



# Ijtema Taleem Syllabus 2016

## 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 level. 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 reviews these rules and criteria and prepare accordingly.

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

### Competitions

The following competitions will take place this year

1. Tilawat (Recitation of Holy Qur'an)
2. Hifz (Memorization of the Holy Qur'an)
3. Nazm (Urdu Poem)
4. English Poem
5. Impromptu Speech
6. Prepared Speech
7. Quiz Competition
8. Research Paper

### Tilawat (Recitation of 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 65 Surah Al-Talaq
- b) Chapter 66 Surah Al-Tahrim



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## Hifz (Memorization of the Holy Qur'an)

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

- Category 1: From Ch. 99 (Surah Al-Zilzal) to Ch. 114 (Surah Al-Nas) with translation
- Category 2: From Ch. 87 (Surah Al-A`la) to Ch. 114 (Surah Al-Nas) with translation
- Category 3: Part 30 (Chapter 78-114) + Ch. 63 (Surah Al-Munafiqun) without translation

## 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.

- Har Tarf Fikr Ko Dora Kay (Durr-e-Sameen)
- Ho Fazl Tera Ya Rab (Kalam-e-Mahmood)
- Kabhi Izn Ho To Aashiq (Kalam-e-Tahir)

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

## 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.

- Come to prosperity (Hayya 'Alalfalah)
- Light upon light (Description of Allah as described in 24:36)
- Soul at peace (Nafs-e-Mutmaina as described in 89:28)

## 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,



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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.

## Prepared 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) Does sharia conflict with the US Constitution
- b) Raising your children as proud Muslims in America
- c) Transforming your life through a morning routine

## 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) Faith Forum topics
- c) Books assigned for monthly book studies
- d) History of Islam & Ahmadiyyat
- e) Current Events / History / General Knowledge

## 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 & 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.



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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 Text

**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

ہر طرف فکر کو دوڑا کے تھکایا ہم نے کوئی دینِ محمدؐ سا نہ پایا ہم نے  
کوئی مذہب نہیں ایسا کہ نشاں دکھلائے یہ ثمر باغِ محمدؐ سے ہی کھایا ہم نے  
ہم نے اسلام کو خود تجربہ کر کے دیکھا نور ہے نور۔ اُٹھو دیکھو سنایا ہم نے  
اور دینوں کو جو دیکھا تو کہیں نور نہ تھا کوئی دکھلائے اگر حق کو چھپایا ہم نے  
آزمائش کیلئے کوئی نہ آیا ہر چند ہر مخالف کو مقابل پہ بلایا ہم نے

Har Tarf Fikr Ko Dora Kay Thakaya Hum Nay  
Koi Deen, Deen-e-Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> Sa Na Paya Hum Nay

Koi Mazhab Nahin Aisa Keh Nishan Dikhlaay  
Yeh Summer Bagh-e-Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> Say Hi Khaya Hum Nay

Hum Nay Islam Ko Khud Tajraba Kar Kay Dekha  
Noor Hay Noor Utho Dekho Sunaya Hum Nay

Aur Deenon Ko Jo Dekha To Kahin Noor Na Tha  
Koi Dikhlaay Agar Haq Ko Chopaya Hum Nay

Aazmaish Kayliyay Koi Na Aaya Har Chand  
Har Mukhalif Ko Muqabil Pay Bulaya Hum Nay



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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

راضی ہیں ہم اسی میں جس میں تری رضا ہو  
میری فنا سے حاصل گردین کو بقا ہو  
لب پر ہو ذکر تیرا دل میں تری وفا ہو  
حاکم تمام دنیا پہ میرا مُصطفیٰ ہو  
ہو رُوح میری سجدہ میں سامنے خدا ہو

ہو فضل تیرا یا رب یا کوئی اِبتلا ہو  
ہٹ جاؤں میں تو اس کی پروا نہیں ہے کچھ بھی  
سینہ میں جوشِ غیرت اور آنکھ میں جیا ہو  
شیطان کی حکومت ہٹ جائے اس جہاں سے  
محمود عمر میری کٹ جائے کاش یونہی

Ho Fazl Tera Ya Rab Ya Koi Ibtala Ho  
Razi Hain Hum Usi Mein Jis Mein Teri Raza Ho

Mit Jaon Mein To Us Ki Parwa Nahin Hay Kuch Bhi  
Meri Fana Say Hasil Gar Deen Ko Baqa Ho

Seenay Mein Josh-e-Ghairat Aur Aankh Mein Haya Ho  
Lub Par Ho Zikr Tera Dil Mein Teri Wafa Ho

Shaitan Ki Hakoomat Mit Jaay Is Jahan Say  
Hakim Tamam Dunya Pay Mera Mustafa<sup>sa</sup> Ho

Mahmood Umr Meri Cut Jaay Kash Yonhi  
Ho Rooh Meri Sajdah Mein Samnay Khuda Ho



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کبھی اذن ہو تو عاشق درِ یار تک تو پہنچے  
یہ ذرا سی اک نگارش ہے ، نگار تک تو پہنچے  
دلِ بے قرار قابو سے نکل چکا ہے ، یا رب  
یہ نگاہ رکھ کہ پاگل سرِ دار تک تو پہنچے  
جو گلاب کے کٹوروں میں شرابِ ناب بھر دے  
وہ نسیمِ آہ ، پھولوں کے نکھار تک تو پہنچے  
کچھ عجب نہیں کہ کانٹوں کو بھی پھول پھل عطا ہوں  
مری چاہ کی حلاوتِ رگِ خار تک تو پہنچے  
یہ محبتوں کا لشکر جو کرے گا فتحِ خیبر  
ذرا تیرے بغض و نفرت کے حصار تک تو پہنچے

Kabhi Izn Ho To Aashiq Dar-e-Yar Tak To Puhnchay  
Yeh Zara Si Ik Nigarish Hay Nigar Tak To Puhnchay

Dil-e-Bay Qarar Qaboo Say Nikl Choka Hay Ya Rab  
Yeh Nigah Rakh Kay Pagal Sar-e-Daar Tak To Puhnchay

Jo Gulab Kay Katoron Mein Sharab-e-Nab Bhar Day  
Who Naseem-e-Aah Phoolon Kay Nikhar Tak To Puhnchay

Kuch Ajab Nahin Keh Kanton Ko Bhi Phool Phal Ata Hon  
Meri Chah Ki Halawat Rag-e-Khar Tak To Puhnchay

Yeh Muhabaton Ka Lashkar Jo Karay Ga Fath-e-Khaibar  
Zara Teray Bughz-o-Naftrat Kay Hisar Tak To Puhnchay





# Judging Criteria & Competition Details

## Recitation of the Holy Qur'an

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)

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.

## Hifz (Memorization of the Holy Qur'an)

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



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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 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 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.

## Nazm (Urdu Poem)

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. 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



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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

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



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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

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

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. This year 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 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.



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## Prepared Speech

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

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 verses, ahadith, etc. carry more marks in this competition. 30 seconds before the end of participants 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

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 & 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.



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