



GUIDELINES

Date : 17 June 2018, Sunday
Time : 9.00am – 4.30pm
Venue : PMT – Main Shrine, Level 3

QUALIFYING ROUND – QUIZ *(for all groups)*

FORMAT

- Teams are to answer a total of **20** MCQ questions

QUIZ CHALLENGE

- All teams are to bring along a tablet (iPad or Samsung tablet) to be used for the quiz.
- The tablet is to be handed over to the organisers on the event day at **8.00 am** at PMT Library for configuration.
- The password of the tablet is to be disabled before handing over.
- Teams are reminded to collect their tablet back by the end of the event.

FINAL ROUND – VIDEO SHOWCASE & SHARING

(for pre-university & polytechnic groups)

FORMAT

- Video showcase & presentation: not exceeding 15mins
- Select a video or short film that best illustrates or reflects Buddhist teachings/ principles/ values
- Share and present what you have learnt from the video in terms of how we can apply the teaching/ principles/ values of the Buddha-Dharma to our daily lives
- E.g. A Thai video advertisement that showcases the importance of metta/ dana

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- Videos of any format are acceptable– illustration, cartoon, movie, documentary, talkshow etc
- Videos must be presented in English; if the video is not in English it must include English subtitles.
- All videos presented must be cited, giving credit to the original source
- Videos should not promote any particular political agenda
- Selected videos must be submitted to organiser before event for approval
- **Compulsory: at least 1 rep per team for briefing on Sun, 2 June, 10am – 12noon @ PMT**

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Quality of video – content & relevance (25%)
- Quality of video – originality & creativity (15%)
- Quality of presentation – content & relevance (35%)
- Quality of presentation – presentation skills (25%)

FINAL ROUND – DEBATE (for university groups)

RATIONALE

- Debating has had a long and distinguished history in Buddhism, since even the time of the Buddha as well as during the period of the great monastic universities like Nalanda, and continuing to the present day.
- The practice of debating can help to encourage vital skills like critical inquiry and analytical thinking, which can be applied to a variety of other subjects.

FORMAT

1. The format of the debates during the final round of Awaken Challenge is adapted from the World Schools Style debate, with three speakers a side.

After all three speakers have spoken, the first or second speaker of each side will give a reply speech, with the opposition reply speech going first and the proposition second.

The order, in other words, is as follows.

- (i) First speaker of the Proposition
 - (ii) First speaker of the Opposition
 - (iii) Second speaker of the Proposition
 - (iv) Second speaker of the Opposition
 - (v) Third speaker of the Proposition
 - (vi) Third speaker of the Opposition
 - (vii) Reply speaker of the Opposition (either first or second speaker)
 - (viii) Reply speaker of the Proposition (either first or second speaker)
2. Teams will be assessed based on both content and style.
 3. The allocated time of each speaker's speech is **5** minutes; for each reply speech, it is **3** minutes. Before the debate begins, each team must inform the chairperson about the names of their speakers and the order they will be speaking in.

The only form of communication allowed between the speakers and the audience are clear and obvious non-verbal signals to let the speaker know how much time has elapsed since the start of their speech. No other form of communication is allowed (with the exception of smiles and nods of encouragement). Signals which are clearly designed to tell the debater to do something, such as to move on to the next point or take or reject a point of information, are NOT allowed.

4. Debaters must stand when making their speeches. They should use brief notes, and avoid reading out their speech word-for-word from a prepared text.

JUDGES

1. The debate will be judged by an odd-numbered panel of at least three judges.
2. Judges shall not assist in the preparation of any team.
3. Organisers of Awaken Challenge can advise the judges during the judging process.
4. The debate will be won by the team which has a majority of the votes of the judges.
5. The cumulative marks awarded by the judges and/or the winning margins of the teams will also be used to determine which team wins the debate.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE MOTION

1. The motion of the debate will be released before the event.
2. Both teams will be given similar preparation rooms and/or conditions.
3. Only members of the team may participate in the preparation.
4. Teams may bring any handwritten, printed or published materials with them.
5. Speakers are not to use electronic communication devices during the course of the debate. This means that they are NOT allowed to have mobile phones with them at the team's table or when speaking.

ROLES OF THE SPEAKERS

1. The role of the first speaker of the proposition is to define the topic, establish the issues for the debate, outline the proposition's case, announce the case division between the speakers, and present his or her part of the proposition's case.
2. The role of the first speaker of the opposition is to challenge the definition if necessary, present an alternative definition if the definition is challenged, respond to the proposition case, outline the opposition's case, announce the case division, and present his or her part of the opposition's case.
3. The role of the second speaker of the proposition is to deal with the definition if it has been challenged, respond to the opposition's case, and continue with the proposition's case as outlined by the first speaker.
4. The role of the second speaker of the opposition is to deal with the definition if it is still in issue, respond to the proposition's case, and continue with the opposition's case as outlined by the first speaker.
5. The third speaker of either team may have a small part of the team's case to present, but his is not obligatory as the third speaker's primary role is to respond to what has gone before in the debate.
6. If the third speaker is to present a part of the team's case, this must be announced in the case division by the first speaker.
7. The purpose of the reply speeches is to sum up the debate from the team's viewpoint, including a response to the other team's overall case and a summary of the case of the speaker's own team.
The reply speakers are in reverse order, with the opposition reply first and the proposition reply last.
8. Neither reply speaker may introduce a new part of the team's case.
9. A reply speaker may respond to an existing argument by raising a new example that illustrates that argument, but may not otherwise introduce a new argument.

POINTS OF INFORMATION

1. Points of information are an important part of the clash between the teams, enabling speakers to remain a part of the debate even when they are not making a speech. The purpose of a point of information is to make a short point or ask a short question of the speaker.
2. Between the 1st and 4th minutes of a speaker's substantive speech, members of the other team may offer points of information. (It is only during the reply speeches that points of information cannot be offered.) Unless the other team is genuinely at fault for offering very few points of information, judges will expect every speaker to take at least one point of information during their substantive speech.
3. Speakers who accept points should allow the member of the other team to take up to 15 seconds to make their point. They should ONLY cut a member of the other team off if they are genuinely waffling – i.e. going beyond 15 seconds. Judges will NOT look favourably on speakers who cut off members of the other team off after less than 15 seconds.
4. Speakers are to stand up (and not merely raise their hand) if they wish to offer a point of information. They should then remain standing until the speaker indicates whether or not they will accept the point. If the point is declined, they should then sit down immediately. But if the point is accepted, they should remain standing until they have finished making the point.
5. As well as standing up, the speaker offering the point should also announce "Point of information" (or a similar interjection such as "On that point, sir/madam / brother/sister"). They should not attempt to make the point unless and until the speaker from the other team clearly indicates that they are ready to hear it. Once they begin making the point, they should keep it concise, taking a maximum of 15 seconds.
6. Debaters will be expected to accept their point of information when it is offered by the other team. Speakers should NOT at a random point in their speech when no one on the other team is offering one suddenly announce "I will take a point of information now", even though plenty have been offered at other times during their speech. Judges will NOT look favourably on speakers who do this.
7. Politeness is very important in debates. When declining points of information, speakers should NOT do so in a rude or dismissive manner by making statements like "Sit down now". They should find a polite way to decline the point (for example, by stating "No thank you sir/madam / brother/sister").

Debate guidelines prepared by Lorenzo Ang and Ow Yeong Wai Kit

Adapted from <http://www.schoolsdebate.com/> and <http://debates.org.sg/index.php/20-competitions> (Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championships, directed by Mark Gabriel)