



igsa
**Festival
of Speech**

Established in 1996

An annual competition in various forms of public speaking.

Competition Guidelines

*“Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounc’d it to you, trippingly on the tongue.”
Hamlet, Act III, Scene ii, William Shakespeare*

Risk Warning

(Under Section 5M of Civil Liability Act 2002)

On Behalf of IGSA and participating IGSA Member Schools listed below:

Abbotsleigh
Ascham School
Brigidine College
Canberra Girls Grammar
Danebank School
Frensham
Kambala
Kincoppal-Rose Bay
Loreto Kirribilli
Loreto Normanhurst
Meriden School

MLC School
Monte Sant' Angelo
Mount St Benedict
NEGS
OLMC Parramatta
PLC Armidale
PLC Sydney
Pymble Ladies' College
Queenwood
Ravenswood
Roseville College

Santa Sabina College
SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Stella Maris College
St Catherine's School
St Scholastica's College
St Patrick's College
St Vincent's College
Tangara School
Tara
Wenona

Festival of Speech 2025

The Association of Heads of Independent Girls' Schools NSW, trading as **IGSA** (Independent Girls' Schools Association) organises many inter school activities with our members' schools such as Festival of Speech during the course of the year. In 2025 Festival of Speech will be held at Kincoppal – Rose Bay.

IGSA administers and convenes inter-school activities such as the IGSA Festival of Speech in which many students, parents, teachers, volunteers, adjudicators, officials and spectators participate. Students participating in these activities take part in practice and in competitions.

IGSA and its members' schools expect students to take responsibility for their own safety by wearing compulsory safety equipment, by thinking carefully about the use of safety equipment that is highly recommended and by behaving in a safe and responsible manner towards students from their own and other schools, spectators, officials, property and grounds.

IGSA expects parents, spectators and other participants to behave in a safe and responsible manner, to comply with the Codes of Conduct and to set a good example for the students.

While Kincoppal – Rose Bay and IGSA take measures to make Festival of Speech as safe as reasonably possible for participants, there is a risk that students can be injured and suffer loss (including financial loss) and damage as a result of their participation in these activities, whether at practice or in actual events.

Such injury can occur while the student is engaging in or watching, travelling to and from, adjudicating or volunteering at Festival of Speech. The injury may result from a student's actions, the actions of others, the state of the premises or equipment failure (e.g. a collapsed stage during a competition).

On some occasions, an injury can be serious (such as torn ligaments, dislocations, back injuries, concussion or broken bones). In very rare cases an injury can be life threatening or result in permanent disability.

Students could also suffer loss as a result of their personal property being lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed.

It is the responsibility of IGSA members' schools to ensure that all staff and volunteers undertaking duties at any IGSA event have the required "Working with Children" clearance.

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Participating Schools 2025

School	Principal	Coordinators
Abbotsleigh	Mrs Megan Krimmer	Ms Melissa Dooley
Ascham School	Mr Andrew Powell	Ms Kerry Bick
Brigidine College, St Ives	Mr Shane Hogan	
Canberra Girls Grammar School	Mrs Terrie Jones	Mrs Terrie Jones
Danebank Anglican School for Girls	Dr Michele Benn	Ms Yamina Houfani
Frensham	Mr Geoff Marsh	Ms Kara Davis
Kambala	Ms Jane Danvers	Ms Victoria Tsingos
Kincoppal-Rose Bay	Mrs Erica Thomas	Ms Rachele Rugiero
Loreto Kirribilli	Dr Nicole Archard	Ms Carla Field
Loreto Normanhurst	Ms Marina Ugonotti	Ms Bernadette O'Dwyer
Meriden School	Mrs Lisa Brown	Ms Charlotte Yates
MLC School	Ms Lisa Moloney	Dr Andrea Rowe
Monte Sant' Angelo	Mrs Nicole Christensen	Mr Tim Felton
Mount St Benedict College	Mr Michael Hanratty	Ms Kelly Heaton
NEGS	Ms Liz Van-Genderen	Mr Ryan Caldwell
Our Lady of Mercy College	Ms Lucie Farrugia	Mr Chris Ostrowski
PLC Armidale	Mrs Nicola Taylor	Mrs Kate Clynch
PLC Sydney	Dr Paul Burgis	Ms Lynette Hawkey
Pymble Ladies' College	Dr Kate Hadwen	Ms Bronwyn Hubbard
Queenwood School	Mrs Marise McConaghy	Mr Lachlan Van der Pluijm
Ravenswood	Ms Sarah Guy	Ms Kathy Stewart
Roseville College	Mrs Sue Middlebrook	Ms Barbara Labram
Santa Sabina College	Ms Paulina Skerman	Ms Evangelia Stivactas
SCEGGS Darlinghurst	Ms Jenny Allum	Ms Elizabeth Walsh
St Catherine's School	Ms Deb Magill	Mr Stuart Roberts
St Patrick's College	Mrs Mary Leask	
St Scholastica's College	Ms Laetitia Richmond	
St Vincent's College	Mrs Anne Fry	Ms Belinda Peoples
Stella Maris College	Mrs Elizabeth Carnegie	Ms Alison Tedman
Tangara School for Girls	Mrs Rita Sakr	Mrs Brunella Pagano
Tara Anglican School for Girls	Mrs Adele Ramsay	Ms Angelique Ockert Mr Jenson Lui
Wenona	Ms Linda Douglas	Ms Sarah Sleiman

