

ESU Performing Shakespeare Judge Summary Sheet

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

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

Timings

- **Oracy Component: 2 minutes** (*name and details of 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*)

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

Category	1 (Emerging Talent)	2	3 (Class Act)	4	5 (Show Stopping)
Interpretation of Text How well the performer understands and presents the text. <i>themes, personalisation, time management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic understanding of the text with little creativity. They interpret the text with limited inventiveness and analysis. 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative and thoughtful understanding and interpretation. They interpret the text with a degree of inventiveness and some analysis. Moderate connection of the piece to outside sources (i.e. art, history, current/personal events, etc.) and brief explanation of its relevance. Thorough introduction that sets up the performance well. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptionally creative and deeply thoughtful understanding and interpretation. They interpret the text 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 sets the stage perfectly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the intended message and emotions of the piece. <i>continuity, connection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited connection between what they say and how they act. Rarely display /connect/ relate 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear and frequent alignment between the performer's intentions and their actions. Occasionally display /connect/ relate to the intention and analysis outlined in the oracy element when delivering the piece. Well-connected performance and understanding that leaves a noticeable impact and displays a standard piece of theatre. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional alignment between intentions and actions, with everything working together perfectly. Displays /connects/ relates to the intention and analysis outlined in the oracy element when delivering the piece. Advanced performance connected to thorough understanding that generates an impactful piece of theatre.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judging Tip: Look for how well the performer connects their words and actions. A strong performance will feel unified, with every element working together to convey the message. 					

ORACY

P E R F O R M A N C E

Category	1 (Emerging Talent)	2	3 (Class Act)	4	5 (Show Stopping)
Vocal Skills How effectively the performer uses their voice to enhance the performance. <i>pace, inflection, intonation, pitch, projection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 moments; slight variation of rhythm. Creation and demonstration of a secure vocal response to character mood and developing situation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judging Tip: Pay attention to how the performer uses their voice. Effective vocal skills can make the performance more engaging and help convey the emotions of the piece. Oracy and Performance Connection: Oracy is just as crucial in this section as it is in the oracy-specific section. The way a performer speaks, projects and uses vocal techniques must enhance their physical performance. Judges should look for how well the performer’s voice complements their movements, facial expressions and use of space. 					
Physical & Technical Skills How the performer uses their body and the space to enhance their performance. <i>movement, body language, facial expression, gesture, space</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 most of the performance ‘audience out.’ <p><i>Duologue only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal support for each other. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide range of performance choices with purpose to affect a clear, confident 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 entire performance ‘audience out.’ <p><i>Duologue only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong collaboration that enhances both performances. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional physicality that transforms the performance space, fully immersing the audience. An extensive range of performance choices to bring nuance, purpose and 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.’ <p><i>Duologue only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative, seamless collaboration, with each performer enhancing the other’s strengths.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: In this section, oracy continues to play a vital role. The way a performer speaks should align with their body language and movements. Judges should observe whether the vocal delivery complements physical actions, creating a unified and powerful performance. 					