



Ijtema Taleem Syllabus 2018

Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya USA

The purpose of Khuddam educational competitions is to encourage Khuddam to increase their religious knowledge and to teach them practical skills that are very useful in real world scenarios. The same syllabus is used for local, regional and national Ijtema'at. Winners from each level progress to compete at the next level. Rules of the competitions and judging criteria are given at the end of this document. Participants should carefully review these rules and criteria and prepare accordingly.

Should you have any questions or confusion, please contact Taleem department via email (taleem@mkausa.org). Tweet your Ijtema educational competition pictures to [@mkalearn](https://twitter.com/mkalearn).

The judging sheets for the various competitions can be downloaded from:
<https://www.mkausa.org/download/taleem-competition-judging-sheets>

Competitions

The following competitions will take place this year

1. Tilawat (Recitation of the Holy Qur'an)
2. Hifz (Memorization of the Holy Qur'an)
3. Azan (Prayer Call)
4. Nazm (Urdu Poem)
5. English Poem
6. Impromptu Speech
7. Prepared English Speech
8. Prepared Urdu Speech (اردو تقریر)
9. Jeopardy Quiz
10. Message Relay (پیغام رسانی)
11. Research Paper

The description, syllabus and the judging criteria for each of the above mentioned competitions are provided in the rest of this document.



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Tilawat (Recitation of the Holy Qur'an)

Participants should prepare these chapters, as judges may select any verse(s) from either chapter for the participant to recite from.

- a) Chapter 60 Surah Al-Mumtahinah
- b) Chapter 63 Surah Al-Munafiqun

Hifz (Memorization of the Holy Qur'an)

The following portions of Holy Qur'an should be memorized and recited correctly. For Categories 1 and 2, you also need to memorize the translation in Urdu or English.

- a) Category 1: From Ch. 99 (Surah Al-Zilzal) to Ch. 114 (Surah Al-Nas) with translation
- b) Category 2: From Ch. 87 (Surah Al-A'la) to Ch. 114 (Surah Al-Nas) with translation
- c) Category 3: Part 30 (Chapter 78-114) + Ch. 73 (Surah Al-Muzammil) without translation

Azan (Prayer Call)

In this competition, the participating Khuddam will recite the Azan (prayer call) from their memory and in a tune of their choice. They will have to recite it until the judges ask them to stop. Scores will be based on pronunciation, tune, quality of voice and overall sweetness of delivery (see details in the judging criteria section).

Nazm (Urdu Poem)

Khadim may choose any of the following Nazms to recite. Repetition of verses will be allowed, but a Khadim should not take more than two minutes.

1. From Durr-e-Sameen:

Jamaal-o-Husn e Qur'an Nuur-e-Jaan e Har Musalman Hai

2. From Kalaam-e-Mahmood:

Apne Karam Se Bakhsh De Mere Khuda Mujhe

3. From Kalaam-e-Tahir:

Do Ghari Sabr Se Kaam Lo Saathiyo

Urdu verses and English transliteration is given at the end of this syllabus.



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English Poem

Khuddam should write their own poems on any one of the following themes. The poem should be read aloud in a poetic manner and be of approximately 3 minutes in length.

- a) My merciful God
- b) This Deen Runs Through My Veins (“Deen” refers to Islam Ahmadiyyat)
- c) A Guide in the Darkness of Dajjaal (“Guide” refers to Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya)

Impromptu Speech

There are no pre-selected topics. Khuddam will pick a lot to select their topic. Each Khadim will be given six minutes to prepare for the speech. A copy of Holy Qur’an (with index) will be available along with a pen and paper. Khuddam may not use smartphones or other Internet connected devices to prepare for the speech. Topics may not be strictly religious. For example, you may be given a topic “Why I love to sleep”. Your task will be to convince the audience with your reasoning. If you can somehow relate it to Islamic teachings and quote some verses, hadith, anecdotes then you will get much more points. Regardless, this competition is fun and lighthearted. You do not have to be an Islamic scholar to participate in it. Everyone should try their skills in this competition.

Some **examples** of topics from the last year are:

- i. Three keys to a happy life are... (because)
- ii. Intelligence is not enough
- iii. Has technology made our world better? (why?)

Prepared English Speech

Khuddam may select any of the following topics to write a speech. The participants will be asked to deliver a 4-minute prepared speech. Although, you may read the speech but we encourage you to deliver it from memory to make it more effective.

- a) The Male’s Veil: Ghadd-e-Basar
- b) How to Stay Connected to Khilafat?
- c) Spending What You Love: The Way to Achieve Righteousness

Note: Since the topics for the English and Urdu speech competitions are the same (translation of each other), therefore a person competing in one language can NOT use the translated version of the same speech to compete in the other language.





