



PRETORIA DRAMA EISTEDDFOD 2026

ENGLISH DRAMA (Code E) AUTUMN SYLLABUS

7 May – 23 May & 1 – 4 June 2026

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SPECIAL RULES

1. All sections are combined for boys and girls.
2. Certificates are awarded according to symbols.
3. The eldest age in the group will be definitive in all ensemble-items.
4. All the names of participants in ensemble groups must be provided on the entry form.
5. Candidates must comply with all requirements in all sections.
6. A candidate may not present the same work in more than one category.
7. A candidate may not present the same work in two consecutive years.
8. A candidate may not present the same work they have previously won a trophy for.
9. A candidate is only allowed to enter either for a Duo, Trio or Quartet, but not all three categories.
10. Please ensure that language used, is appropriate for an eisteddfod forum.
11. **Awards:** Candidates who wish to qualify for an award must ensure that all requirements are met.
 - **Item Winners:** An item winner is designated for each session and is indicated by an "Item Winner" sticker on the certificate. The minimum requirement for an item winner is an A++.
 - ⇒ The adjudicator may also decide not to designate an item winner, for example when there is only one participant in the session, or when two or three participants are awarded the same percentage.
 - ⇒ The adjudicator's decision is final.
 - ⇒ The On-Cue Encore Award is awarded to all participants who achieve 95% or higher.
 - **Category Winners:** A category winner sticker is awarded to the candidate with the highest percentage in the category, e.g. Poetry, Dramatized Poetry, Prose, etc.
 - ⇒ Category winner stickers may be collected from the organiser after the Pretoria Drama Eisteddfod.
 - **Trophy Winners:** Category winners and On-Cue Encore award recipients automatically qualify for trophies. Trophy winners are determined by the trophy panel in consultation with the adjudicators. The trophy panel may decide to consider a single item, a recital or concert programme, a group item, or the average of the winning candidates' best performances to determine the winner. The trophy panel's decision is final. Unprepared items and public speaking are not excluded.
12. To be considered for an award the candidate should at least participate on the same day of the specific category.
13. Please stick to the rule. If not, a school/studio will be asked to enter participants in another item or to cancel the entry without any refund.
14. Drama boxes will not be available. Teachers to supply their own props.
15. Competitors' dress: Black leotard & black tight (Girls) or black shirt or black T-shirt with short trousers or black tracksuit pants.
16. All competitors must introduce themselves as well as the piece performed to the adjudicator.



17. Recital (Concert Programme)

- Performed in full costume or with minimal costuming that supports the character/theme.
- A well-balanced programme (in terms of genres, humour, drama, etc.) must be presented, with an emphasis on variety, contrast, and a continuous theme.
- Commentary/links may, if necessary, form part of the programme.
- Sound effects and/or music may be used.
- The candidate must provide proof of versatility (a minimum of 3 items is required, including poetry, prose, and drama).
- There must be a balance between static and dramatized items.
- Any technical aids and décor used must be kept to a minimum.
- The performance time limit is as indicated, plus an additional 5 minutes for setting up and removing equipment.
- Additional persons are permitted to assist with equipment. Time limits will be strictly controlled.
- Candidates must strictly adhere to the prescribed requirements and time limits.

18. Décor, props, music equipment and rostra

- Coaches are responsible for the above items.
- Organisers accept no responsibility for equipment or props of any kind.
- Only own equipment may be used.
- Permission for use must be obtained from the owner if equipment is borrowed.
- Rostra and studio clothing must be clearly marked.
- No open flames may be used as part of any programme (e.g. candle flames). This is prohibited by municipal regulations.
- Dressing rooms must be left neat and clean.

19. Withdrawals and conflicting dates

- Changes due to clashes with important sports matches or other sections of the Pretoria Drama Eisteddfod must be communicated in advance, before the closing date, by the affiliated member (i.e. the responsible institution that entered the participant), in a single email to management.
- As far as possible, every effort will be made to accommodate the participant earlier or later the same day. In the event of illness, participation will be moved to a later date after receipt of a doctor's certificate.

20. Submission of copies of prepared items:

- For prepared group work (excluding dialogues), a summary of the programme must be handed to the organiser immediately before the start of the item.
- Copies of other individual items are not required, except in the case of recital concert programmes and scenes, which must be submitted at the table before the start of the item. All summaries and texts will be returned to the candidate together with the report and certificate.

21. Additional certificates and certificates for group items:

- Spelling errors in participants' personal details and errors relating to incorrect grades must be corrected before the closing date (30 April 2026).
- Reprinting of certificates due to errors on the entry forms will be issued at a cost of R40 per certificate.
- If participants in a group item (including duo/trio recital programmes) wish to receive individual certificates, the names must be indicated on the entry form. Additional costs for individual certificates for group items are R30 per certificate.

