

## Rules and Regulations

### 1. Preparation

i. Content

In the Preliminary Round, contestants are required to deliver a 3-minute prepared speech on the theme, *Intelligence*.

In the Grand Final, contestants must deliver a 3-minute prepared speech on the same theme. This will immediately be followed by a 2-minute impromptu response to a question given by the adjudicators. The prepared speech previously delivered in the Preliminary Round must be used in the Grand Final.

ii. Originality

The prepared speech must be an original work by the contestant. The use of AI generated speeches must be avoided, as originality is a key merit in the grading process.

iii. Disclosure of school information

Contestants should NOT mention, imply or disclose, by any means, which school they are from at any time.

iv. Props and cue cards

Contestants may use cue cards or their mobile phone, and props if necessary. Cue cards should be palm sized. Props should be small enough for contestants to carry on stage without assistance. The use of mobile phones is prohibited during the impromptu Q&A session.

v. Dress code

Contestants are NOT allowed to wear their school uniform or any attire that would indicate their school of study at any time. For the Grand Final, smart casual attire is encouraged.

### 2. Preliminary Round

- i. The teacher-in-charge for each participating school will be given an assigned contestant number for their student by February 2026 via email. The contestants' videos should be uploaded to YouTube and the designated "Online Video Submission Form" should be completed with the URL link by 20th March 2026.
- ii. Video Submission Guidelines will be given to the teacher-in-charge after the application deadline. (30th January 2026)
- iii. Any contestant who fails to submit their video before the video submission deadline for the Preliminary Round will be disqualified.

- iv. The Grand Final contestant list will be released to the teacher-in-charge via email around the third week of April 2026.

### 3. Grand Final and Award Presentation Ceremony

- i. 12 contestants shortlisted from the Preliminary Round will participate in the Grand Final.
- ii. Grand Finalists are required to present their HKID cards and/or student cards with photos for registration upon arrival at the contest venue.
- iii. The judging panel will judge both the prepared speech and impromptu responses.
- iv. All contestants' performances will be assessed based on the quality of ideas, delivery skills, and overall effectiveness.
- v. The running order of speeches will be determined by the person-in-charge of the English Public Speaking Contest.
- vi. Contestants should proceed to the stage when the MC announces their name.
- vii. Contestants who fail to show up at their turn for the speech will be disqualified.
- viii. The use of microphones is optional. Contestants can use the microphone provided when delivering their speeches.
- ix. The Grand Final will be attended by the 12 finalists at Shek Mun Campus (Shatin).

#### 3.1 Prepared Speech Delivery

- i. The timekeepers will be seated in the front row at the contest venue, clearly visible to the contestants.
- ii. Timekeeping will begin within 5 seconds of the contestant reaching the correct position on stage. The timekeeper will display a 'START' sign and ring the bell ONCE, after which the contestant may begin their speech.
- iii. Time signals will be shown to indicate the remaining time respectively at 1 minute and 30 seconds.
- iv. When 3 minutes have passed, the timekeeper will ring the bell TWICE and the contestant **MUST** end their speech immediately.

#### 3.2 Impromptu Response Delivery

- i. An impromptu session will immediately follow the prepared speech of each contestant.

- ii. The adjudicator will assign a different impromptu question for each contestant. This question will be unrelated to the topic of the prepared speech. Each contestant will then be given 2 minutes to deliver their answer, without preparation time.
- iii. Timekeeping will begin immediately after the impromptu question is asked. The timekeeper will display a 'START' sign and ring the bell ONCE, after which the contestant may begin their impromptu speech.
- iv. Time signals will be shown to indicate the remaining time respectively at 1 minute and 30 seconds.
- v. When 2 minutes have passed, the timekeeper will ring the bell TWICE and the contestant must end their speech immediately.

### 3.3 Award Presentation Ceremony

- i. Results will be announced for the Champion, 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up, 2 merits, and the audience award at the completion of the contest.
- ii. All prize winners will be invited to stay behind for a group photo and a short interview with the champion after the ceremony.
- iii. The results and media records from the Grand Final will be used for promotional purposes.

### 4. Other Rules

- i. Violation of any of the rules and regulations will lead to disqualification.
- ii. In case of any disputes, decisions by the person-in-charge of the English Public Speaking Contest shall be final and conclusive.

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