

A Guide to the Quran Recitation Competition

The participant has **six minutes** to perform the recitation. At the five-minute mark, he/she will be notified by the MC/timekeeper and he/she will have to end their recitation in the remaining one minute.

Note: If the participant continues recitation after six minutes, he/she will be given 2 minus points and won't get any marks for the verses he/she recites after six minutes. If the participant recites less than six minutes he/she will be given 1 minus point.

The participants will be judged based on their performances in the following four categories:

- Tajweed 40 points
- Vaqf and Ibteda (Stopping and Starting) 20 points
- Sawt (Voice) 15 points
- Lahn (melodies) 25 points

Part 1: Tajweed (40 points)

a) The Accuracy

Two points will be deducted for any of the following errors:

- 1- Conversion of vowel sounds (*Harakat*) such as changing Fathaha to kasra
- 2- Changing short vowel (*qasr*) to the long vowel (*mad*) and vice-versa
- 3- Omission or addition of *Tashdeed* and *Tanween*
- 4- Omission or addition of a vowel sound (*Harakat*)
- 5- Omission or addition of a letter
- 6- Omission or addition of a word or a sentence and escaping a verse (*Aya*) or a line

Note:

- 1- An immediate correction of any of the above-mentioned errors, without refreshing the breath is equal to only a minus one point.

- 2- If the participant makes any of the above-mentioned errors more than two times and doesn't correct it immediately without taking a fresh breath, he will be dismissed from the competition. Except for the homogenous letters like Swad ص and Seen and Toa and Ta.

b) Ahkaam

One point will be deducted if any of the following rules is not observed:

Qalqala, Ghonnah, Tarqiq and Tafkhim (Laam and Ra), Noon Sakin and Tanween rules (Ezhaar, Edgham, Ekhfa, Eqlaab), Mad, Emalah, Tas'heel, Sakt, Ezhaar-e Mim.

Note: If the participant doesn't observe one of the above rules more than three times in his recitation, the maximum of 3 points will be deducted for each rule.

C) Eloquence (*Fasaha- Adda' ul Horuf*)

The participant should fluently pronounce all letters from their articulation points Makharaj.

- i. 1/2 point will be deducted if the participant doesn't pronounce letters from their precise Arabic place (*Makhrej*).
- ii. 1/2 point will be deducted if the participant doesn't observe the *Sefaat ul Horuf* such as Estefaal, Estefaal etc....

Note: If the participant doesn't pronounce any letter precisely based on its *Arabic Makhraj* more than three times in his recitation, the maximum of 2 points will be deducted for each rule. The same rule will apply for not observing any of the *Sefaat ul Horuf* more than three times.

Part 2: Waqf and Ibteda' (20 Points)

Proper stopping is to stop at a place that doesn't contradict the meaning intended by Allah. The same rule should be considered when starting up after stopping and taking a breath. One cannot just start on the next word randomly, instead the meaning needs to be considered, and the start should be on a word that portrays the correct and complete meaning, even if the participant needs to go back two or three words.

- a) Two points will be deducted for improper stopping; stopping at a place that contradicts the meaning intended by Allah. (*Waqf Aqbah and Qabeeh*)
- b) 1/2 point will be deducted for not stopping on compulsory Waqfs (*Waqf Laazem*)

- c) One point will be deducted for ignoring *Waqf-e Motlaq* and then stopping on an improper place

Note: Where a verse is too long the emergency stop (*Waqf Ezterar*) is permitted; however, after stopping, if the participant starts from a word that is not proper in terms of meaning, 1/2 point will be deducted.

- d) Two points will be deducted if the Participant takes breath while reciting rather than the time of stopping.

Note: if the above mistake occurs more than twice during the whole recitation the Participant will be dismissed from the contest.

- e) One point will be deducted if the Participant unnecessarily repeats a verse or part of a verse.

Part 3: Sawt (Voice) – 15 points

The Participant will get an overall mark based on the following voice qualities and abilities:

- a) Smoothness and clearness of the voice
- b) Attractiveness and beauty of the voice
- c) Flexibility of the voice (the ability to shift from a one note to another smoothly and fast)
- d) Voice audibility (timber)
- e) Performing the recitation in different notes (from lowest to the highest note)
- f) The ability to vibrate (*Tahreer*) the voice where it is appropriate

1/2 point will be deducted if one of the following errors are made by the participant:

- a) Screaming while reciting in high pitch
- b) Inappropriate vibration due to nervousness
- c) Artificiality of the voice
- d) Gruffness
- e) Departing from notes unnecessarily

Note: Maximum of three points will be deducted if some or all problems occur in the recitation.

Part 4: Lahn- 25 Points

Maqaamat (melodies) – 12 Points

The Participant should perform at least 3 Arabic *Maqaams*. For each *Maqaam* he will get four points as follows:

1- Naghma Qaraar	1 point
2- Naghma Jawaab	1 point
3- Naghma Jawab ul Jawaab	2 points

Note: If the Participant performs less than 3 *Maqaams*, 4 points will be deducted for each *Maqaam*.

Appealing start – 2 Points

The participant should perform a power full and appealing start with appropriate melodic transitions.

Consistency in beginning and end of the recitation from melodic perspective – 1 point

The participant should end the recitation in the same *maqaam* he/she started his/her recitation.

Melodic Fluency – 2 points

The participation should perform the melodies in fluent and smooth manner while performing the melodies and while performing transitions from one *maqaam* to another *maqaam*.

Transitions – 3 points

The Participant should perform smooth and appropriate transitions within a *maqaam* and between *maqaams*

Overall melodic performance – 5 points

Extra points to a maximum of 5 points will be granted to the participants for their overall strength and attractiveness of the *Lahn* that may include the following factors:

- Demonstrating the creativity in performing melodies and ability to beautify them using various tactics
- Demonstrating the ability to add *Tahzeen*/feeling to the *lahn*

- c) Demonstrating the ability to combine/mix *maqams* as well as combining different part of a *Maqaam* (*Qaraar, Jawaab and Jawaab ul Jawaab*) in a single breath
- d) Performing any extra *Maqaam*, in addition to the three compulsory *Maqaams*

Some examples of point deductions:

- a) Not beginning the recitation with a lower note -1/2 point
- b) Repeating ending part of a melody (*Radeef*) or the entire melody -1/2 point
- c) Departing from a *Maqaam/melody* -1/2 point
- d) Not maintaining the same tempo/speed for the entire recitation -1/2 point