Festival Structure

Sections

Section 1: Current Affairs (Open)	Teams consisting of 3 participants present an impromptu, comprehensive and balanced analysis of a topical issue.
Sections 2 & 3: Poetry (Junior and Senior)	Participants deliver two poems – a memorised recitation and an impromptu reading of a poem selected by the adjudicator with limited preparation.
Section 4 & 5: Public Speaking (Junior and Senior)	Participants deliver a prepared speech from set topics and an impromptu speech on a topic provided 3 minutes before delivery for Seniors and 5 minutes before delivery for Juniors.
Sections 6 & 7: Readings (Junior and Senior)	Participants prepare and present two readings; one from the scriptures of one of five major world religions and one by a significant woman writer or speaker (recognised for their talents in a particular field) which can include an excerpt from a speech, transcript, non/fiction prose etc.
Section 8: Religious and Ethical Questions (Open)	Topics (accompanied by set reading material) are provided. Each school selects one topic and a team of three students studies the material and subject matter in depth. The adjudicator questions each team for up to 10 minutes on the chosen topic.
Soap Box	Participants will deliver a 3-4 minute 'pet peeve' speech. Following the speech, there will be 2 minutes of heckle questions from the adjudicators.

Participation

Each school may enter one participant in the following events:

- Junior Poetry
- Senior Poetry
- Junior Public Speaking
- Senior Public Speaking
- Junior Readings
- Senior Readings
- Junior Soapbox
- Senior Soapbox

Each school may enter a team of three students in each of the following events:

- Current Affairs
- Religious and Ethical Questions

Entries

Entries are due by 24 September 2025 (last week of term 3). A link to a Google form will be sent to the school coordinators to enable them to complete their entries. Please refer to the Withdrawals section prior to submitting entries as schools may still be invoiced should they withdraw students after the submission date.

Entry Requirements

To enter as full participants of the IGSA Festival of Speech, schools must fulfil the following requirements:

1. Schools must enter at least 1 of the Religious and Ethical Questions or Current Affairs sections.
2. Schools must enter a minimum of **8** sections.
3. Each individual student may only enter one section.
4. Each school may provide only one participant / team in an individual section.

Schools which do not fulfil all of these requirements may enter sections of the IGSA Festival of Speech as an observer school.

Junior Sections: Years 7 - 9
Senior Sections: Years 10 - 11
Open Sections: Years 7 – 11

Year 12 students may not enter.

Withdrawals

Please note that participants entry forms for Festival of Speech are due by the first week of Term 4. If there are any withdrawals in the period 10 days prior to Festival of Speech, the school will still be charged according to their prior participant numbers.

Please note that the draws for the day are based on the sections each school initially indicates they will be participating in, so late withdrawals can lead to changes to the draws.

Should a school wish to change / substitute a student, they should advise IGSA as soon as they are aware of the change so that the correct details, as much as is possible, are included in the documentation for the day.

Draw Requests:

Any requests for students to participate in certain sections at certain time **MUST** be submitted when the original entries are submitted. Once the draw is distributed, there is no change to the order except under extreme circumstances. Requests after the draw has been published for a change due to a clash with sport or other commitments will not be seen as an extreme circumstance. Please ensure you check with your students before submitting their entries.

