

2010 Sikh Youth Symposium

(A Division of Sikh Youth Federation)

GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: I (6 to 8 years)

Time allotted: 5 minutes

Book: Saka Chamkaur - the Martyrdom of Elder Sahibzadas.

Author: Prof. Jagdish Singh.

Publisher: Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar.

I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):

- i) Describe how Bhai Bachitter Singh Ji fought with an elephant during a battle at Anandpur Sahib? Where did he get the courage and inspiration for this?
- ii) Describe the spirit of Sikhs, including that of Sahibzada Ajit Singh Ji and Sahibzada Jujhar Singh Ji, during the battle of Chamkaur.
- iii) Sikhs showed great bravery and fearlessness at Anandpur Sahib, Sirsa and Chamkaur. Whose actions (apart from those of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Bhai Bachitter Singh Ji and the two Sahibzadas) impressed you the most and why?

II Presentation (40 points):

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:

Use of Punjabi and maintenance of Sikhi Saroop needs to be encouraged. Participants who use Punjabi and/or maintain Sikhi Saroop will be judged according to the above format. However, it is suggested that such participants be rewarded suitably.

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: II (9 to 10 years)

Time allotted: 6 minutes

Book: Selected Episodes from Sikh History - part IV.

Publisher: Sikh Missionary College, Ludhiana.

I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):

- i) Why did Hill Rajas (Kings) keep fighting battles with Guru Gobind Singh Ji? At Bhangani, how did Guru Ji and his few Sikhs win against the combined large army of many Rajas?
- ii) Discuss the life and martyrdom of Baba Deep Singh Ji. What do his life and his martyrdom tell you about the Sikhs of his time?
- iii) Describe the courage and bravery of Bhai Taru Singh Ji. What lessons do you draw from his life and his sacrifice for the principles of Sikhi?

II Presentation (40 points):

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: III (11 to 13 years)

Time allotted: 6 minutes

Book: Guru Granth Sahib - a Supreme Treasure.

Author: Dr. Sarup Singh.

I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):

- i) Describe the Universal and interfaith nature of Guru Granth Sahib Ji's teachings? How should we, the Sikhs of Guru Granth Sahib, spread the teachings of Guru Granth Sahib?
- ii) Discuss, in general, the life style of the contributors of Guru Granth Sahib Ji's Bani? What way of life is expected from the followers of Guru Granth Sahib Ji?
- iii) What are Guru Ji's teachings regarding preserving our environment? How do they compare with the present day environmental consciousness?

II Presentation (40 points):

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: IV (14 to 17 years)

Time allotted: 7 minutes

Book: Life Sketch and Teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Publisher: Sikh Missionary College, Ludhiana.

I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):

- i) What was the state of religious and political affairs when Guru Nanak Dev Ji appeared on the world stage? Compare that with the present day state of affairs - both religious and political.
- ii) What was the force behind Guru Ji's decision to take long, hard and tedious odysseys? Please discuss his approach in conveying his message. Comment on his courage to speak the truth when it was extremely difficult to do so.
- iii) Discuss the highlights of Guru Ji's message to people. Are we, the Sikhs of today, living up to Guru Ji's teachings? If yes, how? If not, what needs to be done to improve our practice on the basis of these teachings?

II Presentation (40 points):

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: V (16 to 22 years)

Time allotted: 8 minutes

Book: Singh Sabha Movement.

Publisher: Sikh Missionary College, Ludhiana.

The theme for discussion this year is the current state of Sikh affairs vis-à-vis the Singh Sabha Movement. Where do we stand today with respect to the message of our Gurus and with respect to our history and heritage? Taking guidance from Guru Granth Sahib, and inspiration from the actions and achievements of the Singh Sabha Movement, discuss ideas that can take us out of our current situation towards a gurnat-oriented living that can be a model for the world to embrace.

Keep in mind that the purpose of this competition is to encourage an open discussion on areas that will define our community and its future in the Diaspora. Discussion and debate will also promote the habits and methods of critical thinking while imparting useful life-skills.

The judges will consider the development of the arguments presented. They do not have to agree with the speaker; in fact, the viewpoint presented may be unusual, different or even unpopular. What matters is the logic, its development and its strength.

While competition at the International level would involve discussions around the above theme and related issues, for the speech competition at the Center and the Regional levels, the participants should address the three specific questions given below.

I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):

- i) Discuss the circumstances that led to the development of the Singh Sabha Movement. What hurdles did the Movement encounter and how were they overcome?
- ii) Which persons or institutions exerted the most positive influence on the Movement, and which ones exerted the most negative influence? In each case, what were the strategies employed by them? To what extent did the leaders of the Movement succeed in their mission, and how?
- iii) Compare the current state of Sikh affairs to the state of Sikh affairs that led to the Singh Sabha Movement. Comment on why we keep on committing the same mistakes over and over again. Propose measures that can be taken to resolve some serious issues in the state of Sikh affairs today.

II Presentation (40 points):

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:

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ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION - GROUP V

For group V, the guidelines at the International level are different from those at the Center and the Regional levels. The format at the International level is specifically designed to foster discussion and critical thinking.

What follow next are guidelines that are specific for the competition at the International level. **The Regions may, if they so desire, implement these guidelines at the Regional level also.**

- A. Hold the presentations in a setting like a hotel convention room or a college auditorium, although there is no reason why this could not also be done in a gurduara.
- B. Arrange the participants in a circle. The audience can sit in a wider circle behind and around the participants. Appoint a moderator whose job is to stimulate discussion, in case it is flagging, and to keep it focused.
- C. **Phase 1.** Each participant will have two minutes to make an opening statement. The order of the participants is to be chosen at random.
- D. After each opening statement, another participant chosen at random will be asked to respond to the opening statement. Time allotted for the response would be one minute.
- E. After each opening statement and the response to it, there will be an open discussion among the participants for about five minutes.
- F. **Phase 2.** Each participant, chosen at random, will be asked a question by the moderator. The participant will have one minute to answer the question.
- G. After the participant has answered the question asked by the moderator, there would be an open discussion among the participants for about five minutes.
- H. During the discussion mentioned in E and G above, the moderator will ask questions from the participants as necessary to keep the discussion alive. The moderator will ensure that the discussion stays on track and that no one participant gets to hog the show
- I. **Phase 3.** Following the discussion, each participant will get one and a half minute to make a closing statement. The order of presentations is to be chosen at random.

The competitive part of the program will conclude here and judges will complete their evaluation at this point. What follows is equally useful but not part of the competition.

- J. **Optional Phase 4.** Following the program detailed above, if time permits, there will be an open discussion (20 to 30 minutes) on the subject but it will also allow the audience to participate. This will keep the audience interested and awake. The adults will learn, as will the young.

The moderator will carry a critical burden on his/her shoulders