



SECTION D

RULES & GUIDANCE FOR TOPICS CONTESTS

D1 JUDGES' GUIDE TO THE USE OF THE MARK SHEET

- **TOPICS CONTEST MARK SHEET** - See **Separate Sheet - D1**

What are the judges looking for?

- **CONTENT** **CARRIES 25 MARKS**
(Max 25 marks) Relevance to the subject
Focussed rather than wide-ranging
With a message
Not anecdotal
Wide vocabulary of words and phrases
- **CONSTRUCTION** **CARRIES 25 MARKS**
(Max 25 marks) Arresting opening
Structure
Sequence of logical development
Summary and clear conclusion
- **DELIVERY** **CARRIES 25 MARKS**
(Max 25 marks) Confident at the lectern
Poise, Manner
Voice illustrating pitch, pace and pause
Appropriate gestures
Eye contact
Rapport
- **OVERALL** **CARRIES 25 MARKS**
(Max 25 marks) Was the overall effect that of a good well-thought-out short speech with some impact?

D2 RULES & GUIDANCE FOR TOPICS CONTESTS ONLY

- **The Chair** has a major role in any contest in maintaining control of every part of the proceedings
- **Order of Speaking:** Prior to the start of the Contest the Chair will call all the Contestants together and determine the order of speaking which will then be relayed to the Judges and Timekeepers.
- **Procedure** Each Contestant will be expected to give a Topic of **THREE MINUTES** duration. All Contestants will leave the room with the Usher and will be invited back, one at a time, in the pre-determined Order of Speaking. Inside the Contest Room they will be given the Topic which will be the same for all Contestants
- **Lectern** Each Contestant may choose whether or not to use the lectern
- **Timing** The Timing for Topics Contests allows 15 seconds both before and after the THREE MINUTES - *i.e. when the Red Light is showing from 2mins 45seconds to 3mins 15 seconds into the speech.* Contestants finishing their Topic **outside** the 15-second allowance will incur Penalty Points which will be deducted from that Contestant's final score.

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