Other Requirements

It is expected that participants will be in full school uniform. Participants dressed in other clothing on the day will not be permitted to participate. Please ensure that no students carry their mobile phone into the performance spaces.

Important: Each participant is to remain on the school premises at all times if unaccompanied.

Media Release

Schools will be responsible for collecting and retaining relevant information regarding photography and media releases. IGSA should be advised if any student is unable to be photographed.

Section Awards

Each school which enters an individual section is eligible for a Section Award.

Section Awards are given for the winners of each of 1st to 5th places. Debating teams are awarded points as they progress through the rounds.

Festival Awards

Schools which fulfil the entry requirements compete for the following Festival Awards:

Junior Section:	Winner, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 4th Place, 5th Place
Senior Section:	Winner, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 4th Place, 5th Place
Overall Festival:	Winner, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 4th Place, 5th Place

To be eligible for Festival Awards in the Junior Section, a school must enter **3** of the **4** Junior Sections (Poetry, Public Speaking, Readings, Debating and Soapbox). Awards are determined by aggregating each school's performances in its **three (3)** best junior sections.

To be eligible for Festival Awards in the Senior Section, a school must enter **5** out of the **6** Senior or Open Sections (Current Affairs, Poetry, Public Speaking, Readings, Drama, Debating, Soapbox and Religious & Ethical Questions). Awards are determined by aggregating each school's performances in its **five (5)** best Senior / Open Sections (excluding Theatre Sports).

To be eligible for Festival Awards in the overall Festival, a school must fulfil the requirements of entry as a full participant. Awards are determined by aggregating each school's performances across **all** sections, not only the sections entered.

In each Award outlined above, ties will be resolved by taking the school with the greatest number of higher placements as the winner. There will be only one winner for each placement (no ties for any placements).

In each section Festival points are awarded as follows:

1st Place:	15 points
2nd Place:	12 points
3rd Place:	10 points
4th Place:	8 points
5th Place:	6 points
Entry:	3 points

Current Affairs Guidelines

Participation

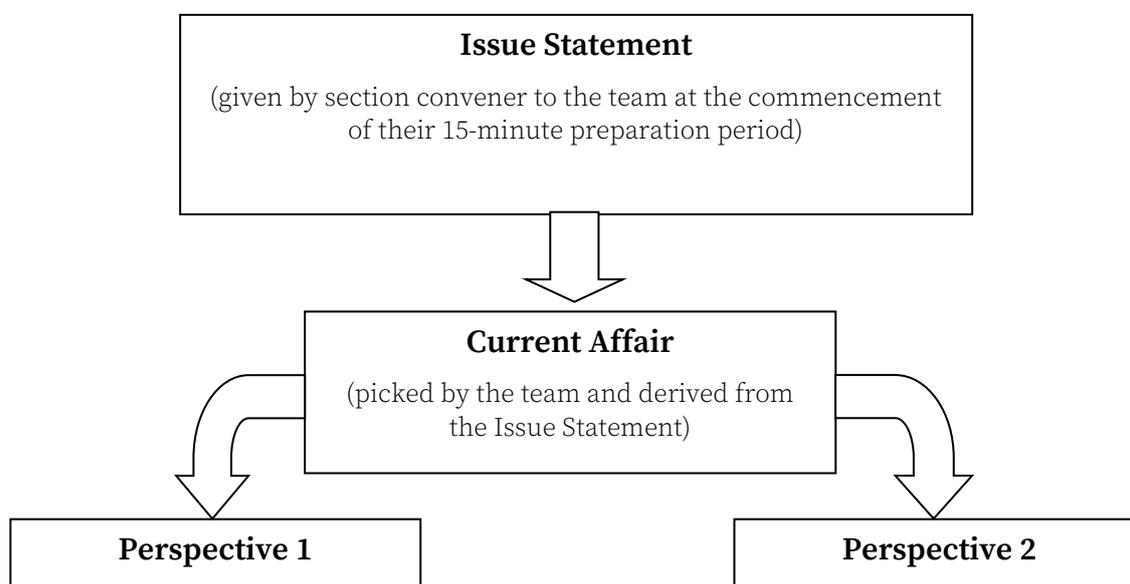
Each school may enter one team comprised of three students, year 9 or above. (If a student is forced to withdraw on the day, the team may compete with 2 students and will be eligible for all awards).

