

INDIAN ORTHODOX SUNDAY SCHOOL NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE

Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

1. General Information:	2
2. General Rules:	2
3. Groups and Grade Chart	3
4. Elocution Topics.....	3
5. Quiz Topics	3
6. Solo Song (English and Malayalam)	4
Rules	4
Components for Judging – Solo Song	4
Definition of Components -	4
Story Telling (English and Malayalam).....	5
Rules	5
Components for Judging – Story Telling – English and Malayalam.....	5
Definition of Components – Story Telling.....	5
5. Elocution	6
Rules	6
Components for Judging – Elocution.....	6
Definition of Components – Elocution.....	6
6. Group Song.....	7
Rules	7
Components for Judging – Group Song.....	7
Definition of Components – Group Song.....	8
7. Bible Quiz	9
Rules	9

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Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

1. General Information:

1. Collect participant badge from the participant registration desk between 8:00 am and 8:50am.
2. Participant badge should be collected by participant in person and will NOT be handed over to parents, principal, or any other individual.
3. Any and all clarifications should be done before the commencement of each competition.
4. No individual can leave/enter the competition room during the performance of any participant or group.
5. If there is any concern/issue/problem, please approach the Talent Competition Coordinator along with the Area Coordinator of your Sunday School Area.
6. No competition can be interrupted for any reason including entering or leaving the competition room the performance of any participant or group.
7. One of the two elocution topics will be chosen at random at the venue on the day of the competition and will be announced immediately.

2. General Rules:

1. Time limit will be strictly enforced.
2. Microphone system may be used if available at the venue for Malayalam/English Solo Song/Group Song.
3. The decisions of the judges will be final for all competitions.
4. No audio or video recording of any competition is permitted. No pictures with or without flash can be taken of any competition.
5. Until the final results are announced, no participant/parent/individual is allowed to approach any of the judges for any reason. If participant/parent/individual is found approaching the judges, this will affect the points adversely.
6. No signals of any type from the parents, teachers, or audience are allowed during the competition.
7. The announcers who call the chest numbers of the individual contestants or a team shall not make any statements that might directly or indirectly identify the contestant, team, or the parish. The announcers shall not make any comments about the contestant, or about his/her performance.
8. The contestants shall not mention his/her own name or his /her parish's name during a speech, story-telling or song competitions. Revealing such information will lead to disqualification.
9. Please refrain from clapping/cheering/applause after the performance of each participant. A general round of applause can be done after each item is over.

Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

3. Groups and Grade Chart

Group	Secular Grade (As of Jan 1, 2015)
Group 1	Nursery/KG
Group 2	Grade1/Grade 2
Group 3	Grade 3/Grade 4
Group 4	Grade 5/Grade 6
Group 5	Grade7/Grade 8
Group 6	Grade 9/Grade 10
Group 7	Grade11/Grade 12

4. Elocution Topics

Group 4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Ephesians 6:1

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. St. Matthew 5:16

Group 5

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Mark 10:25

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. James 2:17

Group 6

I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverb 15:1

Group 7

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

5. Quiz Topics

Romans

Joshua

Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

6. Solo Song (English and Malayalam)

Rules

1. Can participate in either Malayalam OR English (not both) as per participant's choice at the time of registration by Principal of the Parish member participants.
2. Only Christian songs of appreciable quality in Malayalam OR English.
3. Song sheets are permitted
4. No extra points will be awarded for semi-classical or classical songs.
5. No costumes or song theme related articles shall be used by the participants.
6. Time limit: 3 Minutes. No warning will be given in the event of exceeding the time limit and 5 points will be deducted from the combined score from all the judges.
7. An introduction of the solo song or the title of the solo song does not have to be presented by the participant. If it is presented, the time for the participant starts with this introduction/title. It will be included as part of the 3 Minute time for the participant.
8. Time limit: 3 MINUTES ONLY (WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED)
9. In case of tie on the total score, the tie break will be based on the component score in the following order Pitch and Rhythm, Song Presentation, Overall Presentation, General Appearance

Components for Judging – Solo Song

Component	Points
General Appearance	10
Song Presentation	10
Pitch and Rhythm	20
Overall Presentation	10

Definition of Components -

1. General Appearance

Confidence, humility, poise, posture, and eye contact.

2. Song Presentation

Lyrical delivery, intensity, speed of the song (tempo), devotional, and enthusiastic.

3. Pitch and Rhythm

Correct pitch, tone, harmony, breathe control, volume, rhythm, and diction.

4. Overall Presentation (for solo song only)

Message conveyed to listener, vocal quality, vocal skills and techniques, ability to engage listener, and confident beginning and ending of the song.

Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

Story Telling (English and Malayalam)

Rules

1. Can participate in either Malayalam OR English (not both) as per participant's choice at the time of registration by Principal of the Parish member participants
2. Only Biblical event can be narrated.
3. No costumes or story theme related articles to be used.
4. No written aids or notes will be permitted
5. Time limit: 3 Minutes. No warning will be given in the event of exceeding the time limit and 5 points will be deducted from the combined score from all the judges.
6. In case of tie on the total score, the tie break will be based on the component score in the following order Content, Selection/Delivery, Moral/Conclusion and Introduction.

Components for Judging – Story Telling – English and Malayalam

Component	Points
Introduction	10
Selection/Delivery	10
Content	20
Moral/Conclusion	10

Definition of Components – Story Telling

1. Introduction

Stage approach, introduction of Bible story (including story title and reference from the Bible), and brief narration of the Biblical context

2. Selection/Delivery

Age appropriateness of the Bible story selected, language, clarity, body language, tone, emotion, and confidence.

3. Content

Context (was the Bible story being narrated according circumstances in which the passage occurred) and proper adherence to all plot details.

4. Moral/Conclusion

Summary of the Bible story (delivery of moral of the story) and ending.

Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

5. Elocution

Rules

1. Can participate in either Malayalam OR English (not both) as per participant's choice at the time of registration by Principal of the Parish member participants.
2. One of two topics that were provided prior to competition will be chosen at random and announced at the beginning of the competition.
3. Presentation must be on selected topic.
4. If the participant chooses to speak based on any topic other than the prescribed topic, the participant will be disqualified.
5. No written aids or notes will be permitted.
6. Time limit: 5 Minutes. No warning will be given in the event of exceeding the time limit and 5 points will be deducted from the combined score from all the judges.
7. In case of tie on the total score, the tie break will be based on the component score in the following order Content, Presentation, Conclusion and Introduction

Components for Judging – Elocution

Component	Points
Introduction	10
Presentation	10
Content	20
Conclusion	10

Definition of Components – Elocution

- 1. Introduction**
Start of speech and introduction of topic.
- 2. Presentation**
Language, clarity, body language, tone, emotion and flow of speech.
- 3. Content**
Relation of speech to the given topic, presentation of ideas, knowledge about the subject, organization of ideas, relevance, citing examples from Bible and relating message to the present day (citing examples from history/society).
- 4. Moral/Conclusion**
Sum up ideas and proper conclusion

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6. Group Song

Rules

1. One team from a parish with a minimum 3 participants in the team and a maximum of 15 participants.
2. Only liturgical songs from the Holy Qurbana, Daily Prayers (Namaskarakramam), Sacraments (Kudasakramam) or Festivals (Perunal Geethangal) in English or Malayalam or Syriac.
3. Song sheets are permitted.
4. No extra points will be awarded for semi-classical or classical songs.
5. No costumes or theme related articles shall be used by the participants.
6. Time limit: 3 Minutes. No warning will be given in the event of exceeding the time limit and 5 points will be deducted from the combined score from all the judges.
7. Microphone system may be used if available at the venue and is to be setup/adjusted/placed in position for the team by the Principal/Sunday School teacher/Member of the parish of that group song team.
8. An introduction of the group song or the title of the group song does not have to be presented by the group song team. If it is presented, the time for the group song team starts with this title/introduction. It will be included as part of the 3 Minute time for that group song team.
9. If the group song team would like the group song title to be announced, this should be handed over to Diocesan Talent Coordinator. An announcer will announce the title prior to the start of the group song and this will not be included as part of the 3 Minute time for that group song team. Only the title/name and no other information of that group song will be announced. If it is a compilation of various permitted songs (as per group song rules), then it will be announced as a 'Compilation of Permitted liturgical songs' and the title of the individual songs comprising the group song will not be announced.
10. In case of tie on the total score, the tie break will be based on the component score in the following order Pitch and Rhythm, Song Presentation, Overall Presentation, General Appearance
11. In case of tie on the total score, the tie break will be based on the component score in the following order Pitch and Rhythm, Song Presentation, Group Coordination/Overall Presentation, General Appearance

Components for Judging - Group Song

Component	Points
General Appearance	10
Song Presentation	10
Pitch and Rhythm	20
Group Coordination/Overall Presentation	10

8.

Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

Definition of Components – Group Song

1. General Appearance

Confidence, humility, poise, posture, and eye contact.

2. Song Presentation

Lyrical delivery, intensity, speed of the song (tempo), devotional, and enthusiastic.

3. Pitch and Rhythm

Correct pitch, tone, harmony, breathe control, volume, rhythm, and diction.

4. Group Coordination/Overall Presentation (for group song only)

Message conveyed to listener, vocal quality, vocal skills and techniques, ability to engage listener, and confident beginning and ending of the song, and group coordination.

