

BATTLE OF THE MSAs

2018 RULEBOOK



Table of Contents

Category I: Quran

Quran Memorization Pages 2-3

Category II: Submissions

2D Art Pages 4-5

Photography Pages 6-7

Poetry Pages 8

Short fiction Pages 9-10

Prepared essay Pages 11-12

Short Film Page 13

Category III: Performance

Spoken Word Pages 14-15

Improv Pages 16-17

Category IV: Sports

Basketball Page 18

Soccer Page 18

DETAILED BALLOT: QURAN MEMORIZATION

Elementary: Surah Fatiha, 87-114

Advanced: Surah Fatiha, 67-114

1. Memorization will be split into 2 levels: Elementary and Advanced. Each level will be gender segregated.
2. Students are expected to memorize the portion of the Quran relevant to their level in Arabic and be able to recite from memory fluently. Hafs (on the authority of Asim) is the default recitation style
3. Judges will prompt students by reading a portion of a verse, and students will be expected to continue the recitation until motioned to stop. Judging will be based on three separate passages.
4. If the student is unable to continue reciting a passage after 5 seconds of silence, the judge may read a word (or few words) to help the student continue reciting. If the student repeats the verse before being prompted from a judge and is able to continue reciting without help, no points will be deducted. If the judge reminds the student of the beginning of the current verse, which helps the student to start the verse over and continue reciting, only one point should be deducted. If the student is still unable to continue, the judge may remind the student of the next word(s). Two points should be deducted each time the judge has to remind the student of the next word(s).
5. If the student is unable to continue reciting a passage from memory after three failed attempts, the judge may ask the student to proceed to the next passage, forfeiting the remaining portion of memorization points for that passage.
6. Judges are expected to wait until the end of a verse or 5 seconds after a mistake (whichever is greater) before signaling the competitor that a mistake was made.
7. If the mistake is corrected by the student immediately (within 5 seconds or before continuing with the next verse) without being prompted in any way by the judge, one point is deducted.
8. After allowing time for a student to self-correct, a judge should audibly tap their pen to indicate a mistake and allow the student a chance to recite the verse once more.
9. If a mistake is not corrected on the second reading of a verse, a judge may recite the correction. The student may ask the judge for clarification. If the student correctly fixes the mistake by reciting the correction from the judge, three points are deducted.
10. If the competitor is unable to fix the mistake after prompting by the judges, the mistake should be noted on the ballot with 5 points deducted for minor mistakes and 10 points for major mistakes. If the mistake is in pronunciation and not memorization, the mistake

should be ignored if it recurs later so that each type of pronunciation mistake is only penalized once.

11. In addition to being scored on the pronunciation (Tajweed) during the recitation of the passages competitors will also be tested on basic Tajweed rules for the final 10 points. Competitors will be indicated to a verse in a copy of the Qur'an and they will be expected to identify as many rules as possible, such as the place of articulation of letters, the respective qualities of letters, nasal sounds, type of elongation (madd), etc. Competitors will not be expected to have an extensive knowledge on the laws of Tajweed.

Minor Mistakes

- Heavy vs. Light - To overlook the rules of tafkheem and tarqeeq only when reciting the name of Allah and the letter Raa
- Ghunnah - Not to adhere to the the rules of izhaar, idghaam, iqlaab, ikhfaa, etc. in their respective places
- Prolongation - Not to prolong / stretch a letter when madd is present

Major Mistakes

- Incorrect Makhraj or Sifat - Not to pronounce letters from the correct place of articulation and their respective qualities, including qalqala, etc.
- Addition - To add on letters to words, or add entire words
- Omission - To leave off letters from words, or leave out entire words
- Replacement - To replace a letter for another, or replace entire words
- Change Harakah - To change the fat'ha, dhamma, or kasra
- To replace Harakah with Sukoon and vice versa - To replace a fat'ha, dhamma, or kasra with a saakin and vice versa

DETAILED BALLOT: 2D ART

Basic rules:

1. No more than \$100 can be spent on supplies.
2. Artwork must relate to the overall Battle of the MSAs theme.
3. Submission must be two-dimensional (examples: painting, drawing, etc.). You can create the illusion of depth, but the artwork must still be two-dimensional
4. Acceptable mediums for artwork include, but are not limited to: watercolor, oil, crayon, mixed mediums, chalk, pastels, charcoal...etc.
5. Make sure your artwork is dry before submitting it to the judges
6. Each participant will be interviewed for five (5) minutes in order to describe purpose and inspiration of the artwork.

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Presenter(s) on time for interview.
- The presenter(s) look credible and are dressed for an interview.