Section Structure

- Current Affairs consists of two rounds – the preliminary round and the final round.
- The preliminary round will be divided into three groups, each with a single adjudicator.
- Allocation to the three groups is random.
- For the preliminary round, teams will wait in a holding room until called for preparation.
- Teams must not leave the holding room without supervision.
- Neither coaches nor electronic devices of any sort (phones, laptops, smart devices etc) will be permitted in the holding room or preparation room.
- The two highest ranked teams from each of the three groups will proceed to the final.
- The section convener will advise teams of how the winners from each group will be notified.
- Each of the six teams competing in the final will be judged by a panel of three adjudicators.
- The six teams participating in the final will be competing for the positions of winner, runner up, and third to fifth placegetters.

Section Overview

Current Affairs is a moderated discussion exploring two different perspectives on a topical issue. The aim is to present and discuss rather than to debate or contest. The style is modelled on the ABC current affairs panel show “Q&A”.



Issue Statement General

- Teams will be given an Issue Statement to which they must relate a current affair sourced from *The Conversation* in the six weeks leading up to the Festival
- The preliminary round will deal with an issue of national significance
- The final round will reflect an issue of international importance

- Whilst the definitive guide for the Issue Statement is *The Conversation*, teams should explore other media publications to gain greater understanding of current affairs issues.

Examples of Issue Statements:

“One man’s terrorist, another man’s guerrilla freedom fighter”

“Let the Rivers Run West”

Issue Statement Rules

1. a Teams are to explore two perspectives.
 - b. Teams should seek to provide sophisticated analysis and see different perspectives as being able to work synergistically and not just in an adversarial manner.
 - c. Teams should not present affirmative and negative arguments: this is **not a debate**.
 - d. There will be a bell at 10 minutes, 12 minutes and 15 minutes.
2. The Current Affair discussed must find its genesis in the Issue Statement.
3. No notes, electronic devices or bags are to be taken into the preparation room.
4. a The Current Affair chosen for the preliminary round must be on the national agenda
 - b. This includes the use of international perspectives to explore a national Current Affair
 - c. Teams should note that there is a distinction between the use of international opinions and examples for **comparative** purposes, and the use of international opinions and examples **as the perspective**.
5. a The Current Affair chosen for the final round must be on the international news agenda
 - b. This includes the use of a national perspective to explore an international Current Affair
 - c. Note that when students lead with an international element in the 1st round they must concentrate on the significance in Australia. In the 2nd Round this is visa versa – if they lead with an Australian element they must concentrate on its significance internationally.
 - d. Teams should note that there is a distinction between the use of national opinions and examples for **comparative** purposes, and the use of national opinions and examples **as the perspective**.

Team Roles

The Moderator

- The moderator introduces the Current Affair under discussion, demonstrating the link between the Issue Statement and the Current Affair
- They must show knowledge of the issues involved
- They will structure the discussion, acting as a **compere** and **interacting** with the panel participants
- The moderator finalises the discussion
- As a model they should take the moderator’s role of a *Q and A* style panel discussion.

The Panel Participants

- Should take a sophisticated approach to delivery, avoiding a “first speaker, second speaker” approach
- They must display an understanding of that Current Affair from varying perspectives
- The speakers should seek to express opinions in keeping with their perspectives, providing examples supporting their opinions
- While not a debate, the speakers should engage in challenging dialogue, modelling their presentation on a Q and A style discussion.

Presentation

- Speakers are to remain seated whilst presenting.
- The use of notes is permitted but reliance on notes is discouraged.
- Participation should be roughly equal across the three team members.
- While passionate presentation is expected, panellists should not adopt dramatic personalities. This is a presentation of ideas and facts, not a dramatic performance. However, the implicit adoption of personae, for example a journalist or politician, is acceptable.
- Section Conveners will make these points clear to Adjudicators during the briefing session and Adjudicators should take them into account when arriving at their decision.

