

## SHAKESPEARE (Group) – Guidance on alternative pathways

This document will help to guide teachers who have previously entered learners for the Shakespeare (Group) syllabus strand onto alternative pathways.

Trinity's graded group exams provide an opportunity for groups of performers of three or more to develop devising skills or to perform scripted group work from foundation to advanced level (grades 1-8). Additionally Trinity's **In-Production** exams allow learners to produce whole performances assessed in a performance setting.

### Foundation level – Grades 1-3

The content of the **Group Shakespeare** (grade 3 upwards) exams can be aligned to a number of options in the Trinity syllabuses. For example Group Shakespeare Grade 3 candidates are asked to:

1. Introduce and perform from memory one or two excerpts from a Shakespeare play

Similarly, **Group Drama – Scripts** (which also start at grade 3) require learners to:

1. Introduce and perform from memory one or more extracts from a play

### Intermediate level – Grades 4-5

As at Foundation Level, Intermediate level (grades 4-5) **Shakespeare (Group)** exams can be neatly aligned to **Group Drama – Scripts** and also **Performance Arts (Groups)** exams.

**Performance Arts** exams challenge the candidate but also allow for a wider exploration of performance and contributory skills which can be an exciting option for teachers and candidates alike.

### Advanced level – Grades 6-8

At Advanced level (grades 6-8), **Shakespeare (Group)** exams align to **Group Drama – Scripts**. (Please note though that there is an additional requirement of a contemporary writer at grade 7). At grade 8 candidates perform a themed programme from two or more contrasting plays, therefore the contrast could be in terms of genre i.e. comedy/tragedy or contemporary/classical text.

**In – Production** exams can be taken in:

- Musical Theatre in Production
- Plays in Production
- Performance Arts in Production

The graded **In-Production** exams are assessed as a whole production thus giving groups of performers an opportunity to perform a show in part or in full. Group entries are not limited to cast members and performers and can include technicians, designers, wardrobe staff, marketing and publicity and a whole host of roles that support a production. Therefore, for **Shakespeare** exams the **Plays in Production** and **Performance Arts in Production** provide viable and exciting possibilities.

For further details and full explanations of the **Acting & Speaking** and **Performance Arts** syllabus strands discussed, email [drama@trinitycollege.com](mailto:drama@trinitycollege.com)