Section B: Production Quality

Points: 30

Purpose

- Evidence of the student's effort to achieve the stated purpose. Design meets the stated purpose and fulfills the intent of the artwork.
- Artwork clearly communicates a story or statement.
- Work integrates expression, organization, technique and theme through evaluation and revision.

Skill and Technique

- Media selection effectively enhances the design and the student chooses and controls media and tools effectively to enhance the appearance of the work.
- Artwork shows superior level of skills in the production of the work and execution of each technique and component is done in the superior manner.
- Design required time and patience and was difficult to execute.

Section C: Presentation Quality

Points: 40

Aesthetics and Design

- Visual balance, composition and layout enhance the overall beauty of the artwork.
- Work features a recognizable center of interest in relation to the theme.
- The selected colors enhance or complement the subject matter.
- The Artwork makes use of elements and principles of art (shape, color, texture, flow, composition) effectively.
- Artwork makes a visual impact and stands on its own as a complete work of art.

Creativity

- Expression is unique and fully developed to present fresh concepts in imaginative and inventive ways
- Work breaks new ground in communicating the message.

Section D: Application of Theme

Points: 25

Please ask the following questions to gauge their understanding of the theme and how it was expressed in their work. Then proceed to scoring.

1. How did you aim to convey this year's theme in your work? In what ways does your artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?
2. Explain your purpose in developing this artwork and describe how you achieved that goal. Describe any influences from art history, artists, or art periods or styles that contributed to the development of this artwork.
3. What elements or principles of art did you use, and how did you select and organize the visual aspects of this work?
 - There is a strong, clearly evident relevance to the theme.
 - The theme is expressed in a unique or outstanding way.
 - Purpose of the artwork is clearly articulated and shows evidence of reflection and/or research.
 - Elements and principles of art are clearly articulated and student shows evidence of careful selection and organization of these elements and principles.

DETAILED BALLOT: PHOTOGRAPHY

Basic Rules:

1. The pictures must reflect on this year's theme and can be of any inanimate OR animate object. It must be the competitor's own work from beginning to end, including taking the pictures.
2. Competitors will be asked how and why they came up with their ideas.
3. Photographs may NOT be digitally modified beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, minor adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc.).
4. Each participant will be interviewed for five (5) minutes in order to describe purpose and inspiration of the artwork.

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Presenter(s) on time for interview.
- The presenter(s) look credible and are dressed for an interview.

Section B: Production Quality

Points: 30

Purpose

- Evidence of the student's effort to achieve the stated purpose. Design meets the stated purpose and fulfills the intent of the artwork.
- Artwork clearly communicates a story or statement.
- Work integrates expression, organization, technique and theme through evaluation and revision. Skill and Technique
- Media selection effectively enhances the design and the student chooses and controls media and tools effectively to enhance the appearance of the work.
- Artwork shows superior level of skills in the production of the work and execution of each technique and component is done in the superior manner.
- Design required time and patience and was difficult to execute.

Section C: Presentation Quality

Points: 40

Aesthetics and Design

- Visual balance, composition and layout enhance the overall beauty of the artwork.
- Work features a recognizable center of interest in relation to the theme.
- The selected colors enhance or complement the subject matter.
- The Artwork makes use of elements and principles of art (shape, color, texture, flow, composition) effectively.
- Artwork makes a visual impact and stands on its own as a complete work of art.

Creativity

- Expression is unique and fully developed to present fresh concepts in imaginative and inventive ways
- Work breaks new ground in communicating the message.

- Photograph has a coherent theme or style.

Section D: Application of Theme

Points: 25

Please ask the following questions to gauge their understanding of the theme and how it was expressed in their work. Then proceed to scoring.

1. How did you aim to convey this year's theme in your work? In what ways does your artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?
2. Explain your purpose in developing this artwork and describe how you achieved that goal. Describe any influences from art history, artists, or art periods or styles that contributed to the development of this artwork.
3. What elements or principles of art did you use, and how did you select and organize the visual aspects of this work?
 - There is a strong, clearly evident relevance to the theme.
 - The theme is expressed in a unique or outstanding way.
 - Purpose of the artwork is clearly articulated and shows evidence of reflection and/or research.
 - Elements and principles of art are clearly articulated and student shows evidence of careful selection and organization of these elements and principles.