General Guidelines

- Teams that engage in a debate should be severely penalised.
- The Current Affair chosen by the team must find its genesis in the Issue Statement.
- The team should present at least two perspectives. They should not present affirmative and negative views on the Current Affair.
- In the preliminary round, the Current Affair chosen must be a Current Affair of national significance. Teams which choose a Current Affair of international significance in this round, irrespective of the quality of their presentation, should be severely penalised.
- In the final, the team must choose a Current Affair that is of international significance. Teams which choose a Current Affair of national significance, irrespective of the quality of their presentation, should be severely penalised.
- Consideration should be given to the overall team manner. Teams have been instructed that they are to sit behind their desks, in a panel style, rather than standing. Teams that stand to make their presentation should be penalised.
- The use of the allocated time should be considered. Presentations that are under time or over time will be penalised accordingly. Teams which make good use of their time should be rewarded appropriately. A team that is under time will generally lack depth of analysis. Presentations that run beyond the 15 minutes generally reflect a poorly structured presentation, both in terms of content and time allocation between members.
- No written feedback will be given to individuals or teams however a document containing general adjudicator feedback, relevant to all participants, will be circulated after the event.

Time Limits

Preparation Time:	15 minutes
Presentation Time:	15 minutes – with a bell at 10, 12 and 15 minutes.

2025 Section Convener

OLMC, Parramatta - Christopher Ostrowski & Ben Walsh

Current Affairs Adjudicator Guidelines

Participants to be advised they will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations.

During the preliminary round, teams will be randomly allocated to one of three groups. Each group will be adjudicated by one adjudicator. The adjudicator will give a brief summary of their decision providing general feedback only. No individual feedback will be given to participating teams.

During the finals, the two highest ranked teams from each group will be adjudicated by a panel of three adjudicators. The adjudicators should give a brief summary of their decision providing general feedback and constructive comments for improvement where possible. While the rubric suggests allocating specific points for each element of the presentation, adjudicators should provide a holistic adjudication.

Adjudicators are asked to write a brief summary containing general feedback and areas for improvement which can be circulated to schools after the event.

Moderator

Opening statement putting Issue Statement in context /5

This includes the moderator's ability to show the causal link between the Issue Statement and the Current Affair selected

The speaker should also show an understanding of the Current Affair.

Score Guideline

Range: 1 - 2.5 / 5 - Basic-Satisfactory

The moderator does not show a clear link between the Issue Statement and the Current Affair chosen

Fails to adequately contextualise the Issue Statement.

Range: 3 – 5 / 5 - Satisfactory-Effective

The moderator states the causal link between the Issue Statement and the Current Affair chosen by the team

Shows an ability to not only state that the Current Affair is a relevant interpretation of the Issue Statement, but will express why this is the case, using relevant facts.

Ability to demonstrate knowledge of Current Affair /5

Range: 1 - 2.5 / 5 - Basic

The moderator demonstrates knowledge of the Current Affair to some extent.

Range: 3 / 5 - Satisfactory

The moderator should not take the role of the presenters, but they should outline the basic facts of the Current Affair

They will be able to give the audience a basic understanding of the issue involved.

Range: 4 – 5 / 5 - Effective

The moderator, who demonstrates a sound knowledge of the Current Affair, will express this through her introduction of the speakers, in addition to her comments throughout the presentation.

Coordination and facilitation of presentation /10

Range: 1 – 2 / 10 - Basic

The moderator introduces the two speakers adequately but does no more than this.

Range: 3 – 6 / 10 - Satisfactory

The moderator will be able to:

- introduce the two speakers adequately;
- interact in the discussion, indicating a reasonable understanding of the perspectives and the Current Affair;
- provide leadership during the discussion, ensuring panellists participate relatively equally.

Range: 7 – 10 / 10 - Effective

The moderator will be able to:

- introduce the two speakers well;
- make thoughtful comments in her facilitation of the presentation;
- interact in the discussion, demonstrating a sound understanding of the perspectives and the Current Affair. These comments will show a degree of analysis of the perspective;
- provide strong leadership of the discussion;
- provide a sophisticated finalisation of the discussion.

Clarity of Expression: /2.5

Manner: /2.5

Panellists**General**

The presenters are each expected to present a perspective on the Current Affair that they choose. The Current Affair must be linked to the Issue Statement given to the team.

Knowledge of Topic and Understanding of Issue /10

Range: 1 – 5 / 10

The presenter demonstrates knowledge of the Current Affair to some extent.

Range: 6 – 8 / 10

The presenter is able to demonstrate knowledge of the Current Affair

The presentation of ideas is supported with facts.

Range: 9 – 10 / 10

The presenter is able to:

- show a sound knowledge of the Current Affair
- present ideas and support them factually
- demonstrate analysis of those ideas and facts in relation to the Issue Statement.

