

# NET Section Drama Competitions

## ‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Improvised Drama Competition 2019/20

### Conditions and Regulations

#### 1. The Organiser

The ‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Improvised Drama Competition 2019/20 is organised by the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), Education Bureau.

#### 2. Aims

The aims of the ‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Improvised Drama Competition are to:

- provide a focal point for curricular and co-curricular drama activities;
- give students an opportunity to learn and practise improvised drama techniques and the creative use of English; and,
- provide teaching strategies and classroom activities suitable for exploring drama as part of the English Language curriculum at the junior and senior secondary level.

#### 3. Description of the Competition

‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ is open to secondary schools in Hong Kong adopting the CDC English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – Secondary 6). Students work in teams of 4 to 6 to create and perform an improvised English drama.

There are two categories for the competition:

- **The 1-week Improv category**, in which teams are given 7 - 10 calendar days to prepare an improvised performance of 4–5 minutes. There will be multiple sessions of this category with around 12 teams at each. The stimulus for the improvised dramas this year will be an imagined object.
- **The 1-day Improv category**, which is designed to challenge more able students and will be held on a Saturday. Teams prepare their improvised drama of 3–5 minutes in the morning and perform it in the afternoon. As this is a pilot programme, there will only be one session and places will be limited to 12 teams. The stimulus of the dramas will be announced on the day of the competition. It is recommended that schools entering the *1-day Improv* category attend the ‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Saturday teacher/student training day to share best practice and help to train student drama leaders. Teachers are asked to bring two students from their drama team to this workshop.

#### 4. New Elements to the Competition this Year

There are 4 new elements to the competition this year:

- For the *1-week Improv* category:
  - Up to 4 other students who have assisted with the preparation for the performance (in capacity as a director, writer or deviser) can be recognised and awarded certificates.
  - In order to challenge students, there will not be a 5-minute preparation period in the *1-week Improv* category (see Section 8.3).
- For both categories:
  - The focus for 2019/20 will be ‘use of voice’ which will receive a bonus mark

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of up to 10 points.

- Teachers-in-charge must submit the ‘Permission for the use of images’ form prior to their competition session (by email) or on the day of the competition (on hard copy). The team will receive a 20-point penalty for failure to submit these documents on time.

#### 5. Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

Schedule	Event	Related Document
24 October 2019 2.30-3.30 p.m. or 3.45-4.45 p.m.	Briefing session Rm 425, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon	EDB Training Calendar System notification/online application (Course Code: <a href="#">CDI020191361</a> )
Early to mid- November	Invitation to join ‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ competition	Email/fax from the NET Section
26 <u>and</u> 28 November 2019 3.00-5.45 pm	‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Improvised Drama Competition Workshops* Student Activity Centre, Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School, 70 Hoi Pa St, Tsuen Wan, New Territories  <i>*Compulsory for teachers new to the competition</i>	EDB Training Calendar System notification – online application (around 1 month before event)
29 November 2019 5.00 p.m.	Deadline for submission of entry forms	‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Competition entry form
November – December 2019	Teams will be notified of the date and venue of their competition session as soon as possible.	Email from the NET Section
22 February 2020 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.	‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Improvised Drama Competition Teacher and Student Workshop  This is a training day for teachers and 2 students from their drama team.	EDB Training Calendar System notification – online application (around 1 month before event)
2 –20 March 2020 Dates and venues to be confirmed	1-week Improv competition days and prize-giving ceremony  Stimuli for the <i>1-week Improv</i> category will be distributed to schools 7 - 10 calendar days before the competition day for the <i>1-week Improv</i> category.	Email from the NET Section

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Before or on the day of the competition session	The ‘Permission for the use of images’ form must be submitted before the competition in one PDF document by email or as a hard copy on the day of the competition. A team will receive a 20-point penalty for late submission.	‘Permission for the use of images’ form
On the day of the competition	Submission of the ‘Pledge and team name list’	‘Pledge and team name list’ as a hard copy
28 March 2020 8:50 a.m.-3:20 p.m.	<i>1-day Improv</i> competition session and prize-giving ceremony Jockey Club Government Secondary School, 2B Oxford Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon	
Within 3 working days after the competition	Online submission of student names for the printing of certificates for the students (See Section 6.9 for details)	Online Google Form name list
Within two months of the competition	Postage of certificates to contact teachers	Speak Up – Act Out! certificates
7 July 2019 (p.m.)	NET Section Filmit 2019 Awards Ceremony Lecture Theatre, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon	Email invitation from the NET Section to a prize winning team to perform

