

ESU Performing Shakespeare Judge Summary Sheet



This rubric is designed to help judges evaluate student performances, with a focus on both oracy (speaking skills) and performance (acting and stage presence).

Scores are to be used as a guide during competitions. Scores should not be shared with others.

Timings

- **Oracy Component: 2 minutes** (*name and details of the play, scene and characters portrayed, reason piece was chosen, highlighted themes and what they aim to show/achieve in their delivery*)
- **Performance: 3 minutes** (*vocal, physical and technical skills that bring the character(s) to life*)

Criteria are laid out for gradings 1, 3 and 5. 2 and 4 are not explained but fall in between the grades on either side.

ORACY

Category	1 (Limited)	2 (Partial)	3 (Competent)	4 (Strong)	5 (Exceptional)
Interpretation of Text How well the performer understands and presents the text. <i>themes, personalisation, connection to other sources</i>	▪ Basic understanding of the text with no creativity. Limited inventiveness with little to no interpretation or analysis of the text. ▪ No connection of the piece to outside sources (i.e. art, history, current/personal events, etc.) or explanation of its relevance. ▪ Short and basic introduction of the piece.		▪ Creative and thoughtful understanding and interpretation. Text interpreted with some inventiveness and analysis. ▪ Moderate connection of the piece to outside sources (i.e. art, history, current/personal events, etc.) and brief explanation of its relevance. ▪ Adequate introduction that gives the audience the background they need to understand the piece.		▪ Exceptionally creative interpretation and deep understanding. Text interpreted with great inventiveness and in-depth analysis. ▪ Seamless connection of the piece to outside sources (i.e. art, history, current/personal events, etc.) and clear explanation of its relevance. ▪ Compelling introduction that grabs attention and immerses audience into the world of the piece.
▪ Judging Tip: Focus on how well the performer understands the text and if they can relate it to broader themes or personal experiences. A strong introduction and clear connection to other ideas are key.					
Success in Realising Artistic Intention How well the performer expresses their interpretation while performing the piece. <i>continuity, connection</i>	▪ Limited to no connection between what they say and how they act. Rarely connect to the intention and analysis outlined in the oracy element when delivering the piece. ▪ Basic performance and understanding that displays an incohesive piece of theatre.		▪ Clear and occasional alignment between the performer's intentions and their actions when delivering the piece. ▪ Well-connected performance and understanding that leaves a moderate impact and displays a standard piece of theatre.		▪ Exceptional alignment between intentions and actions, with everything working together seamlessly. ▪ Advanced performance connected to thorough understanding that generates an impactful piece of theatre.
▪ Judging Tip: Look for how well the performer connects the words in their introduction with the actions of their performance. A strong presentation will feel unified, with every element working together to convey the message.					

PERFORMANCE

Category	1 (Limited)	2 (Partial)	3 (Competent)	4 (Strong)	5 (Exceptional)
Vocal Skills How effectively the performer uses their voice to enhance the performance. <i>pace, inflection, intonation, pitch, projection</i>	- Lack of vocal projection throughout the space and no use of volume for artistic effect. - Little to no variation in tone, pitch, or inflection. - Use of pauses in a way which is at odds with the piece; no variation of rhythm. - Creation and demonstration of a basic vocal response to character mood and developing situation.		- Good vocal projection that adds to the performance and effective use volume for artistic effect. - Occasional variation in tone, pitch, and inflection. - Use of pauses at one or more significant moment(s); slight variation of rhythm. - Creation and demonstration of a secure vocal response to character mood and developing situation.		- Outstanding vocal control that fully commands the space. Successful vocal projection that fills the space and astute use of volume for artistic effect. - Masterful variation in tone, pitch and inflection, creating a dynamic and engaging performance. - Use of pauses to structure the performance; noticeable change of rhythm. - Creation and demonstration of a confident and imaginative vocal response to character mood and developing situation.
Judging Tip: Pay attention to how the performer uses their voice. Effective vocal skills can make the presentation more engaging and help convey the emotions of the piece. Oracy and Performance Connection: The use of voice is important in both the oracy introduction and piece performance. Look for how the performer uses their range, vocal techniques and projection to enhance their physical performance and keep the audience's attention.					
Physical & Technical Skills How well the performer uses their body and the space to convey the scene. <i>movement, body language, facial expression, gesture, space</i>	- Limited movement and physical expression, often awkward or mismatched with the piece. - Use of stillness in a way which is at odds with the piece. - Use of space in a static way, orienting little of the performance 'audience out.' <i>Duologue only:</i> - Minimal support for and engagement with each other.		- A fair range of performance choices with purpose to affect a clear and consistent interpretation of character and situation. - Stillness and movement are used to structure the performance effectively. - Use of space in a dynamic way, orienting most of the performance 'audience out.' <i>Duologue only:</i> - Adequate collaboration that enhances both performances.		- Exceptional physicality that transforms the performance space, fully immersing the audience. An extensive range of performance choices to bring nuance and purpose that add resonance to the interpretation of character and situation. - Stillness and movement are integral features that structure the performance. - Use of space in a compelling and inventive way, orientating the entire performance 'audience out.' <i>Duologue only:</i> - Creative, seamless collaboration, with each performer enhancing the other's strengths.
Judging Tip: Observe how the performer uses their body and space. Effective physical expression should enhance the emotional and narrative impact of the performance. Oracy and Performance Connection: The way a performer speaks should align with their body language and movements. Themes in their oracy introduction should be demonstrated physically in their performance. Judges should observe whether the vocal delivery complements physical actions, creating a unified and powerful performance.					