

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

Taleem Competition Guide National Ijtema 2008 Majlis Khuddam ul Ahmadiyya, USA

Memorization of the Holy Qur'an:

Goal: To encourage the Khuddam to memorize large portions of the Holy Qur'an and even engender the need for Khuddam in the USA to become Hafiz-e-Qur'an.

Tilawat	Max Marks	Criteria Description
Criteria-1	30	Overall memorization of the Arabic and translation.
Criteria-2	10	Confidence and Continuity
Criteria-3	10	Appropriate Delivery Volume and Speed

One of the judges or an individual appointed by the Taleem Department (The designation "Taleem Department" will always refer to the National MKA USA Taleem Department in this document.) will recite a portion of the Holy Qur'an, usually one or two verses, depending on the length of the verses. A short verse would necessitate recitation of an additional verse to enable to the Khadim to discern the portion of the Holy Qur'an that is being read. The Khadim is to continue the recitation once he has ascertained the portion being read. After the judge or appointee has completed the verse being tested, the Khadim will have ten seconds to continue the recitation or would receive a score of zero for the verse being tested. In this manner, three to five verses will be selected from the Ijtema syllabus provided to the Khuddam. The number of selections would decrease to three if there is a plethora of competitors and increase to five with fewer competitors as time permits.

The translation of a single verse will be asked of a Khadim. The verses will usually be based on the Arabic selections recited by the Khadim which will encourage memorization with translation and enhance understanding. Between four and ten selections may be asked, again the number of selections is inversely proportional to the number of competitors.

One's score will be based on both memorization of the Arabic and the translation which may be done in English or Urdu. If done in Urdu, the best translation will be asked and it will be imperative that the translation be relevant to the context of the verse as Arabic and Urdu vocabulary is often similar. The Arabic and translation will each receive equal weight as far as scoring is concerned.

Recitation of the Holy Qur'an:

Goal: To encourage Khuddam to recite the Holy Qur'an in the most correct and most beautiful way.

Tilawat	Max Marks	Criteria Description
Criteria-1	20	Correctness & Clarity of Pronunciation. Stops at appropriate punctuation
Criteria-2	10	Confidence and Continuity
Criteria-3	10	Appropriate Delivery Volume and Speed
Criteria-4	10	Overall Sweetness of Delivery (Soza/Qirat)

A portion of the Holy Qur'an will be assigned prior to the Ijtema. Khuddam will then be asked to recite a portion of that at the Ijtema. The length of the portion selected will also be dependent on the number of participants and the time allotted. Khuddam should be familiar with the entire passage as the portion to be recited will be selected randomly. In the event that the judges choose verses in sequence, the list of competitors may be randomized so that Khuddam will not be aware of the portion to be recited until they reach the podium. Translation will not be asked in this competition. A Khadim may bring his own Holy Qur'an or a photocopy of the selection. In any event, a copy of the Holy Qur'an will be provided for all competitors.

Impromptu Speech:

Goal: To encourage the Khuddam to improve their knowledge base to help us excel in Tabligh, an area in which we are greatly lacking.

Speech	Max Marks	Criteria Description
Criteria-1	10	Appropriate Delivery Volume & Speed. Clarity of Pronunciations
Criteria-2	10	Style of Delivery, Confidence and Continuity.
Criteria-3	10	Quality of Speech Content & Knowledge/Research of the Subject
Criteria-4	20	Use of Verses of the Holy Qur'an, Ahadith, Quotations and/or Poetic Verses

The reason for the impromptu speech is that Khuddam are quite good at well-rehearsed speeches, especially if they have received assistance from the Muballigh or a family member.

The impromptu speech competition will require that the Khadim be familiar with all of the possible topics. A list of topics will be provided in advance of the Ijtema. Khuddam should prepare the topics well in advance of the Ijtema.

On the day of the competition, one's name will be called about six to ten minutes prior to his turn to speak. In general, two people will speak in the time allotted for a Khadim to prepare his speech. While the very first two speakers are preparing, the Taleem Department will be announcing winners of other competitions. The judges could use this time to impart their knowledge and advice regarding prior competitions.

On the day of the competition, a Khadim will not be permitted to bring any written materials to the podium. There will be a Holy Qur'an with English translation by Hazrat Maulana Sher Ali sahib provided for the speaker, but this will be kept at the podium. When one's name is called, he will come forward to a designated area. At the designated preparation area, there will be blank paper provided to the Khuddam so that they may brainstorm and make notes which they will be permitted to bring to the platform. In addition, they will be permitted to recite from the Holy Qur'an provided for them.