Logical Sequencing of Presentation /10

Clarity of thought and Expression /2.5

Manner /2.5

Overall Team Presentation /25

Current Affairs Adjudication Form

School: _____

Participants' Names: _____

Issue Statement: _____

POSITION	COMMENTS	MARK
Moderator		/ 25
Presenter 1		/ 25
Presenter 2		/ 25
Overall team presentation		/ 25
TOTAL		/ 100

Adjudicator's Signature _____ Date: _____

Poetry Guidelines

Participation

Each school may enter one participant in each of the Junior and Senior Sections. Coordinators are responsible for providing the participants from their school with a photocopy of the adjudication sheet.

Participants will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations.

Conduct of Presentations

Each participant will be required to compete in two speaking sections as follows:

- A. To introduce and speak from memory a poem to be chosen from a literary period or theme as nominated by the Section Convener (not the students own work) **in week 6 of term 3.**
- B. To read aloud a poem selected by the adjudicator. They will be given 2 minutes to peruse the poem.

The Adjudicator's chosen poem should be clearly labelled for the appropriate Junior or Senior section, and the poem should fit completely on one page.

The presentations will take place as follows:

1. The participant must arrive 30 minutes before the event is due to commence.
2. At that time, they should hand to the Section Convener
 - a typed copy of the poem chosen for Section A and
 - the copy of the Adjudication form, as supplied by her school coordinator, already completed with details of name, school and title of poem.
3. They must speak for 30 seconds prior to the presentation of her prepared poem in Section A, giving a personal response to (not a literary analysis of) the poem, showing how it relates to the theme or literary period. The personal response is to be **spoken, not read**, otherwise **penalties apply**.
4. The poem chosen for Section A should be no longer than 3 minutes. There is no set minimum time for the recitation. After receiving 3 prompts, a competitor in Senior Poetry should not continue with Section A. However, they must still compete in Section B in order to receive the 5 marks for entering.
5. The poem chosen by the adjudicator for the Junior Section B will be approximately 1 minute in length and will be from the same theme/period as that nominated for Section A.
6. The poem chosen by the adjudicator for the Senior Section B will be approximately 1.5 minutes in length and will be from a contrasting theme/period to that nominated for Section A.
7. Microphones will not be used.
8. Participants will await the adjudicator's signal before proceeding.

Poetry Adjudication Guidelines

Each performance will be judged by one adjudicator. The adjudicator should give a brief summary of his/her decision providing constructive comments for improvement where possible.

Participants to be advised they will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations.

The poetry presentation should appeal to the intellect and emotions of the audience. Interpretation and delivery should be directed to this end and should not result in an overt theatrical performance; however, the delivery may include an appropriate level of theatrical performance to connect the imagination to the text.

Marks will be deducted for going over time. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

Section A:

- choice of memorised selection
- timing/pace
- voice and vocal colouring
- interpretation/originality
- confidence and body language
- rapport with audience
- adherence to time limit
- personal response/rationalisation recited not read

Section B:

- recognition of style
- interpretation/originality
- eye contact & rapport
- fluency
- voice and vocal colouring
- confidence

Each section will be marked out of 50 marks, with a total of 100 marks.

No written feedback will be given on the day however a document containing general adjudicator feedback will be circulated to schools after the event.

2025 Section Conveners

Junior Poetry: SCEGGS - Elizabeth Walsh & Ascham - Kerryn Bick

Senior Poetry: Loreto Kirribilli - Monique North & Carla Field

Poetry Adjudication Form

Junior		Senior	
--------	--	--------	--

School: _____

Participants' Name: _____

Title of Poem: _____

Order of Appearance: _____

Section A	
Choice of selection	
Memorisation	
Timing/Pace	
Voice	
Vocal colouring	
Interpretation/originality	
Confidence/body	
Rapport	
Points	/ 50

Section B	
Recognition of style	
Interpretation/originality	
Eye contact & rapport	
Fluency	
Voice	
Vocal colouring	
Confidence	
Points	/ 50
Total	/ 100

Additional Comments

Adjudicator's Signature _____ Date: _____

Public Speaking Guidelines

Participation

Each school may enter one competitor in Junior Public Speaking and one competitor in Senior Public Speaking. In order to qualify as a candidate, the student must be present at the commencement time of this event and must participate in both sections of the event (i.e. prepared and impromptu.)

