

NET Section
Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! Improvised Drama Competition 2021/22

Conditions and Regulations

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1. Organiser

Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! Improvised Drama Competition (SU-AO! On Air!) 2021/22 is organised by the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), Education Bureau.

2. Aims and Values

We believe that practising drama is a powerful tool for learning and whole-person development. We want to empower students to use drama:

- to explore situations, characters, ideas and feelings both inside and outside the classroom;
- to express themselves creatively in English, and through physical and vocal expression;
- to develop their self-esteem, creativity, communication skills and collaboration skills; and
- to develop positive attitudes and values and generic skills, e.g. perseverance, commitment, care for others and respect for fair play.

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SU-AO! On Air! offers teachers and students the opportunity to:

- be trained in drama that can be used inside and outside the classroom;
- participate in a competition in which students can challenge themselves to perform improvised drama for an audience;
- organise and participate in socially-distanced practice sessions if needed; and
- participate in socially-distanced competition sessions which can proceed regardless of class suspension and limitations on group gatherings.

3. Description of the Competition

Students work in teams of 4 to 6 to create and perform a 4-to-5-minute radio drama on a given stimulus. According to the social distancing measures in place, teachers can arrange team practices in a face-to-face setting or online setting via video conferencing. Teams are strongly encouraged to use improvisation techniques in the preparation of their radio dramas.

Competition sessions will be held with online video conferencing in March. At the competition sessions, the radio drama will be performed, teams will share what they have learnt from their experience in the competition, judges will adjudicate the winners and prizes will be announced. Just like for practice sessions, performance team members can be gathered in one classroom or they can gather virtually online.

There are two categories for the competition, a ‘1-day’ category and a ‘2-week’ category.

- In *Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! 1 Day* (SU-AO! On Air! *1 Day*), students work in teams of 4 to 6 and are given 90 minutes to create, without teacher supervision, a 4-to-5-minute radio drama and then perform it live with online video conferencing. This category adds a higher level of challenge to the competition. Each team will perform at one competition session with 7 to 10 other schools. This category is limited to one competition session, held on a Saturday morning. A practice session, mandatory for teachers joining this category for the first time, will be organised before the competition session to familiarise the participating teams with the format and expectations of the competition.
- In *Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! 2 Weeks* (SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks*) students will be given approximately 14 calendar days to create a 4-to-5-minute radio drama on a given stimulus under the supervision of their teacher. Each team consists of 4 to 6 performers plus up to 4 other students who may have helped to prepare for the performance (in capacity as a director, writer or deviser). Each team will perform at one competition session with 7 to 10 other schools. The competition sessions will be held on a morning or afternoon on a weekday.

Please carefully read the regulations in Sections 6, 7 and 8.

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4. Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

4.1 Schedule of Competition Sessions

Competition Sessions	Date	Document(s) and Remarks
SU-AO! On Air! <i>1 Day</i> competition session	5 March 2022 9.00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.	Email from the NET Section with link to online video conference
SU-AO! On Air! <i>2 Weeks</i> competition sessions	1, 10, 15, 31 March 2022 3.00 – 5.30 p.m.	

4.2 Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

Event or Deadline	Date		Document(s) and Remarks
	SU-AO! On Air! <i>1 Day</i>	SU-AO! On Air! <i>2 Weeks</i>	
Invitation to join Speak Up - Act Out! competition briefing session	Early September 2021		Email from the NET Section
Online briefing session	23 September 2021 4.00 – 4.55 p.m.		EDB Training Calendar System (TCS) notification/online application (Course ID: CDI020211663)
Reminder to join Speak Up - Act Out! competition	Late September		Email/fax from the NET Section
Deadline for submission of SU-AO! On Air! Entry Form	15 October 2021		Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! <i>1 Day</i> Competition Entry Form Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! <i>2 Weeks</i> Competition Entry Form

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Event or Deadline	Date		Document(s) and Remarks
	SU-AO! On Air! <i>1 Day</i>	SU-AO! On Air! <i>2 Weeks</i>	
Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! training workshop for teachers Compulsory for teachers new to the competition	2 November 2021 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.		EDB Training Calendar System notification – online application (approx. 1 month before event) Native-speaking English Teacher Section, Room 1120, 11/F, Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong
Information on allocation of competition session date(s) and documents to be submitted sent to schools	December 2021 – January 2022		Email from the NET Section
Stimulus for SU-AO! On Air! <i>2 Weeks</i> will be distributed to schools	N/A	Approx. 14 calendar days before competition session	Email from the NET Section
Submit the following document: SU-AO! On Air! <i>2 Weeks</i> Plan and Script*	N/A	Submit at least 2 working days before the competition session	Send by email as a PDF or Microsoft Word Doc to richardcowler@edb.gov.hk *Please note that there is a mark penalty of 10% (of the total performance mark) for failure to submit documents or failure to submit documents correctly.
Practice Session for SU-AO! On Air! <i>1 Day</i>	19 February 2022	N/A	Email from the NET Section Recommended for all but compulsory for teachers new to the competition
Competition programme and link for online platform session sent to schools	1 week before competition session		Email from the NET Section