DETAILED BALLOT: POETRY

Basic rules:

1. Poetry must clearly reflect upon any aspect of this year's theme.
2. Competitors may incorporate any style or genres of poetry including rhymed, lyric, dramatic, narrative, or free verse.
3. All poems must have a title and must not exceed 40 lines in length (excluding title).
4. Poems must be the original work of the entrant. Entries must not have been published, self-published, published on a website or broadcast before January 2017.
5. Handwritten entries cannot be accepted. Entries should be typed in black ink only. Entries can be double or single-spaced.

Section A: Technical

Points: 15

- The poem does not exceed 40 lines.
- The poem is typed in black ink only.

Section B: Poem Elements

Points: 35

Is the poetry piece free from any inappropriate content? If not, do not score rest of section; competitor receives 0/25. If so, continue scoring.

- Is the structure of the piece easy to follow?
- Is the form of the poem appropriate to the subject? Does the poem enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a more potent way than ever before?
- Does the poem use sensory details and figurative language to create vivid images that contribute significantly to the meaning of the poem?
- Are sound devices, such as rhyme, alliteration, or onomatopoeia, used effectively and contribute to the meaning of the poem?
- Is word choice vivid and exact throughout?

Section C: Overall Impression of Written Piece?

Points: 30

- Is the title clearly stated?
- Does the piece create an appropriate mood?
- Does the competitor's writing convey creativity and originality?
- Does the competitor's writing grab your attention and convey sincerity?

Overall Ranking

Points: 20

After the perusing of the content and worksheet, rate the entire experience from 1 to 10.

- 1 being very poor (no organization or relation to the theme)
- 4 to 6 being average
- 10 being exceptional (memorable, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional content).

DETAILED BALLOT: SHORT FICTION

Basic rules:

1. All submissions must be:
 - a. Typed and double spaced
 - b. Have a cover page with the title
 - c. No more than 10 pages (exclusive of title page), Times New Roman, 12 pt font.

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Participant is on time for the competition.
- Submission does not exceed 10 (ten) pages.

Section B: Content

Conventions

Points: 5

- Is the essay mostly free of spelling mistakes?
- Is the essay mostly free of punctuation mistakes?
- Is the essay mostly free of grammatical mistakes?

Ideas and Development

Points: 15

- Did the writer address the theme in a clear manner?
- Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the theme?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire submission?
- Was the main idea or message clear to the reader?

Organization

Points: 10

- Is the title relevant and applicable to the story?
- Does the story have a logical series of events?
- Were there adequate details that led to a natural flow between introduction, plot, climax, and resolution?
- Were the paragraphs well-developed with natural transitions?
- Was the story original, not falling into cliché storylines?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 15

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, do the sentences flow well together?
- Was dialogue used where appropriate?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 20

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives to create more vivid imagery?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs to support the essay's message (i.e. "cruise" instead of "drive," or "stroll" instead of "walk")?

- Did the writer use precise nouns to help present a clear and distinct message (i.e. “7th Grade students” instead of just “students,” or “Science project” instead of “project”)?
- Was dialogue formatted in appropriate way?
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the writing? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

Voice

Points: 15

- Was the writer able to distinguish a clear voice in the story?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?
- Does the writer appropriately reach the target audience?

Section D: Application of Theme

Points: 15

Please read the written statement to gauge their understanding of the theme and how it was expressed in their work. Then proceed to scoring.

1. In what ways does your piece represent your individuality? What inspired or influenced you when writing your piece?
2. Are there any subtleties in the piece you were wishing would come across to the audience without having to be explained?
3. Do you feel you conveyed the theme well in your piece?

DETAILED BALLOT: PREPARED ESSAY

1. Competitors shall write about any topic that reflects this year's theme.
2. The written essay must be typed or word-processed and double-spaced.
3. If outside sources are used, proper MLA citations as well as a "Works Cited" page must be included in the essay.
4. The written essay shall be a minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 2,000 words. All abbreviations, acronyms (excluding a, an, the) will be counted. Only the first 2,000 countable words will be read.

Section A: Technical Conventions

Points: 5

- Is the essay mostly free of spelling mistakes?
- Is the essay mostly free of grammatical mistakes?
- Is the essay mostly free of punctuation mistakes?

Presentation

Points: 5

- Is the essay typed?
- Is the essay double spaced with type 12 font?
- Is the essay between 1,500 - 2,000 words?
- Are the quotes that have been used given due credit?

Section B: Content Ideas and Development

Points: 25

- Did the writer address their topic with sufficient detail?
- Did the writer take a unique approach in addressing the topic?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the essay?
- Did the writer use a balance of showing and telling to paint a picture in the reader's mind?
- Was the theme or message clear to the reader?
- Was there outside information used and cited within the essay?

