



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

- **A Chairman** - to manage the Contest. **The Chairman** has a major role in any contest in that s/he must keep control of every part of the proceedings
- **Order of Speaking** Prior to the start of the Contest the Chairman will call all the Contestants together and determine the order of speaking. This can be done by asking each Contestant to choose a card or paper with a concealed number and that number, when selected and revealed, determines the numerical order in which each Contestant will speak
- **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 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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