22. Important dates for the Autumn Programme 2026:

- Monday, 2 February 2026 – entry forms available on the website
- Tuesday, 24 March 2026 – final date for entries
- Friday, 17 April 2026 – programmes sent to affiliated members
- Thursday, 30 April 2026 – closing date for reporting clashes
- Tuesday, 5 May 2026 – final programmes sent to affiliated members

PREPARED INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

Verse speaking (Poetry) (E01)

- Own choice.
- Formal approach without movements or gestures.
- No props.
- Interpretation through voice and facial expression.
- Full body integration with relaxed posture.

E01	Grade 00-12	R100
Grade 00-0	1½ minutes maximum	
Grade 1-7	2 minutes maximum	
Grade 8-12	3 minutes maximum	

Dramatized Verse (E02)

- Own choice.
- Interpretation is supported by motivated movements and gestures that reinforces the word.
- Drama blocks, ladders and chairs may be used.
- No props or costumes.

E02	Grade 0-12	R120
Grade 0	1½ minutes maximum	
Grade 1-7	2 minutes maximum	
Grade 8-12	3 minutes maximum	

Prose Speaking (E03)

- Own choice.
- Formal approach without movements or gestures. Spontaneous gestures to support the word are allowed.
- No props.
- Interpretation through voice and facial expression.
- Full body integration with relaxed posture.

E03	Grade 0-12	R100
Grade 0-3	2 minutes maximum	
Grade 4-7	3 minutes maximum	
Grade 8-12	4 minutes maximum	

Dramatized Prose (E04)

- Own choice.
- Interpretation is supported by motivated movements and gestures that reinforces the word.
- Drama blocks, ladders and chairs may be used.
- No props or costumes.

E04	Grade 0-12	R120
Grade 0-3	2 minutes maximum	
Grade 4-7	3 minutes maximum	
Grade 8-12	4 minutes maximum	



Contemporary Monologue (E05)

- A monologue from a contemporary published dramatic text (post-1955).
- One character is portrayed throughout.
- Performed opposite an imaginary character(s).
- May be humorous or dramatic in nature.
- Use of minimum décor suggested costume (realistic or experimental), and hand props.
- Drama Gear: Black Leotard & Tights or Black T-shirt (without signage or branding) with black shorts.
- Movements and gestures should be motivated in support of the subtext.

E05	Grade 3-12	R120
Grade 3	2 minutes maximum	
Grade 4-5	3 minutes maximum	
Grade 6-7	4 minutes maximum	
Grade 8-12	5 minutes maximum	

Classical Monologue (E06)

- A monologue from a classical published dramatic text (pre-1955, for example Ancient Greek, Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen, Strindberg, Brecht, etc.).
- One character is portrayed throughout.
- Performed opposite imaginary character(s).
- May be dramatic or comic in nature. The content and intent of the monologue are serious, with a strong emotional undertone that builds tension.
- Use of minimum décor suggested costume (realistic or experimental), and hand props.

A06	Grades 8–12	R120
Grades 8–12	5 minutes maximum	

Multimedia Monologue (E07)

- A monologue adapted from prose, TV, film/internet, or improvised text.
- One character is portrayed throughout.
- Performed opposite imaginary character(s).
- The monologue may be humorous or serious in nature.
- Use of minimum décor suggested costume (realistic or experimental), and hand props.

A07	Grades 3–12	R120
Grade 3	2 minutes maximum	
Grade 4-5	3 minutes maximum	
Grade 6-7	4 minutes maximum	
Grade 8-12	5 minutes maximum	

Solo Recital (Mixed genre) (E08)

- Programme must include a Poem, Prose (20th or 21st century authors) and a Monologue selection.
- No hand props.

E08	Grade 8-12	R240
Grade 8-12	15 minutes maximum	



Solo Recital (Poetry) (E09)

- Programme must include a Sonnet, Lyric and Blank or Free Verse.
- Blank verse is metred verse, free verse has no metre.

E09 **Grade 8-12** **R240**
Grade 8-12 15 minutes maximum

Show-and-Tell (E10)

- This item is an excellent start for the very young to start preparing for Public Speaking.
- In this item the candidate discusses, explains and demonstrates with flair, an own choice interest. The topic is open.
- Accompanied research and in-depth knowledge should be evident in support of the topic.
- Planning and arranging the stage (with help from a parent or teacher) is important.
- Any presentational aids are allowed, and the candidate may dress accordingly.

E10 **Grade 00-1** **R120**
Grade 00-1 5 minutes maximum (set up and strike of props included)

Prepared Public Speaking (E11)

- The topic and arguments of the speech must be specific, clearly formulated and substantially defended.
- Cue cards are allowed.

E11 **Grade 1-12** **R120**
Grade 1-3 2½ minutes maximum
Grade 4-7 4 minutes maximum
Grade 8-12 5 minutes maximum



INDIVIDUAL ORIGINAL WORK

Original Work (Poem, Prose or Monologue) (E12)

- Poem, Prose or Monologue written and performed by the competitor.
- Two props and/or suggestion of costume are allowed.
- The competitor must provide a typed copy to the adjudicator.

