

2025
Atfal
Ijtema



Judging Guidelines & CRITERIA

GENERAL GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR THE JUDGE[S]

- Judges must adhere to the criteria in the syllabus.
- Judges should be selected based on their knowledge and experience of the competition
- To maintain an uplifting and supportive environment for competitions:
 - Competitions should be held in a quiet area.
 - Judges should be kind and accommodating. They should take great care to ensure that the Atfal are being listened to and feel respected.
 - Judges should facilitate a positive environment through their words and actions.
- Judges are asked to look at each criterion carefully and evaluate each participant on the merit of the criteria. Please refer to the full Atfal Ijtema 2025 Syllabus for criteria details.

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- Each judge should have the guidelines for the relevant competitions and the correct criteria sheets in front of them.
- The Atfal Ijtema Admin should make photocopies of competition guidelines for each age group as necessary.
- Judges should appreciate the Atfal by saying '*Jazakamullah*' after each Tifl competes in the competition.
- Judges should keep a neutral face and not show premature partiality towards any single Tifl, nor should they show any disappointment if the standard of a Tifl is not up to par in their view.
- If two Atfal tie for a position in any competition, both Atfal should be given that prize. (*Eg., if Hamza and Raheel both tied for second, they should both receive second.*) there should be no coin-toss or random selection between the two.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR THE JUDGE[S]

- To ensure a smooth and efficient competition process, please begin by prioritizing Atfal who are on the qualified list. These Atfal should be given the opportunity to participate before considering anyone from the waitlist.
- Judges should evaluate Atfal based on the order given in the list. Check off names on the list as they participate.
 - If a Tifl from the qualified list is not present at their turn, proceed to the next available Tifl and revisit if he arrives.
 - Once all qualified Atfal have had the chance to compete, judges may then call Atfal from the waitlist. Follow the same process by checking off names as they participate.
- Avoid delays by accommodating Atfal as they become available, especially if multiple competitions are being conducted simultaneously. This will help minimize waiting times and ensure a smoother experience for everyone.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ATFAL

- All Atfal should be told that when they come up, their head should be covered.
- They should say '*Assalamu Alaikum*' and state their Full name and Majlis when prompted.

Contact Information

- Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact the National Taleem Department via email:

TALEEM@ATFALUSA.ORG

JUDGING CRITERIA

Tilawat

CORRECT PRONUNCIATION OF LETTERS AND SYMBOLS. STOPS AT APPROPRIATE PLACES

10 POINTS

RECITATION ADHERES TO THE RULES OF TARTEEL & TAJWEED

10 POINTS

MELODY, VOICE AND OVERALL QUALITY OF RECITATION

10 POINTS

TILAWAT GUIDELINES

- Judges should be provided with both the simple Holy Qur'an font (the version without any translation) and the Holy Qur'an font that is published with the translation and should allow the Tifl to select and read off of the font that he is comfortable with.
- All judges should have a copy of the Holy Qur'an or a copy of the allocated portions from the syllabus (according to the age category) in front of them before the competition begins to use for judging.
- An organizer or judge should emphasize the Qur'anic commandment that those listening to the Holy Qur'an should remain silent, as God Almighty has promised that His Mercy will descend upon such people.
- A Tifl may recite any of the allocated portions which he has prepared.
 - A Tifl should begin Tilawat by reciting 'Ta'awwudh' اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيْمِ
 - If more than one portion has been given in the syllabus, then he may recite whichever portion he chooses.
- The judges reserve the right to stop a Tifl once they feel they have heard enough of his recitation to fairly evaluate it.
- However, judges should please be very mindful that if they have a cut-off due to time constraints, it is consistent across all Atfal.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Memorization of Holy Qur'an

**RECITATION ADHERES TO THE RULES OF
TARTEEL & TAJWEED**

10 POINTS

MEMORIZATION OF ALLOCATED PORTIONS

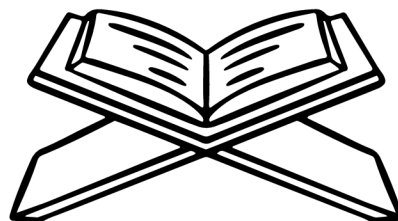
15 POINTS

**MELODY, VOICE AND OVERALL QUALITY OF
RECITATION**

5 POINTS

MEMORIZATION OF HOLY QUR'AN GUIDELINES

- Judges reserve the right to ask the Tifl to recite from anywhere in the syllabus.
 - However, if a Tifl seems unable to recite that portion, then the judges may ask the Tifl to recite whatever portion he does know so as to not discourage the Tifl.
- Judges should ask a Tifl to recite a Surah or a portion of a Surah by mentioning its name (e.g. *Al-Falaq*).
 - If the Tifl does not know the Surah by its name, then the judge should start reciting the first few words of the Surah or portion.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Nazm (Urdu Poem)

