritten) for the examiner/s.
8. At open classes in terms 1 & 2 your child will be able to present a portion of their program
9. We will send you a reminder about the exam via text the day before
10. On the day, you will be required to deliver your child to the exam site BEFORE their exam time and check them off with the administrator
11. Your child will undertake their exam with one of our friendly examiners
12. A report will be sent several weeks after the exam to the teacher who will explain the results and feedback to your child
13. Certificates will be presented at Drama Day in October.



What AMEB Grade should my child take?

All students, regardless of whether they are interested in doing an exam later, follow the AMEB syllabus in general group classes as it is based on excellent communication tools.

Students in years R-2 follow the AMEB Preliminary Voice and Communication program but do not undertake an exam until Year 3 or above. This has proven to be a solid beginning step for over 30 years.

Generally a Year 3 will be given a Grade 1 exam, a Year 4 will be ready for Grade 2 and so on. We advise most students to enrol in a Voice and Communication exam from Year 3 onwards. Teachers will advise students on next steps in terms of commitment and ability to progress further. Speech and Performance exams will be recommended to those students capable of the commitment to that program – Speech and Performance exams generally require extra at-home preparation such as memorisation and physical practise for mimes.



Lesson Structure for AMEB Exam students

All lessons cover what is needed in order to prepare the students to pass their examinations with distinction. However, this relies on the student practising out of class, remembering their materials, and choosing their pieces in a timely fashion. Please read through the AMEB syllabus level sheet found in your child's Drama Folder to understand what they need to prepare. We do not schedule time in lessons for word learning or writing all devised scripts or speeches, time for this is set as homework.

Commitment Level for AMEB Exam Students

As with any exam you only get out what you put in. Akin to music grades the level of commitment is high if you are wanting to obtain the higher marks. Out of class commitment to learning and rehearsing is key in order to make progress. No student can pass with only attending lessons.

AMEB Exam Prep – how can you help?

By integrating their AMEB prep into their weekly homework timetable as if it were Maths, English or a Musical Instrument. Making sure they complete their AMEB homework each week by looking at their work, asking them about their progress, testing them on their lines and watching their practices.

Can I enrol child in an AMEB exam myself and not through Speech and Drama Studios SA?

Yes you can, but they will not be able to be scheduled with SDSSA students at our venue and you will need to upload their program and manage all paperwork. This will also mean they won't be placed in a group for group exams such as Voice and Communication and we will not record their results.



You can read more about the AMEB here: <https://www.ameb.edu.au>