

SECTION B

CHRISTIAN DRAMA

<i>A Christian Drama with Minimal Props or a Bible Reading</i>				
<i>Code</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Limit</i>
B1	Liturgical Drama Group	1-12	Enactment of the Christian message for use in the liturgy.	15 min
B2	Biblical Drama Group	1-12	Dramatisation of a bible story or Christian message.	15 min
B3	Clown or Mime Group	1-12	Dramatisation of a bible story using mime or clowning.	15 min
B4	Bible Reading (Max 3 entries per school). Multi-campus schools may have 3 entries per campus.	1-12	Solo reading from scripture	3 min

1 General Educational Aims and Policy

To Reflect To Interpret To Involve To Share To Inform To Challenge	Genre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enactment of the Christian message for use in the liturgy. • Dramatisation of a biblical story or message using mime. • Solo/Group Reading from the Bible.
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Introductory notes on Christian Drama

Drama has played an important part in the rich history of the church. During the Middle Ages plays were performed in the churches and market places which were either based on the events of Scripture (Mystery Plays) or on the lives of the saints (Morality Plays). The aim was to educate a largely illiterate people about growing in their faith. So then, as now, Christian Drama within the Performing Arts Festival should aim to educate or evangelise. Within the modern context, drama can be a powerful tool for exploring the Scriptures or personally challenging students about their faith. It may range from an exploration of the Gospel through echo pantomime to a dramatic realization of a liturgical event like "The Stations of the Cross".

At Secondary level it may range from a production of gospel based "Clown Mime" to a student-scripted production which explores relevant current human experiences in the light of Christian values. Subjects could include challenging contemporary issues like relationships, justice, racism, alcoholism, drugs or suicide.

The four categories listed in this Section provide schools with the scope to choose particular genres suited to the age and maturity of the children.

2 Preparation Details (Christian Drama)

Directors are expected to ensure that:

- Productions are suited to the age and maturity of performers.
- Children have an understanding of the text and have actively participated in the preparation and interpretation of the work.
- Productions are both visually and vocally interesting.
- Actors project to the audience with vitality and energy.
- Actors think in terms of role to present believable characters.
- Any sound effects used enhance the production, atmosphere and mood.
- **There is a strict adherence to the set time limits.**

3 Organisational Details (Christian Drama)

- Directors may use appropriate props and costumes to suit character and period.
- Sets are to be kept to a minimum
- Directors must supply set and strike stage crew. This time is included in the time limit.
- Directors may use basic lighting which is available but this must be arranged in advance.
- Directors may use available sound production facilities - *i.e.* good quality CDs.
- The maximum time allowance including set and strike is 15 mins.

4 Adjudication Criteria (General)

- Effectiveness for didactic and/or liturgical use.
- Suitability for age level and maturity of the group.
- Interpretation.

Adjudication Criteria (As a dramatic presentation)

- The ability of actors to think in terms of role and to present believable characters.
- Character sincerity, spontaneity and sensitivity.
- Movement and body response.
- Overall vitality, effectiveness and impact. This could include:
 - Clarity of delivery - expressive awareness of meaning and mood.*
 - The extent to which the production was visually and vocally interesting.*
 - The vitality of voice, its energy, projection and flexibility in delivery.*
 - The control and effectiveness of timing and flow.*
 - The effectiveness of sound, costuming, make up.*

Solo Reading from the Bible

A reading from the Bible that effectively communicates the Word of God.

- Students should demonstrate the ability to read from the Bible (not memorisation) and develop eye contact with the listeners.
- Reading should be appropriate to the age and maturity of the performers.
- Students should demonstrate an understanding of the text.
- Minimal props and costumes may be used.
- Music if used should enhance the presentation, atmosphere and mood.

Adjudication Criteria include:

- The effective use and projection of the voice.
- Fluency and confidence in correctly pronouncing biblical places and names.
- The vocal clarity used in delivery of the text.
- Interpretation, vocal expression and modulation.
- Phrasing and rhythm including the use of effect pauses.
- Effective use of physical response. eg. facial, body gestures and stance.
- Readings should be suited to the age and maturity of performers.
- Overall impact of the liturgical reading.
- The extent of research of subject matter.
- **There is a strict adherence to the set time limits. Students exceeding the time limit will be asked to stop and will not be eligible for Award.**