Prepared Urdu Speech (اردو تقریر)

اُردو تقریر کے مقابلہ کے لئے وہی عنوان استعمال ہوں گے جو انگریزی تقریر کے مقابلہ کے لئے چنے گئے ہیں۔ ان عنوان کا اُردو ترجمہ درج ذیل ہے:

- ۱۔ مرد کے لئے پردہ: غصہ بصر
- ۲۔ خلافت کے ساتھ تعلق کیسے قائم رکھا جائے؟
- ۳۔ اپنی پسندیدہ چیز کو خرچ کرنا: تقویٰ کے حصول کا ذریعہ

نوٹ: کیونکہ انگریزی اور اُردو تقاریر کے مقابلہ جات کے عنوان ایک دوسرے کا ترجمہ ہیں، اس لئے کسی ایک زبان کے مقابلہ میں حصہ لینے والے خادم کے لئے اس بات کی اجازت نہیں ہے کہ وہ ایک ہی تقریر کا ترجمہ استعمال کر کے دوسری زبان کے مقابلہ میں حصہ لے۔

Jeopardy Quiz

There will be one team per region consisting of 5 Khuddam. The questions will be from the following categories:

- a) Monthly focus slides
- b) Khutbat (Friday sermons) of Huzoor (aba) during the last year
- c) Books of Promised Messiah (as) and Khulafa:
 - i. *How to be free from sin* (by Promised Messiah (a.s.))
 - ii. *Muhammad in the Bible* (by Khalifa-tul-Maseeh II (r.a.))
 - iii. *Some Distinctive Features of Islam* (by Khalifa-tul-Maseeh IV (rehmahullah))
- d) History of Islam & Ahmadiyyat
- e) Current Events / History / General Knowledge





Message Relay (پیغام رسانی)

A written message (in English) is provided to each participating team. The message is then read/memorized by the first member of the team and verbally conveyed to the next team member (as a whisper). The message similarly keeps getting conveyed to the subsequent team members and reaches the last member of the team. The last team member then writes the message down from his memory. The finally written message is then compared to the originally provided message. The team who has propagated the message to the last member in a form closest to the original message, wins the competition.

For this competition at the National Ijtema, each region should have a team of 6 members. The message provided will have 4 to 5 sentences containing names, places, dates, etc. As the competition starts, the first member of each team will have 2 minutes to read and memorize the provided message and whisper it into the second member's ear. Every team will then have 5 minutes to propagate the message to its last member in a similar fashion. The last member will then have 2 minutes to write down the final message.

Research Essay

This competition will be held only at the national level. You should start your topic selection and research right now. You can partner with one other Khadim, if you want, to write a joint paper. The topic of this essay must be research oriented that will require you to find information from a number of different original sources and present it in an interesting manner. The topic must be related to Islam and Ahmadiyyat, and should be a concept/idea that is not commonly discussed. For example, you cannot write an essay on Promised Messiah's challenge to Alexander Dowie and the subsequent story. However, if you wanted to research some new information about Dowie that was not commonly known then you may do so.

It is recommended that you select a topic and send your thesis statement for approval to national Taleem department (taleem@mkausa.org). Once approved, you can write your essay which should be at least 2000 words long. All sources must be cited using MLA citation style. Your research paper is due 2 weeks before National Ijtema.





Nazm Urdu Text and English Transliteration

دُرّ شمین / Durr-e-Sameen

جمال و حُسنِ قرآن نورِ جانِ ہر مُسلمان ہے قمر ہے چاند اُوروں کا ، ہمارا چاند قرآن ہے
نظیر اُس کی نہیں جمتی نظر میں فکر کر دیکھا بھلا کیونکر نہ ہو یکتا کلامِ پاک رحماں ہے
بہارِ جاوداں پیدا ہے اُس کی ہر عبارت میں نہ وہ خوبی چمن میں ہے نہ اُس سا کوئی بُستاں ہے
خدا کے قول سے قولِ بشر کیوں کر برابر ہو وہاں قدرت یہاں درماندگی فرقِ نمایاں ہے
ملائک جس کی حضرت میں کریں اقرارِ لاعلمی سخن میں اُس کے ہمتائی، کہاں مقدورِ انساں ہے
اگر اقرار ہے تم کو خُدا کی ذاتِ واحد کا تو پھر کیوں اِس قدر دل میں تمہارے شرک پنہاں ہے؟

