

## RSL Graded Examinations in Public Speaking

### FAQs

1. Q: Can there be a live audience in an exam?  
A: *An audience may be possible for the Presentation component of the exam, however, an audience is not permitted in the Conversation/Interview with the examiner. Therefore, having an audience may prove difficult logistically. If you would like to find out if an audience may be possible at your venue, please contact [paa@rslawards.com](mailto:paa@rslawards.com)*
2. Q: Are candidates allowed prompts in their exam?  
A: *Yes, if essential to ensure the continuance of the exam. For poetry selections (mandatory at Premiere & Debut, and optional at Grades 1 & 2), the examiner must be provided with a legible copy. The examiner will use this to prompt if needed. Note that, as per the syllabus specifications, candidates are expected to deliver the chosen material from memory, therefore **any prompting may be reflected in the final mark awarded.***
3. Q: Are candidates allowed visual aids in their exam (such as a PowerPoint)?  
A: *Yes, visual and/or audio aids are permitted, but are purely optional. There is guidance for the use of visual aids in the 'Additional Guidance for Teachers' free download, which can be found here <https://www.rslawards.com/paa/graded-exams/public-speaking/>*
4. Q: Can I read my public speaking speech in my exam?  
A: *No, this is not permitted. Learners are permitted to use small prompt cards when delivering their speech, but must not read the whole speech. For recorded digital exams, prompt cards must be hand-held and not positioned out of shot. **If it becomes clear that a learner is reading their speech this will be reflected in the mark awarded.***  
*There is guidance for the use of prompt cards in the 'Additional guidance for Teachers' free download, which can be found here <https://www.rslawards.com/paa/graded-exams/public-speaking/>*
5. Q: I'm a teacher, I have PAA Acting and Musical Theatre candidates, can I mix Public Speaking exam candidates with my exam day?  
A: *Absolutely. We have a pool of PAA examiners who are qualified to assess all PAA disciplines, so mixing disciplines is possible. Care must be taken to ensure the day runs smoothly, and enough time is allocated for all exams. In addition, there is a minimum fee for PAA face-to-face exams, which should be considered. For more information, and to book your PAA exams, please visit <https://www.rslawards.com/paa/paa-online-entry/> or contact [paa@rslawards.com](mailto:paa@rslawards.com)*
6. Q: Are UCAS points available for Public Speaking?  
A: *Yes, UCAS points are available for PAA Public Speaking qualifications at Grades 6, 7, & 8. The points will appear in the UCAS tariff in May 2023, for entry to university from September 2023.*
7. Q: Do you recommend candidate ages for each Public Speaking grade?  
A: *RSL imposes no minimum or maximum age limit. It is advisable for learners to enter at a level which is suitable and attainable for their age, overall maturity and ability to meet the assessment*

*criteria published in the syllabus specifications. In the syllabus (page 8) there are **recommended ages** only.*