Speeches are to be three to five minutes in length. The exact duration will be specified prior to the competition and will be based on the total number of participants and the time allotted. Speeches will be graded according to the designated criteria provided well in advance of the Ijtema. When the speaker is called forward, the judge or Taleem Department representative will pull a slip of paper from a number of slips. Each slip will represent one of the designated topics. A slip will be given to the Khadim when he comes forward and the Khadim will be encouraged to keep the slip so that it does not reenter the pool.

Two people will speak in the time allotted for the next Khadim to prepare. At the beginning of any given speech (except for the first two speeches), the format will be as follows:

Khadim A: has *already spoken* about five minutes ago.

Khadim B: has *just finished* his speech.

Khadim C: will *now begin* his speech. He was called forward at the same time A began his speech and prepared the entire time A and B spoke.

Khadim D: was called at the time B began his speech and is already at the designated area hurriedly *preparing his speech*. He would probably benefit from anxiolytics at this time and is likely tachycardic. He will speak once C has finished.

Khadim E: is being called forward and *being given a slip of paper* indicating his topic so that the may join D in the designated area and will prepare while C and D speak, thereafter taking his turn at the podium.

Thus, one speaker will be prepare in the amount of time that the two prior speakers have delivered their presentations. This would amount to roughly ten minutes, if five minutes are allotted to each speaker. If however, only three minutes are allotted, then a speaker may have as little as three minutes to prepare his speech.

The first two speeches are different only in that there will be no prior speakers to give time for preparation. During this time, the judge and / or Taleem department will describe this or prior competitions while the speakers prepare. After the second speaker has finished his speech,

and the wheels have been set in motion, there will always be four speakers near the podium at the conclusion of any speech. One will be finishing his delivery, another starting his speech, a third halfway through his preparation time and a final Khadim just beginning to prepare his speech.

The judges and/or Taleem Department may choose to speak as “filler time” when one speech has been extremely short so that the other speakers will have adequate time to prepare. Thus, the preparation time for any given speaker would be roughly equivalent.

Nazm:

Goal: To encourage Khuddam to recite Nazms or Urdu Poems in the most correct and most beautiful way.

Nazm	Max Marks	Criteria Description
Criteria-1	10	Correctness & Clarity of Pronunciation. Stops at appropriate punctuation
Criteria-2	10	Confidence and Continuity
Criteria-3	10	Appropriate Delivery Volume and Speed
Criteria-4	20	Overall Sweetness of Delivery (Soza/Qirat)

A portion of a Nazm, usually about two verses depending on the number of competitors and the allotted time, will be assigned when one reaches the podium. The Nazm(s) will be selected prior to the Ijtema. The Khuddam will then be asked to recite a portion of the assigned Nazm at the Ijtema. In the event that many Nazms are selected, the Khadim will be given a choice as to which Nazm he would prefer to recite. As for the exact verses, the length of the portion selected will be dependent on the number of participants and the time allotted. Khuddam should be familiar with the entire selection as the portion to be recited will be selected randomly. In the event that the judges choose verses in sequence, the list of competitors may be randomized so that Khuddam will not be aware of the portion to be recited until they reach the podium. Translation will not be required in this competition. A Khadim may bring his own copy of the Nazm. In any event, a copy of the Nazm will be provided for all competitors at the podium. Though the competition is Urdu Nazm, the selections may come from the Qasidah and / or Farsi (Persian) poetry of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

English Poem:

Goal: To encourage Khuddam to compose and recite English poetry in the most correct and beautiful way.

Nazm	Max Marks	Criteria Description
<i>Criteria-1</i>	10	Correctness & Clarity of Pronunciation. Stops at appropriate punctuation
Criteria-2	10	Confidence and Continuity
Criteria-3	10	Appropriate Delivery Volume and Speed
Criteria-4	10	Overall Sweetness of Delivery (Soza/Qirat)
Criteria-5	10	Content of the Poem

A Khadim will compose a poem that is to be recited at the Ijtema in four minutes (time could be more or less based on the time allotted and number of participants). The topic of the poem will be included with the National MKA Ijtema syllabus and the Khadim must write his poem on the assigned subject matter. He may bring the written poem with him for recitation and is not required to memorize the material. He may recite the poem in a melodious voice. There is no requirement that the poem should have all or even some of its stanzas rhyming, but the overall rhythm of the poem should appear pleasant to the judges and the audience.