

**LAMDA EXAMINATIONS IMPROVE
COMMUNICATION SKILLS,
INCREASE SELF-CONFIDENCE AND
DEVELOP STRONG SOCIAL SKILLS**



LAMDA Exams

What is LAMDA?

LAMDA (founded 1861) is the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. It is one of the oldest drama schools in the United Kingdom and has a global reputation for excellence. You can find out more about LAMDA at www.lamda.org.uk

LAMDA began offering speech examinations to the public in the 1880s. These examinations have been refined and developed over the years. They now form a comprehensive system of performance evaluation.

LAMDA's mission is to improve standards in communication through the spoken word, foster an appreciation of literature and support creative, intellectual and social development.

What is a LAMDA Exam?

A LAMDA Exam is the speech and drama equivalent of a music grade. Like music grades, LAMDA Exams culminate at Grade 8, Gold Medal.

LAMDA Exams cover a range of disciplines:

- Acting
- Devising Drama
- Miming
- Speaking Verse and Prose
- Reading for Performance
- Using Spoken English
- Speaking in Public

Exams can be taken at 5 levels:

- Introductory Examinations for young performers (5–7 years) who are taking the first steps in memorising, reciting, and communicating.
- Entry Level
- Level 1 – Grades 1, 2, 3
- Level 2 – Grades 4 and 5
- Level 3 – Grades 6, 7 and 8 (Bronze Medal, Silver Medal, Gold Medal)

Why take LAMDA Exams?

Benchmarks

LAMDA Exams offer an ongoing measurement of progress in speech and drama. The gradual progression through the LAMDA grades provides benchmarks for every stage

of a student's development. The LAMDA grades help to support a steady improvement in self-confidence, vocal and physical technique, and language awareness.

LAMDA Exams are well tailored to the abilities of students of different ages. For a five-year-old, reciting an eight-line poem is an achievement to be celebrated, and for a sixteen-year-old, delivering a Shakespeare soliloquy or giving a speech on a pressing moral or ethical issue is equally praiseworthy. LAMDA Exams recognise these achievements, provide a context within which they can be assessed, and reward them with nationally recognised qualifications.

Objectivity

LAMDA examiners are always impartial to the establishment and are booked directly with LAMDA. We intend for a student's ability as a performer and communicator is being objectively and fairly assessed.

Inclusiveness

LAMDA's reasonable adjustment policy makes allowances for students with particular education needs, as well as those with English as a second language. This policy enables a practice of inclusiveness.

Who could take a LAMDA Exam?

All kinds of people could benefit from taking LAMDA Exams:

- Anyone who loves drama and wants to do more
- Drama students who want to polish their skills, improve stage technique, work with interesting texts and prepare for auditions
- Those who want to improve their spoken English and work on presentation skills
- Students who could use drama as a way of gaining extra UCAS points.

What happens in a LAMDA Exam?

A LAMDA Exam comprises two elements. First the candidate or candidates give a performance, which an examiner watches. Then the candidate or candidates have a short discussion with the examiner.

A performance might consist of acted monologues or scenes, a recital of poems and prose pieces or presentations on chosen subjects. The kind of pieces chosen for performance, the number and length of the pieces, and the nature of the discussion depends on the grade being taken. Some pieces and subjects will be prescribed by LAMDA, and others may be freely chosen by the candidate.

At one end of the scale, a young beginner taking an Introductory Exam recites a short poem of around eight lines and then talks informally to the examiner about a favourite toy.

At the other end, a Grade 8 GOLD MEDAL Acting student present three monologues or scenes, at least one of which is classical, and then has a lengthy formal discussion with the examiner about the technicalities of the acting process and acting theory.

For information about LAMDA Exams, see www.lamda.org.uk/exams/