Organization

Points: 25

- Did the introduction include a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise controls that grabbed the attention of the reader?
- Was there an adequate amount of details, examples, and support for each control? Did the supporting details reflect the controls?
- Does the title stand for the entire essay and not just a part of it?
- Did the conclusion link back to the introduction and leave a lasting impression on the reader?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 10

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, does the reader hear a rhythm behind the sentence?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 10

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives that helped create an image in the reader’s mind?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs that help support the essay’s message? (ex: “cruise” instead of “drive,” “stroll” instead of “walk”)
- Did the writer use precise nouns that helped present a clear and distinct message? (ex: “7th grade students” instead of “students,” or “science project” instead of “project”)
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the description? Was it clear that the writer took risks with their word choice?

Voice

Points: 5

- Does the reader show passion about his/her topic?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?

Section D: Application of Theme

Points: 15

Please read the written statement to gauge their understanding of the theme and how it was expressed in their work. Then proceed to scoring.

1. In what ways does your piece represent your individuality? What inspired or influenced you when writing your piece?
2. Are there any subtleties in the piece you were wishing would come across to the audience without having to be explained?
3. Do you feel you conveyed the theme well in your piece?

DETAILED BALLOT: SHORT FILM

All films must be watched in their entirety. If time is constrained, only the first 7 minutes will be viewed.

Section A: Technical

1. Production Quality - Sound

Points: 20

- Clear, crisp audio
- Used external microphones when necessary
- Sound effects were used appropriately
- Balance between music and dialogue when necessary

2. Production Quality - Video

Points: 30

- Proper transitions used (i.e dissolves used mainly to establish change in time, not between every scene)
- Proper Headroom
- Used tripod when available
- Quality is consistent
- Variation in shot selection
- Scenes edited/cropped tightly

Section B: Narrative

1. Theme

Points: 10

- Story addressed the theme thoroughly
- Theme was consistent throughout

2. Acting

Points: 10

- Props/makeup used appropriately
- Casting is believable

3. Story

Points: 30

- Film duration within 5 to 7 minutes
- Cohesive narrative from beginning to end
- Narrative is shown through visual storytelling, not explained through text graphics
- Film does not contain profanity, sexual innuendo, or excessively vulgar content
- Events of the story are believable given the context of the film

DETAILED BALLOT: SPOKEN WORD

Basic rules:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition.
2. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.
3. The competitor must provide 3 COPIES of his/her piece to be turned in during the competition orientation. We will not photocopy any pieces. Competitors must come prepared with their copies. The competitor must compete with the piece that is submitted at that time.
4. Spoken word pieces will be judged based on the following criteria: writing, performance, originality, sincerity, and inspiration.
5. The performance should not exceed more than six (6) minutes. Points will be deducted from the total score if the performance exceeds the allotted time when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.
6. No instruments can be used for the performance.

Section A: Technical

Points: 10

- Participant is on time for the competition.
- Did the piece last less than six minutes?
- Participant looks credible and dressed for an interview.
- There are three (3) copies of the spoken word piece.

Section B: Spoken Word (Writing)

Points: 35

- Is the Spoken Word piece free from any inappropriate content? If it contains profanity, sexual innuendo, etc., do not score rest of section; competitor receives 0/35. If so, continue scoring.

Content

- Is the structure of the piece easy to follow?
- Is the Spoken Word well written (i.e. Are rhyme, metaphors, and figurative language present in the piece)?
- Does the Spoken Word show originality and creativity?

Section C: Performance

Stage Presence

Points: 20

- Is there a connection with the audience, energy, and excitement?
- Do the competitors make use of the stage space? (i.e. Movement, body language.) Are bodily movements used in an effective manner?
- Does the competitor's performance grab your attention and convey sincerity and inspiration?

Familiarity

Points: 20

- Are the words clear and easy to understand? (In their presentation, not interpretation) Is pronunciation acceptable?
- Are rate, pitch, and volume appropriate? Is vocal variety adequate?
- Does the competitor set an adequate mood relating to their spoken word piece?

Overall Ranking

Points: 15

After the perusing of the oratory content, performance, and interview, rate the entire experience from 1 to 15.

- 1 being very poor (no organization, intonation, or relation to the theme)
- 8 being average
- 15 being exceptional (memorable performance, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional extemporaneous speech content).