Jamaal-o-Husne Qur'an Noor-e-Jaane Har Musalmaan Hai
Qamar Hai Chaand Auroon Ka Hamaara Chaand Qur'an Hai
Nazeer Uski Nahi Jamti Nazar Main Fikr Kar Dekha
Bhalaa Kyun-kar Na Ho Yaktaa Kalaam-e-Paak Rahmaan Hai
Bahaar-e-Jaavidaan Paida Hai Uski Har Ibaarat Main
Na Who Khuubi Chaman Main Hai Na Us Sa Koi Bustaan Hai
Khuda Ke Qaul Se Qaul-e-Bashar Kyun-Kar Baraabar Ho
Wahan Qudrat Yahan Darmaandgi Farq-e-Numaayaan Hai
Malaayk Jis Ki Hazrat Main Karain Iqrar-e-Laa Ilmi
Sukhan Main Us Ke Hamtaayee Kahaan Maqdoor-e-Insaan Hai
Agar Iqrar Hai Tum Ko Khuda Ki Zaat-e-Waahid Ka
To Phir Kyun Is Qadar Dil Main Tumharay Shirk Pinhaan Hai?



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کلام محمود / Kalam-e-Mahmood

اپنے کرم سے بخش دے میرے خدا مجھے بیمارِ عشق ہوں ترا دے تو شفا مجھے
جب تک کہ دم میں دم ہے اسی دین پر رہوں اسلام پر ہی آئے جب آئے قضا مجھے
بے کس نواز ذات ہے تیری ہی اے خدا آتا نظر نہیں کوئی تیرے سوا مجھے
تیری رضا کا ہوں میں طلب گار ہر گھڑی گر یہ ملے تو جانوں کہ سب کچھ ملا مجھے
ہاں ہاں نگاہِ رحم ذرا اس طرف بھی ہو بحرِ گنہ میں ڈوب رہا ہوں بچا مجھے
ڈوبا ہوں بحرِ عشقِ الہی میں شاد میں کیا دے گا خاک فائدہ آبِ بقا مجھے

Apne Karam Se Bakhsh De Mere Khuda Mujhe

Beemar-e-Ishq Huun Tera, De Tu Shifa Mujhe

Jab Tak Ke Damm Main Damm Hai, Isi Deen Per Rahuun

Islam Per Hi Aye Jab Aye Qazaa Mujhe

Bekas Nawaaz Zaat Hai Teri Hi Aye Khuda

Aata Nazar Nahi Koi Tere Siwa Mujhe

Teri Razaa Ka Huun Main Talabgaar Har Gharee

Gar Yeh Milay To Jaanoon Ke Sab Kuch Mila Mujhe

Haan Haan Nigaah-e-Rehm Zara Is Taraf Bhi Ho

Behr-e-Gunah Main Duub Raha Huun Bachaa Mujhe

Duuba Huun Behr-e-Ishq-e-Ilaahi Main Shaad Main

Kya De Ga Khaak Faayda Aab-e-Baqaa Mujhe



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کلامِ طاہر / Kalam-e-Tahir

دو گھڑی صبر سے کام لو ساتھیو! آفتِ ظلمت و جور ٹل جائے گی
آہِ مومن سے ٹکرا کے طوفان کا رُخ پلٹ جائے گا، رُت بدل جائے گی
تم دُعا میں کرو یہ دُعا ہی تو تھی جس نے توڑا تھا سرِ کبرِ نمرود کا
ہے ازل سے یہ تقدیرِ نمرودیت آپ ہی آگ میں اپنی جل جائے گی
یہ دُعا ہی کا تھا مُعجزہ کہ عصا سلاخوں کے مُقابل بنا اُڑدھا
آج بھی دیکھنا مردِ حق کی دُعا سحر کی ناگنوں کو نگل جائے گی

Do Ghari Sabr Se Kaam Lo Saathiyo!

Aafat-e-Zulmat o Jaur Tall Jaye Gi

Aah-e-Momin Se Takraa Ke Tuufaan Ka

Rukh Palatt Jaye Ga, Rutt Badal Jaye Gi

Tum Duayein Karo, Yeh Dua Hi To Thi

Jis Ne Tora Tha Sar Kibr-e-Namrood Ka

Hai Azal Se Yeh Taqdeer-e-Namroodiatt

Aap Hi Aag Main Apni Jall Jaye Gi

Yeh Dua Hi Ka Thaa Mu'jizaa Ke Asaa

Saahiroon Ke Muqaabil Banaa Azhdahaa

Aaj Bhi Dekhna Mard-e-Haqq Ki Dua

Sehr Ki Naginoon Ko Nigal Jaye Gi

Note: English transliteration is just given as a guidance. It is not possible to convey correct pronunciation of Urdu words in English. Please listen to Urdu Nazms on alislam.org by well-known reciters for correct pronunciation.



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Judging Criteria & Competition Details

Recitation of the Holy Qur'an – Judging Criteria

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 (Soaz/Qirat)

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

The Khuddam will be asked to recite a portion of the assigned syllabus 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. In any event, a copy of the Holy Qur'an will be provided for all competitors.