E12 **Grade 5-12** **R120**
Grade 5-12 3 minutes maximum

Praise Poetry (E13)

- A praise poem honours and esteems a person, God or animal.
- It contains themes of identity in a descriptive way through using metaphors (imagery), rhyme, rhythmic patterns, repetition and alliteration (repetition of consonants in words) and/or assonance (repetition of vowels in words).
- Creative and dramatic use of musical instruments, vocal sounds and/or body percussion are allowed.
- The competitor must provide a typed copy to the adjudicator.

E13 **Grade 6-12** **R120**
Grade 6-7 3 minutes maximum
Grade 8-9 4 minutes maximum
Grade 10-12 5 minutes maximum

Slam Poetry (E14)

- The poem must be written by the competitor.
- Own choice subject presented in the Slam style.
- No props, costume or musical instruments.
- Content must be appropriate to be presented at the Eisteddfod.
- The competitor must provide a typed copy to the adjudicator.

E14 **Grade 6-12** **R120**
Grade 6-7 3 minutes maximum
Grade 8-9 4 minutes maximum
Grade 10-12 5 minutes maximum

Spoken Word (E15)

- The spoken word piece must be written or compiled (from existing sources) by the competitor.
- A rhythmical form of poetic prose, which addresses a social or environmental issue.
- It combines lyrical and metric/rhythmical elements of traditional poetry with vernacular elements of prose.
- Standard punctuation and the lack of line breaks.
- Direct engagement of the audience.
- Content must be appropriate for Eisteddfod standards.

E15 **Grade 6-12** **R120**
Grade 6-7 3 minutes maximum
Grade 8-9 4 minutes maximum
Grade 10-12 5 minutes maximum



UNPREPARED INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

Sight Reading (Prose) (E16)

- 5 Minutes preparation.
- Adjudicator supplies the age-appropriate reading piece.

E16	Grade 4-12	R100
Grade 4-7	1½ minutes maximum	
Grade 8-12	2 minutes maximum	

Solo Mime: Improvised (E17)

- Subject set by the adjudicator.
- 10-minute preparation.

E17	Grade 6-12	R120
Grade 6-12	2 ½ minutes maximum	

Solo Acting Exercise: Improvisation (E18)

- Subject set by the adjudicator.
- 10-minute preparation.

E18	Grade 6-12	R120
Grade 6-12	2 ½ minutes maximum	

Solo story telling (E19)

- Subject is set by the adjudicator.
- 10-minute preparation.

E19	Grade 1-12	R120
Grade 1-4	2 minutes maximum	
Grade 5-9	2½ minutes maximum	
Grade 10-12	3 minutes maximum	

Impromptu Talks (E20)

- Subject set by the adjudicator.
- 10-minute preparation.

E20	Grade 6-12	R120
Grade 6-12	2 ½ minutes maximum	



PREPARED VERSE & DRAMA ENSEMBLE WORK

A candidate is allowed to enter either for a Verse Speaking DUO, TRIO or QUARTET, but not all three.

Verse Speaking: DUO (E21)

- Own choice.
- The poems may be dramatized.

E21 **Grade 1-12** **R240**
Grade 1-12 5 minutes maximum
The length of the poem must be suitable for the age group

Verse Speaking: TRIO (E22)

- Own choice.
- The poems may be dramatized.

E22 **Grade 1-12** **R240**
Grade 1-5 5 minutes maximum
Grade 6-12 8 minutes maximum
The length of the poem must be suitable for the age group

Verse Speaking: QUARTET (E23)

- Own choice.
- The poems may be dramatized.

E23 **Grade 1-12** **R240**
Grade 1-5 5 minutes maximum
Grade 6-12 8 minutes maximum
The length of the poem must be suitable for the age group

Drama: Duologue/ Trialogue (E24)

- Own choice.
- Minimum décor, props and costume.
- Humorous or dramatic.

E24 **Grade 1-12** **R240**
Grade 1-5 3 minutes maximum
Grade 6-8 5 minutes maximum
Grade 9-12 7 minutes maximum



PLAYS & CHORAL VERSE

Plays (Theatre) (E25)

- Own choice Play or extract from a play.
- The key elements of a play should be evident: Plot, character, tension, language and stagecraft.
- The script of the play must be sent to the organisers a week before performance for the adjudicator to peruse.
- Play festival will be on 25 & 26 June 2026.

E25 **Primary School & High School** **R550**
30 minutes maximum time

Choral Verse Speaking (E26)

- Own choice.
- Choral verse speaking (no movement).
- Minimum 12 participants.
- Two adjudicators will assess this item.

E26 **Grade 0-12** **R450**
Grade 0-12 5 minutes maximum

Choral Verse Dramatized (E27)

- Own choice.
- With movement and/or props.
- Minimum 12 participants.
- Two adjudicators will assess this item.

E27 **Grade 0-12** **R450**
Grade 0-12 5 minutes maximum