Participants will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations.

Conduct of Public Speaking

Each participant will be required to compete in two speaking sections as follows:

- A. *A Prepared Speech* on a subject to be selected from 3 - 5 set topics. Topics will be distributed to schools 6 school weeks prior to the competition and in 2024 will be the same for Junior and Senior Public Speaking.
- B. *An Impromptu Speech*. Participants will be given **3 minutes in the Senior section** and **5 minutes in the Junior section to prepare a topic**. It is understood that competitors will not use prepared material for this event.
 - *Junior Impromptu Section*: For comparative assessment purposes, the same topic will be given to all participants. They may bring the notes they make in the preparation room to the speaking venue. The adjudicators will provide the topic.
 - *Senior Impromptu Section*: Each speaker will draw a topic card containing three topics. One topic will be a phrase, one a quotation and the other, a word. The speaker will choose **ONE topic only** to speak on without the use of notes.

In the three-minute preparation time, planning notes may be made. These notes may not be used during the speech, but the topic card may be held whilst presenting. The speaker must refer to the topic chosen within the impromptu speech. The chosen topic will be announced by the Chairperson at the beginning of the speech.

Times for Prepared speeches will be:

SENIOR: **6 minutes**, with a warning bell at 5 minutes

JUNIOR: **4 minutes**, with a warning bell at 3 minutes

Times for Impromptu speeches will be:

SENIOR: **3 minutes**, with a warning bell at 2 minutes

JUNIOR: **2 minutes**, with a warning bell at 1 minute

Both speeches should be based on the topic, either directly or by suggestion. They must be substantially the speaker's own material, and should be suitable for the audience.

The purpose of this Section is for students to communicate their ideas to inform, entertain, persuade, or any combination of these. The speaker must present a speech, not an act, recitation or a comedy performance. Humour should be a means to an end, not an end in itself.

SENIOR Section

Students will be divided into 2 even pools (A and B). The entrant's order is determined at the discretion of the IGSA administration. Pool A will run in the morning session.

Pool A will commence with prepared speeches, followed immediately by impromptu.

Students in Pool A *will be free to leave the event* after the conclusion of the morning session. No comments will be given at the end of Pool A.

Pool B will take place as an afternoon session. Students in Pool B should register at the start of their afternoon heat. Pool B will commence with prepared speeches with *different, but comparable impromptu topics*, to Pool A.

Adjudicators will consider the event in its entirety. Results will be announced giving equal consideration to students in both pools. Placegetters may be from either Pool A or B. Results and comments will be delivered at the end of Pool B. Points remain unchanged.

Public Speaking Adjudication Guidelines

The Junior and Senior Public Speaking sections will each contain two segments, Prepared and Impromptu. Both of these segments will be adjudicated by a panel of three adjudicators. A raw score / 50 will be given for each segment. These scores will then be added together to give a mark /100. The adjudicators may then confer to reach a decision.

Adjudicators should give a brief summary of their decision providing constructive comments for improvement where possible. No written comments will be given on the day and the ranking sheet will not be available for perusal. However, following the event, a document will be sent to schools containing general adjudicator feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Participants to be advised they will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations.

The speaker should feel an affinity with her material and present it naturally. The piece should be fresh and spontaneous and should not appear to be recited. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- eye contact
- minimal or no use of notes
- gestures
- use of language
- clarity
- use of voice
- logical and ordered structure

Each speech should be delivered within or close to the time allowed.

2025 Section Conveners

Junior Public Speaking:

Abbotsleigh - Melissa Dooley & Meriden - Charlotte Yates

Senior Public Speaking:

Loreto Normanhurst - Bernadette O'Dwyer & St Vincent's College – Belinda Peoples

Public Speaking Adjudication Form

Individual adjudicators should allocate each student a mark out of 50, for each of the Prepared and Impromptu speeches, ensuring that both components of the competition are given equal weighting. A total mark out of 100 can then be provided for a student's overall performance. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th placing will be determined on the basis of the cumulative scores of all three members of the adjudication panel.