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Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

7. Bible Quiz

Rules

1. The Bible Quiz will be conducted in English.
2. Questions from 2 previously assigned books of the Bible for 2015 (Romans and Joshua)
3. Only the Revised Standard Version (RSV) should be used.
4. Time will be approximately 1 hour.
5. One team from a parish of only 3 participants in the team. Each team will not have more than 3 participants.
6. Each of the team will have 3 participants each. A teacher from a different SS Area will be assigned to each team as an evaluator.
7. There will be 30 questions.
8. Each of the questions will be read by the Quiz master and will appear on Screen as well.
9. Once the Quizmaster reads a question, if a team has any question, or requires clarification, a member of the team may raise his/her hand.
10. Once a question is read, and if there are no questions by the participants, at the direction of the Quizmaster, the 30 sec count-down timer on the screen will start. (Timer will start only after the Quizmaster provides any clarification. Please note, only team members are allowed to ask questions).
11. During the 30 seconds, each team can discuss amongst themselves and write down their Answer on the given Answer Sheet.
12. Once the 30 seconds is up, the team can NOT write or change their Answer on the paper. The pen must be put down.
13. After the 30 seconds is up, the Quiz Master will read out the answer, which will also appear on the screen. (Screen is expected at the area Level and Diocesan level.) The teacher assigned to the team will read out the answer written on the answer paper by the team, and the Quiz Master will decide if the answer is correct and awards the team has one point if the answer is correct.
14. The points attained by each team will be noted on the Score-Screen.
15. Each complete correct answer, determined by the Quiz Master, will be awarded one point. (If the answer is incorrect, zero should be entered as the score. This is to ensure that credits are given for each question)
16. There are no half points or fraction points.
17. No points will be awarded if the answer is not complete. [Example: Question-Who is the first man and woman created by God? If the answer by the team is "Adam" and not "Adam and Eve", then no point will be awarded to the team for this answer as team's given answer is partial and not complete. No partial or fraction point will be awarded.]
18. At the end of the 30 questions, the team with the highest score will be declared as the winner. The Second place will be given to the team with the next highest score. This is the scenario where there is not tie for both first and second positions.
19. If there is a tie at the end of the 30 questions, a tie breaker question will be given to the teams in the first place tie-position and all other teams will be eliminated. Tie-breaker questions will be given until a clear winner can be determined. Only the tied teams shall advance.
20. At the end of 30 questions if there is a clear first place winner, they will be declared as a first place winner. If there is a tie for the second place, the winner will be selected with tie-breaker question with only teams in the tie-position for the second place. (If there is a tie for the first place, the rest of the teams will be eliminated, and the tie will be broken keeping the teams that are tied for the first place. The second place winner will be selected after breaking the tie for the first place.)

Talent Competition Guidelines 2015

21. If there is a clear winner at the end of the 30 questions, the Quiz Master will declare the team as the FIRST PLACE winner. The Quizmaster will move on to decide the second place winner immediately, if there is a clear second place winner and Quiz competition will end there.
22. If there is a tie between two or more teams for the first place after 30 questions, there will be a tie breaker question for only those teams in the tie-position. They will be provided with one question at a time until a winner is decided. Team who wins will be declared as FIRST PLACE winner and the one with the next highest will be declared as SECOND PLACE winner. All teams will not be contesting at this stage.
23. If two or more teams have confusion about a question, the Quizmaster has the option to cancel that particular question.
24. The Quizmaster shall have the option to skip questions that are vague, or may cancel a question when one or more teams requests clarifications that cannot be addressed to the satisfaction of the Quizmaster or the teams.
25. The Quizmaster shall have the authority to make all decisions related to question and answers, as per the rules and guidelines, without consulting with any officials. If there is any issue or concern regarding the Question or Answer or with the Quiz format or any other Quiz related concern, the Quizmaster shall make the appropriate decision as per rules and guidelines. If the quizmaster deviates from the given rules, the TC Coordinator have the authority to intervene and he/ she shall make the final decision.
26. During the Quiz, NO parent, teacher, clergy, or member of the audience will be allowed to interrupt the Quiz.
27. The team members are not allowed to discuss the question or answer with the assigned teacher. All questions or concerns or clarifications must be directed to the Quiz/Master.
28. The Quiz Master is to conduct the Quiz as per the rules and guidelines approved and provided. All concerns raised by the team or teachers that cannot be cleared by the rules and guidelines provided, should be re-directed by the Quiz Master to the Talent Competition Coordinator. In this case, the Diocesan Talent Competition Coordinator will make the final decision. In the case of Area Level Talent Competition, the Talent Coordinator will make the final decision in consultation with the Area Coordinator.
29. If the person who conducts the Quiz is NOT the same person as the one who prepares the Questions, the Questions shall be handed over to quiz master just prior to the beginning of the Quiz competition.
30. No one other than the person who prepares the questions shall have access to the questions until the start of the Quiz Competition.