DETAILED BALLOT: IMPROV

Basic rules:

1. Each school may bring a brothers' team (consisting of a maximum of six brothers) as well as a sisters' team (consisting of a maximum of six sisters).
2. This competition is a team effort. Teams may consist of a minimum of four (4) members and a maximum of six (6) members.
3. Order of competition will be pre-assigned on a random selection basis.
4. Competitors shall report at the appropriate time to the designated place.
5. This competition consists of three (3) rounds with two (2) games each. Each team will perform the first game, and once all teams have performed, we will move on to the second game. At the end of each game, judges will take a moment to write their scores, and they will also be allowed 2 minutes per team to ask questions if necessary. Then, the subsequent game will begin.
6. All teams will have equal playing time, and they will all play the same games.
7. This competition will be moderated by a host. The host will make introductions, announce the rules and explain the game. The rules for each game will differ. For examples of improv games, see: <http://improvencyclopedia.org>. For example, the host may say, "The game is called Questions, and the rule is that players must only speak in questions. No sentences ending with a period and no fragments – just questions. If the actor says something that is not a question, or if they continually repeat questions ("What did you say?" "What did you say again?"), then a judge sounds the buzzer and the game is over for the presenting team. The limits for this game are: Three (3) players, 30 second prep time, two (2) minute presentation."
8. The host will then randomly pick a team to come up to the stage. This team will be asked to pick one situation out of a hat. For example, using the game described above, the situation might be: "At the theme park," and so the players might act out a situation like this: a tourist asks, "How do I get to the water ride?" and the ride operator replies, "First time at Gatorland?" In response, the tourist says, "How can you tell?"...and so on.
9. Teams must adhere to the time limit.
10. If a team violates any of the game rules, a judge will sound the buzzer. Alternatively, the buzzer will sound once time is up. Once the buzzer has sounded, all players must stop their performances, and exit the stage.
11. Once a team has presented, the next team will be called up to the stage to play the same game, but with a different situation.
12. Judging is based on improvisation, projection, articulation, wit, intelligence, believability, body language and ability to create your environment. Competitors will be judged according to the Improv Ballot.

13. All competitors must adhere to Islamic principles and appropriate language. Points will be deducted, or the team disqualified (upon judges' consideration) for inappropriate actions or comments that do not follow the Competition Guidelines.

Ballot is used per round (Preliminary, Semifinals, Finals), per game (out of 3).

Section A: Technical

Points: 20

- How well did the performers adhere to the rules of the games?
- Did their act reflect the given prompts?
- Did they perform within the time limits?
- Did the performance adhere to Islamic guidelines and event guidelines of proper conduct and speech?
- If not, was the performance offensive or inappropriate?

Section B: Skit Structure and Organization

Points: 20

- How effective was the setup, layout, placement of characters, and creation of the setting for the act?
- Did the performance have a logical plot development and sequence of events?
- How cohesive and understandable was the act?

Section C: Character Acting

Points: 20

- Are character portrayals believable and memorable?
- Do actors avoid the use of cliché or uninspired roles?
- Do actors communicate expressively, illuminating the life, mannerisms, and reactions of their roles?

Section D: Acting Style and Comedic Skill

Points: 20

- Do actors use their voices appropriately, enunciating and using a variety of rate, pitch, emotion, and volume?
- Do actors move expressively, using appropriate body language, facial expressions, and movement?
- Is creative and comedic improvisation used, including flexibility, spontaneity and risktaking?

Section E: Teamwork and Team Interaction

Points: 20

- Are actors able to effectively cooperate with one another as a team, without overpowering one another?
- Do all team members participate equally?

BASKETBALL:

Basic rules:

1. Minimum 5 players per team, Maximum 5 players per team
2. Coalitions can be made for sports
3. Players will be allowed to compete in both sports depending on time available
4. Teams will play 2 games and then get seeded into a single elimination playoff tournament
***May be altered based upon how many teams signed up**
5. There will be at least 1 official reffing the game
6. Clock will not stop until the last 2 minutes of the half
7. Halves will last 10 minutes ***May be altered based upon how many teams signed up**
8. Every player must have a number on the back of their shirt/jersey
9. Teams must wear a similar color shirt or jersey
10. MSAs may have more than team participating, however players will be locked into their teams

SOCCER:

Basic rules:

1. Minimum 7 players (6 plus a keeper), Maximum 12 players per team
2. Coalitions can be made for sports
3. Players will be allowed to compete in both sports depending on time available
4. Teams will play 2 games and then get seeded into a single elimination playoff tournament
***May be altered based upon how many teams signed up**
5. There will be at least 1 official reffing the game
6. Halves will last 10 minutes ***May be altered based upon how many teams signed up**
7. Every player must have a number on the back of their shirt/jersey
8. Teams must wear a similar color shirt or jersey
9. MSAs may have more than team participating, however players will be locked into their teams