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#### **6. Conditions of Entry for the *1-week Improv* and *1-day Improv* Categories**

- 6.1 The competition entry form must be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. Friday, 29 November 2019. Schools interested in participating in the competition are strongly encouraged to send at least one teacher to the NET Section Competitions Briefing (see details above).
- 6.2 As the NET Section competitions adopt a ‘train the trainer’ model, we offer the ‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ training workshops for teachers (see details above). Schools and teachers that are new to the competition must attend the workshops. Teachers with reasonable expertise in improvised drama may apply for exemption to Mr Richard COWLER on 3549 8376 or by email to richardcowler@edb.gov.hk.
- 6.3 Teams for the performance must consist of 4–6 students, who may come from the same or different year levels. In addition, for the *1-week Improv*, 4 other students who have assisted with the preparation for the performance (in capacity as a director, writer, deviser or understudy) can be recognised and awarded certificates. Teachers should list these students on the ‘Pledge and Team Name List’ form and on the online ‘Google Form name list.’
- 6.4 Schools may enter only 1 team in the *1-week Improv* category. If a school is entering both categories (*1-week Improv* category and *1-day Improv* category) they may enter the same or different teams.
- 6.5 Matters related to oversubscription of the competition:
  - For the *1-week Improv* category, schools will be chosen by lucky draw.
  - For the *1-day Improv* category, priority will be given to schools that are solely entering the *1-day Improv* category, and thereafter by lucky draw.
- 6.6 Teams that pull out of the competition within two weeks of their event may not be accepted to enter the following year.
- 6.7 The ‘Permission for the use of images’ form must be submitted before the competition in a single PDF document or on hard copy on the day of the competition. If the forms are not submitted, the team will receive a 20 point penalty.
- 6.8 ‘Pledge and team name list’ form must be submitted on the day of the competition as a hard copy.
- 6.9 To facilitate the printing of certificates, an online Google Form name list will be made available the day after each competition session. The names of the student participants must be confirmed on this Google Form name list within three working days of the competition session. The order of the names must be exactly the same as on the Pledge and Team Name List Form. Teachers are solely responsible for the accuracy of the names and corrected certificates will not be issued. Certificates will be posted to contact teachers within two months of the competition.

#### **7. Regulations for Both the *1-week Improv* and *1-day Improv* Categories**

- 7.1 The order the teams perform in will be chosen by lucky draw at the competition session.
- 7.2 The drama performed must be based on the given stimulus.
- 7.3 Teams arriving late at the beginning or after a break will receive a 20-point penalty.

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- 7.4 No written scripts are allowed during the performance.
- 7.5 All team members listed as performers on the ‘Pledge & team name list’ must perform in the drama and be involved equally (or almost equally) in the performance. Teachers can invite guest or supporting students to the competition (according to seat availability) but these students are not permitted to perform.
- 7.6 All team members must wear black tops, dark trousers, and low-heeled shoes. No singlet tops are permitted. Long hair should be tied back so judges can see faces clearly.
- 7.7 In order to encourage good dramatic development, only very brief narration (of three seconds or less) is permitted. Any use of longer narration will receive a mark penalty of 20 points on each occasion it is used.
- 7.8 The time allowed for performances is 4 – 5 minutes for the *1-week Improv* category and 3 – 5 minutes for the *1-day Improv* category. Performances that are less or more than the permitted time will receive a mark penalty of 40 points. Performance time does not include bowing to the audience. A warning bell will be rung once at the minimum time required and a final bell twice at the end of the maximum permitted time. On the final bell the student speaking is allowed to finish their sentence but then the performance must stop.
- 7.9 The focus is on improvised drama, so lighting effects, music, costumes, props, set and make-up are not permitted. Two chairs will be provided for the performance. Standing on chairs is not permitted for safety reasons.
- 7.10 Teams must behave like a good theatre audience. They must be attentive and respectful, and mobile phones must be switched off. After one warning, teams will receive a 20-point penalty for misbehaviour.
- 7.11 While judges are adjudicating the *1-week Improv*, there may be time for teams to stage a second performance, based on the stimulus not initially selected.
- 7.12 All students and teachers in a team must stay for the entire event, and no exceptions will be made.
- 7.13 Upon arrival, each team member must affix a label with their student number on it. For the *1-week Improv* category, Student No. 1 should sit at the end of the row.
- 7.14 The teacher-in-charge is responsible for ensuring that there are no offensive (e.g. racist, sexist or homophobic) scenarios.
- 7.15 The decision of the judging panel is considered final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding adjudication.