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Event or Deadline	Date		Document(s) and Remarks
	SU-AO! On Air! 1 Day	SU-AO! On Air! 2 Weeks	
<p>Submit the following documents*:</p> <p>1. Permission for the Use of Images form**</p> <p>2. Team Names and Abbreviations Google Form</p>	<p>Submit at least 2 working days before the competition session</p>		<p>*Please note that there is a mark penalty of 10% (of the total performance mark) for failure to submit documents or failure to submit documents correctly.</p> <p>**Please note that <u>one option</u> on the Permission for the Use of Images form must be <u>ticked</u>.</p> <p>1. A hard copy of the Permission for the Use of Images form needs to be completed and signed by each team members' parent and then returned as a PDF by email to richardcowler@edb.gov.hk</p> <p>2. The names and abbreviations entered on the Team Names and Abbreviations Google Form will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the competition session. To ensure the smooth running of the online event, please follow the instructions for abbreviations exactly and ask students to sign in with the same abbreviations when they log into the online platform. - for the printing of certificates. Please check the spellings and format of the names carefully. Replacement certificates will not be offered.

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Event or Deadline	Date		Document(s) and Remarks
	SU-AO! On Air! 1 Day	SU-AO! On Air! 2 Weeks	
Certificates, trophies and prizes will be available for pick-up at the reception of the NET Section office	Within two months of the competition		NET Section office reception is open from Monday to Friday: 8:30am - 12:30pm, and 1:30pm – 5:00pm. Native-speaking English Teacher Section, Room 1120, 11/F, Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong Tel: 3549 8300

5. Conditions of Entry

- 5.1 The competition entry form must be submitted on or before the date specified in as stated in Section 4.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of the teacher-in-charge to become familiar with the regulations and requirements for SU-AO! by reading this document. Schools interested in the competition are also strongly encouraged to send at least one teacher to the NET Section Competitions briefing session (see details in Section 4) where the regulations are discussed and advice is given on how to prepare students for the competition.
- 5.3 The NET Section competitions adopt a ‘train the trainer’ model and the Speak Up – Act Out! On Air! training workshop is offered for teacher development (see details in Section 4). **Teachers-in-charge that have not previously entered the competition must attend the workshop.** Teachers with experience in improvised drama may apply for exemption to Mr Richard COWLER on 3549 8376 or by email at richardcowler@edb.gov.hk.
- 5.4 The number of teams and team members in SU-AO! On Air! *1 Day* and *2 Weeks*:
- For SU-AO! On Air! *1 Day* schools may only enter 1 team.
 - For SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks*, schools may enter up to 2 teams, one of which is to be designated ‘Team A’ and the other ‘Team B’.
 - If a school is entering both ‘On Air!’ categories, they may enter the same or different teams.

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- Performance teams of 4 to 6 students are required for both *1-day* and *2-week* categories. The students may come from the same or different year levels.
- For SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks*, schools may have a support team of up to 4 students who help with the preparation of the radio drama. The support team is not obligatory. Please see the designated roles of the support team in Section 8.4.

5.5 In case of over-subscription:

- for SU-AO! On Air! *1 Day*, priority will be given to schools that are solely entering the ‘SU-AO! Live!’ *1 Day*, and thereafter by a draw.
- for SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks*, schools will be chosen by a draw. Priority will be given to the ‘A’ teams.

5.6 A school whose team(s) pulls out of the competition within two weeks of the competition session will not be eligible to enter the following year.

5.7 In order for the competition to run smoothly, teachers-in-charge are asked to ensure that the administrative tasks are completed in a timely manner. Please note the deadlines, requirements and possible penalties listed in Section 4.2 for the submission of forms for the competition.

6. Regulations for both SU-AO! On Air! Categories

6.1 All students in the performance teams are expected to have roughly equal acting roles and to handle all the live or recorded sound effects. No student should be allocated as a narrator (see Section 6.3).

6.2 Radio dramas rely on character voices and sound effects to create the drama. Students are encouraged to create sound effects using their voices, objects around them, musical instruments, as well as copyright-free sound effects that can be found on the Internet. In order to play recorded sound effects, it may be helpful for at least one student to use multiple devices (e.g. a laptop and a smartphone).

6.3 Schools are asked to test computer audio equipment in advance, and ensure that there is/are a good quality microphone(s) available.

6.4 In order to encourage good dramatic development, brief narration (of 15 seconds or less) is only permitted on 3 occasions during a team’s radio drama. Any use of longer narration or narration on more than 3 occasions will receive a 10% penalty of the total mark on each occasion it is used.

6.5 The time allowed for performances is 4 to 5 minutes. Performances that are less or more than the permitted time will receive a mark penalty of 10% of the total mark. A warning bell will be rung once at 1 minute before the end of the permitted time and a final bell twice at the end of the permitted time. On the final bell, the student speaking is allowed to finish their sentence, but then the performance must stop.