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Hifz (Memorization of the Holy Qur'an) – Judging Criteria

Memorization	Max Marks	Criteria Description
Criteria-1	20	Overall memorization of the Arabic
Criteria-2	10	Know the correct translation (for Cat 1 &2)
Criteria-3	5	Confidence and Continuity
Criteria-4	5	Appropriate Delivery Volume and Speed

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.

One of the judges 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 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 have 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 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.





Azan (Prayer Call) – Judging Criteria

Azan	Max Marks	Criteria Description
Criteria-1	10	Correctness & Clarity of Pronunciation
Criteria-2	10	Appropriate Delivery Volume and Speed
Criteria-3	20	Overall Sweetness of Delivery (Soaz/Qirat)

Goal: To encourage the Khuddam to enhance their Azan delivery skill by adopting nice tunes and perfecting their pronunciation of the Arabic words of the Azan.

The participant will start delivering the Azan from the beginning and will continue until the judges ask him to stop. The judges have the authority to stop a participant at any point.

Nazm (Urdu Poem) – Judging Criteria

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 (Soaz/Qirat)

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

A portion of a Nazm, usually about 3-4 verses depending on the number of competitors and the allotted time. The Nazm(s) will be selected prior to the Ijtema. Khadim will be given a choice as to which Nazm he would prefer to recite. 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.





English Poem – Judging Criteria

English Poem	Max Marks	Criteria Description
Vocal Communication	5	Appropriate delivery volume and speed. Were you able to hear the speaker? Were you able to understand the speaker (i.e. not too fast or slow, not choppy, or unnecessary pauses)?
Physical Presence	5	Appropriate use of physical and vocal skills to reinforce mood and setting. Appropriate use of gestures and movements. Did the speaker make eye contact and engage with the audience? Did the speaker capture the audience's attention?
Language	15	Appropriate use of literary devices (i.e. metaphors, similes). Did the speaker use effective word play, such as puns, spoonerisms, strong vocabulary, clever storytelling, double entendres, etc.?
Overall Performance	25	Evaluate the overall content and recitation of the poem. Did the speaker address the topic? Did the speaker explore the topic in a challenging way (i.e. level of difficulty)? Did the speaker entertain? Was the speaker confident and enthusiastic?

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

A Khadim will compose a poem that is to be recited at the Ijtema in three minutes. 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.





Impromptu Speech – Judging Criteria

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

Goal: The impromptu speech competition will prepare Khuddam for the real world scenario where they might be asked to speak on a topic without knowing it ahead of time.

We are making this competition more open for all participants. No pre-selected topics will be given to the participants ahead of time. The topics will not be strictly religious in nature. They may even be slightly humorous. For example, the topic may be “Why I love to sleep” or “My favorite food”. Your job is to convince the audience of your point of view. You may somehow relate these topics to Islamic teachings and may even quote Qur’anic Verses, Ahadith, and anecdotes to make your case stronger.

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. A Khadim will not be permitted to bring any written materials to the podium and he may not use his smartphone or any other Internet connected device to research the topic. A copy of Holy Quran with English translation and index will be provided. A copy of Holy Qur’an with English will also be kept at the podium to help Khuddam recite the verses for their speech.

When one’s name is called, he will come forward to a designated area and pick a lot to select their topic. At the designated preparation area, there will be blank paper provided to the Khuddam so that they may brainstorm and make notes with the help of provided copy of Holy Quran. Speeches are to be three to five minutes in length although you may end your speech early if you run out of things to say.





Prepared Speech (English & Urdu) – Judging Criteria

Prepared 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 of the Subject
Criteria-4	20	Use of Verses of the Holy Qur'an, Ahadith, Quotations and/or Poetic Verses

Goal: To encourage the Khuddam to improve their knowledge base to help us excel in tabligh and improve their public speaking skills.

Prepared speeches are to be three to four minutes in length. Use of Qur'anic Verses, Ahadith, etc. carry more marks in this competition. 30 seconds before the end of a participant's allotted time, he will be warned using a tap on the table. Participants should start wrapping up their speeches at that time. If you go over the specified time limit (4 mins), the judges may deduct marks from your final score.

Research Essay – Judging Criteria

Research paper will be judged on the quality of research as well as the style of writing. You may use other people's work to support your hypothesis but it must be properly cited. Think of this as an essay writing competition to bring new and fresh ideas. The research idea doesn't have to be scientific in nature. You could write about other topics related to Islam and Ahmadiyyat whether it be history, comparative religion, arguments to be used in tabligh, etc. You come up with a topic and get it approved from Taleem department (taleem@mkausa.org). Then present your ideas in an essay 2 weeks before national Ijtema (submit to same e-mail address). Length should be at least 2000 words.