#### **8. Regulations for the *1-week Improv* Category**

- 8.1 Schools may be asked to change venues if numbers are uneven.
- 8.2 Two stimuli for the improvised dramas will be sent to the contact teacher at each school by email 7 - 10 calendar days before the competition session at which the school is performing. Teams must prepare two dramas, one drama responding to each stimulus.
- 8.3 There will be two lucky draws in each round of the competition. The first, to draw

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for the next team to perform, and the second, to draw for the stimulus for that team. After the lucky draw, the team will be given 1-minute to position themselves on the stage before their performance starts.

#### 9. Regulations for the 1-day Improv Category

- 9.1 This competition session is divided into two parts:
- a 3.5-hour morning preparation period; and
  - afternoon performances
- 9.2 The teacher in charge is required to attend for the whole day but are not permitted to assist their students in developing their dramas. During the morning preparation period, teachers will be assigned a team from another school to supervise (as a kind of invigilator only) in their rehearsal room. During the afternoon, the teacher in charge will attend the performance but will not be permitted to communicate with their students until all the performances have finished.
- 9.3 A stimulus will be given to each team at the beginning of the morning preparation period and each team will be assigned a rehearsal room, a time framework to follow and some tasks to complete. This framework and the tasks will help them to develop their drama and be ready for their performance. Access to the Internet is not permitted and students will be asked to hand in all mobile phones, tablets or laptops, which will be kept by their teacher-in-charge until the end of the performance.
- 9.4 Students will need to stay in their rehearsal room at lunchtime and should bring a packed lunch. If a delivered lunch is required, then it is the teacher’s responsibility to arrange for timely delivery.

#### 10. Mark Penalties

Condition	Mark penalty
Failure to submit ‘Pledge and team name list’ form and the parental permission forms before or on the day of the competition (see Section 6.7)	20 points
Late arrival at the beginning or after a break	20 points
Performances that are less or more than the permitted time	40 points
Misbehaviour	20 points
Each use of narration longer than three seconds	20 points

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#### 11. Adjudication

The judging panels will include representatives from the EDB, drama instructors and English teachers with a background in drama. Student performances will be assessed on the criteria below:

A.	Content	<i>relevance to given stimulus development, creativity and originality of character, setting and plot</i>
B.	Use of English	<i>intelligibility, fluency, accuracy, range and creativity of language</i>
C.	Performance technique	<i>e.g. vocal and physical expression, characterisation, ensemble work, creativity, use of space, voice projection</i>
D.	Focus for the year	<i>use of voice</i>

#### 12. Awards and Certificates

Awards and prizes will be given for each session of the competition.

<b>Team awards and prizes:</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	book coupons + trophy + certificates
Merit prizes (x2)	book coupons + trophy + certificates
Audience prize	book coupons + trophy
<b>Individual prizes:</b>	
‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Superstar Performer (best overall)	book coupons + certificates
Speak Up! Star Award (best use of English)	book coupons + certificates
Act Out! Star Award (best acting)	book coupons + certificates
<b>Other:</b>	
Every team member	Certificate of Participation

#### 13. Submission of Entry Forms

Entry forms can be emailed, faxed, posted or dropped off in person to the NET Section office:  
 Attn. ‘Speak Up – Act Out!’ Improvised Drama Competition  
 Native-speaking English Teacher Section, Room 1120, 11/F, Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174 – 208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, NT.

Email: [richardcowler@edb.gov.hk](mailto:richardcowler@edb.gov.hk) Fax: 3549 8379

#### 14. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Mr Richard COWLER on 3549 8376 or by email at [richardcowler@edb.gov.hk](mailto:richardcowler@edb.gov.hk).