**CORRECT PRONUNCIATION & ENUNCIATION
OF WORDS AND LETTERS**

10 POINTS

**APPROPRIATE PACE, VOLUME AND OVERALL
QUALITY OF VOICE**

10 POINTS

CONTROL OVER MELODY / TUNE

10 POINTS

NAZM (URDU POEM) GUIDELINES

- All judges should have a copy of the Nazm with them when judging.
- Each Tifl may recite any of the allocated portions which he has prepared from the syllabus according to his age category.
- If more than one portion has been given in the syllabus, then the Tifl may recite whichever portion he chooses. The judges reserve the right to stop a Tifl once they feel they have heard enough of his recitation to fairly evaluate it.
 - However, judges should please be very mindful that if they have a cut-off due to time constraints that the cut-off is consistent across all Atfal.
- Repeating couplets is **not** permitted.
 - However, if a Tifl did not know about this rule and has prepared through repetition, then an exception can be made if this rule was not communicated through the Nazim Atfal previously.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Qaseedah

**CORRECT PRONUNCIATION & ENUNCIATION
OF WORDS AND LETTERS**

10 POINTS

- **APPROPRIATE PACE, VOLUME AND OVERALL
QUALITY OF VOICE**
- **CONTROL OVER MELODY / TUNE**

5 POINTS

MEMORIZATION OF ALLOCATED PORTION

15 POINTS

QASEEDAH GUIDELINES

- All judges should have a copy of the Qaseedah with them when judging.
- Each Tifl may recite any of the allocated portions which he has prepared from the syllabus according to his age category.
- The judges reserve the right to stop a Tifl once they feel they have heard enough of his recitation to fairly evaluate it.
 - However, judges should please be very mindful that if they have a cut-off due to time constraints that the cut-off is consistent across all Atfal.
- Repeating couplets is not permitted.
 - However, if a Tifl did not know about this rule and has prepared through repetition, then an exception can be made if this rule was not communicated through the Nazim Atfal previously.

JUDGING CRITERIA

English & Urdu Speech

CONTENT & RESEARCH OF SUBJECT - HOLY QUR'AN VERSES, AHADITH, JAMA'AT LITERATURE, ETC.

15 POINTS

STYLE OF DELIVERY, EYE CONTACT & CONTINUITY

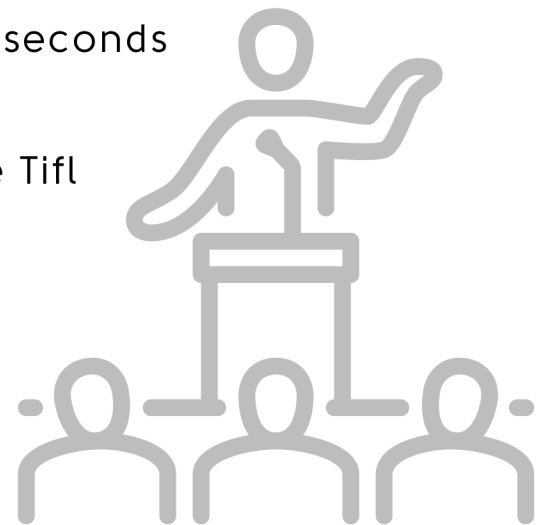
10 POINTS

OVERALL UNDERSTANDING OF SUBJECT

5 POINTS

ENGLISH & URDU SPEECH GUIDELINES

- The timer for each Tifl's speech should start **after** he recites Tashahhud (*Tasmia* is included in the Tashahhud).
- Memorization of the speech is not required.
- Each Tifl will select one of three topics for their age group from the syllabus.
- If a Tifl exceeds the allocated time of 3 or 4 minutes (depending on the age group and language of the speech), the judge should allow an additional 15–20 seconds without interrupting.
- After 15–20 seconds, the judge may ask the Tifl to conclude his speech in 2–3 sentences.
- There will be **no** negative marking.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Salat