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- 6.6 At the competition session, the order the teams perform in will be chosen by a draw.
- 6.7 The drama performed must be based on the given stimulus. In SU-AO! On Air! *1 Day* this will be given to students at the beginning of the competition session. In SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks* this will be sent out to schools by email approximately 14 calendar days before the competition session.
- 6.8 Teams must behave respectfully at competition sessions. Teams may receive a 10% penalty of the total mark for:
- arriving late at the beginning or after a break; and
 - for misbehaviour.
- 6.9 All team members must wear school uniform at the competition sessions.
- 6.10 All students and teachers in a team must stay for the entire competition session, and no exceptions will be made.
- 6.11 The teacher-in-charge is responsible for ensuring that there are no offensive (e.g. racist, sexist or homophobic) scenarios.
- 6.12 The decision of the judging panel is considered final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding adjudication.
- 6.13 Alongside the team's performance, the script written by teams will be used by the judges, to guide their understanding of the radio drama and support them to mark 'Use of English'. Students should take care to write a comprehensible script (which is as accurate as possible) but should be reminded that accuracy is only one of the criteria under 'Use of English' (see section 10). Students are allowed to use their scripts during performances but they will not be penalised if they do not use the exact words of the script. Some improvisation of dialogue is to be encouraged.
- 6.14 For both SU-AO! On Air! *1 Day* and SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks*, a team will receive a 10% penalty of the total mark if the planning and scriptwriting tasks are not completed.

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7. Regulations for SU-AO! On Air! *1 Day*

- 7.1 This competition session is held on a videoconferencing platform and is divided into two parts:
- a 90-minute preparation period (in which school teams create a radio drama in ‘breakout rooms’); and
 - a live performance and prize announcement ceremony (including student comments on what they have learnt from the performances).
- 7.2 The teacher-in-charge is required to attend the whole session but is not permitted to assist their students in developing their dramas. During the preparation period, teachers will be assigned to observe a team from another school and will be assigned to their breakout room. The teacher-in-charge is not permitted to communicate with their students until all the performances have finished.
- 7.3 A stimulus will be given to each team at the beginning of the preparation period and each team will be assigned a ‘breakout room’, a suggested time framework to follow and a compulsory planning and scriptwriting task to be completed on a web-based software. A 10% penalty of the total mark will be applied if the planning and scriptwriting tasks are not completed or submitted.
- 7.4 Access to the Internet is permitted during the preparation period in order to check a dictionary and find sound effects. Any help from adults or other teachers is strictly prohibited and would lead to the team being disqualified from the competition.

8. Regulations for SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks*

- 8.1 This competition category is divided into two parts:
- a 14-day preparation period (in which teams create a radio drama working in groups face-to-face or online as social distancing measures allow); and,
 - a live performance and prize announcement ceremony (including student comments on what they have learnt from the performances).
- 8.2 Schools may be asked to change to another competition session to make the numbers of schools even at a sessions in the event schools withdraw from the competition.
- 8.3 A stimulus for the radio dramas will be sent to the contact teacher at each school by email approximately 14 calendar days before the deadline set for submission.
- 8.4 For SU-AO! On Air! *2 Weeks*, the support team of up to 4 students may assist with the preparation for the performance (in capacity as a director, writer or deviser) **but they cannot assist with the performance in any way (e.g. by playing sound effects or providing technical support during the performance).**

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9. Mark Penalties

Condition	Mark penalty
Failure to submit the Team Names or Abbreviations Google Form and Permission for the Use of Images form by the given deadline	10% of the total mark for each condition
Failure to complete or submit the SU-AO! On Air! Plan and Script	
Disrespectful behaviour	
Performances that are less or more than the permitted time	
Each use of narration longer than three seconds	

10. Adjudication and Criteria

The judging panels will include representatives from the EDB, drama instructors and English teachers. The following criteria will be used. A full version of the judging criteria is available in the Downloadable Documents page of the SU-AO! On Air! section on the NET Scheme ePlatform: <https://nets.edb.hkedcity.net/page.php?p=487>

A.	Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>creativity & response to stimulus</i> • <i>plot structure and development</i> • <i>use of dialogues</i> 	30%	% of the total mark
B.	Vocabulary and language patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>language structures & vocabulary</i> • <i>pronunciation & delivery</i> 	30%	
C.	Radio drama performance skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>vocal expression</i> • <i>teamwork</i> • <i>audibility</i> • <i>sound effects</i> 	40%	

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11. Awards and Certificates

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

1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd prize	book coupons + trophy + certificates
Merit prizes (up to 2)	
Audience prize	book coupons + trophy

All participants who are not awarded a prize will receive a certificate of participation.

12. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Mr Richard COWLER on 3549 8376 or by email at richardcowler@edb.gov.hk