CORRECTNESS & CLARITY OF PRONUNCIATION 10 POINTS

CONTINUITY - DELIVERY VOLUME & SPEED 5 POINTS

MEMORIZATION OF PRESCRIBED PORTIONS 15 POINTS

SALAT GUIDELINES

- Judges will have 15 designated portions of Salat for the competition.
 - Each judge reserves the right to ask the Tifl to recite and/or translate any of these portions.
 - If a Tifl expresses that he only knows the portion in sequential order, he must be allowed to recite it in order.
 - No penalty should be given for reciting in sequence, provided the accuracy is maintained.
- Judges must have both the Arabic text and/or English word-by-word translation in front of them.
 - Judges should remain consistent and use only the designated translation provided for the competition.
- Slight variations exist in Jama'at translations (e.g. beseeched, implored, begged).
 - If a Tifl conveys the correct meaning using a different synonym, they should receive full marks as long as the meaning remains accurate.
- Atfal do not need to perform any physical actions of Salat; judging is based only on verbal memorization and translation.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Salat

SALAT GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC AGE GROUPS

Sitara Atfal

- Sitara Atfal will be asked to recite Arabic portions from a subset of Salat.
- Judges should balance asking Tifl shorter and longer portions depending on the time available.

Hilal Atfal

- Since Hilal Atfal are asked to memorize Niyat, Thanaa, and Surah Al-Fatihah with translation, the subset will include these portions for evaluation.
- Judges should test each Tifl on at least one of the portions with translation.
- Judges should balance shorter and longer portions depending on the time available.

Qamar Atfal

- Qamar Atfal will be asked for portions from a subset of Salat and additional prayers, including word-by-word translation.
- Judges should first name the section of Salat or prayer to give the Tifl context (e.g. Please recite "*Thanaa*"). The Tifl will then recite the portion in Arabic.
 - Judges should then ask for the word-by-word translation. For example, a Tifl might say:
 - *Subhaanaka* means 'Holy are You'
 - *Allahumma* means 'O Allah'
 - *Wa bihamdika* means 'And with your praise'
 - Judges should balance shorter and longer portions depending on the time available.

Badar Atfal

- Badar Atfal will be asked for portions from a subset of Salat and additional prayers, including word-by-word translation.
- Judges should first name the section of Salat or prayer to give the Tifl context (e.g. Thanaa). The Tifl will then recite the portion in Arabic.
 - After a Tifl recites the portion in Arabic, the judges may ask what specific words in the given portion mean. For example:
 - What does '*waṭṭ-ṭayyibatu*' mean?
 - Judges should balance shorter and longer portions depending on the time available.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Azan

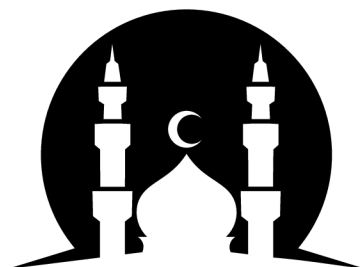
CORRECTNESS AND CLARITY OF PRONUNCIATION 10 POINTS

APPROPRIATE PACE, VOLUME AND OVERALL QUALITY OF VOICE 10 POINTS

CONTROL OVER MELODY / TUNE 10 POINTS

AZAN GUIDELINES

- Each Tifl should raise his arms up and recite the Azan from the beginning.
- Unless the Atfal have been told before the Ijtema, the judges should **not** ask the Atfal to recite a shortened version of the Azan in the interest of time.
 - This is unfair to impose upon the Atfal at the last minute and understandably confuses them.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Hifz-e-Adiyah

MEMORIZATION OF ARABIC PORTION

10 POINTS

MEMORIZATION OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION

10 POINTS

**ACCURACY OF PRONUNCIATION AND
OVERALL FLUENCY**

10 POINTS

HIFZ-E-ADIYAH GUIDELINES

- Judges reserve the right to ask the Tifl any prayer and its translation from the Syllabus.
- Judges will start by asking the Tifl to recite a prayer given its title, e.g. *“For acquiring knowledge”*
 - If a Tifl seems unable to recite the portion, judges should start reciting the first few words of the prayer or its translation so as to not discourage the Tifl
 - If a Tifl is still unable to recite the asked portion after receiving a hint, judges should ask the Tifl to recite whatever portion he does know
 - This may result in a deduction of points
- A participant may take up to 10 seconds before answering





Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya USA

PREPARED BY THE
NATIONAL TALEEM DEPARTMENT
January 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.ATFALUSA.ORG/IJTEMA/