Under No Circumstances Are Marks To Be Divulged To Competitors

Section: _____ (Junior or Senior)

Student	School	Prepared Speech	Impromptu Speech	TOTAL
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				

Adjudicator's Signature _____ Date: _____

Readings Guidelines

Participation

Each school may enter one participant in the Junior Section and one participant in the Senior Section. Participants are to prepare two (2) readings, as follows:

A. A reading from **one** passage of a religious text from one of the five major world religions, i.e.:

Christianity - *The Bible*

Buddhism - *The Pali Canon*

Hinduism - *The Vedas, The Brahmans, The Upanishads*

Islam - *The Qu'ran (Koran)*

Judaism - *The Tenach, The Hebrew Bible*

B. A reading from a speech or piece of non-fiction prose. The piece must be by a significant **woman**.

Participants will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations. Please advise your students of this.

Conduct Of Readings

To demonstrate versatility, readings should be of a contrasting style, although they should be linked thematically. Students are encouraged to be original in their choice of speech / non-fiction prose by a significant **woman**.

Participants are reminded that they are required to **read** (not recite) a speech or piece of non-fiction prose, not poetry, in Section B of this Section.

The Adjudication Form and a typed copy of both readings must be handed to the adjudicator 15 minutes prior to the Section commencing.

For Seniors, **each of the two readings is to be no more than 3 minutes' duration** (i.e. up to 3 minutes for the reading from the religious text and up to (another) 3 minutes for the reading from the speech or piece of non-fiction prose). In other words, seniors should expect to speak for up to 6 minutes plus the 30 second rationalisation.

For Juniors, **each of the two readings is to be no more than 2 minutes' duration** (i.e. up to 2 minutes for the reading from the religious text and up to (another) 2 minutes for the reading from the speech or piece of non-fiction prose). In other words, juniors should expect to speak for up to 4 minutes plus the 30 second rationalisation.

Participants may take **up to 30 seconds** at the beginning of the reading to place both selected pieces in context and to account for their selection (the rationalisation). The rationalisation must be **said not read** and **points will be deducted** from participants who read their rationalisations. Participants whose introductions exceed 30 seconds will also be penalised.

Microphones may not be used.

Participants will wait for the adjudicator's signal before proceeding with either reading.

Readings Adjudication Guidelines

Participants to be advised they will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations and/or if they read their rationalisations.

The competition will be adjudicated by one adjudicator. The adjudicator should give a brief summary of his/her decision providing constructive comments for improvement where possible.

Readings should appeal to the intellect and emotions of the audience. Delivery and message should be directed to this end. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- suitability of reading i.e. it meets the contrast and link criteria, is appropriate for the audience, i.e. suitable for the young to elderly age range and that the selection suits the student's level of maturity and understanding
- voice
- confidence
- interpretation and general insight into readings
- timing
- whether introduction time of 30 seconds is exceeded
- whether rationalisation is spoken not read
- whether the pieces are read and not memorised and recited
- whether the pieces contrast
- whether the pieces are logically linked to each other
- Sacred Texts should be delivered with a measured pace, composed demeanour and reverently modulated

Each section will be marked out of 50 marks, with a total mark of 100.

No written feedback will be given however a document containing general adjudicator feedback and suggestions for improvement will be circulated to schools following the event.

2025 Section Conveners

Junior Readings: Frensham - Lucy Dalleywater & OLMC - Carolyn Mathews

Senior Readings: Pymble Ladies' College - Bronwyn Hubbard & Ravenswood - Taylor Quin

Readings Adjudication Form

Junior		Senior	
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(Up to 30 seconds may be taken to place the reading into context. If additional time is taken, the contestant should be penalised. The student should also be penalised if the rationalisation is read rather than spoken).

School: _____

Participant's Name: _____ Order of Appearance: _____

Reading 1 and Reading 2 may be performed in any order

Reading 1: _____

Reading 2: _____

Reading 1: Non Fiction Selection	/ 50
Voice 10% audible, clearly articulated, supported by the breath, suitably projected for the space, resonant, maintains correct pronunciation, effective pace, accent -if applicable, vocal colouring/ modulation, effective pause, emphasis, varied and appropriate pace	
Confidence 10% secure stance, verbal fluency, audience rapport, a desire to perform, generous eye contact, scripts held securely - no gestures, embodiment of meaning	
Interpretation 30% Facial expression, understands and embodies each word, recognises and bring the author's intention to life, contrasted and linked to alternate selection appropriately	
Reading 2: Sacred Text	/ 50
Voice 10% audible, clearly articulated, supported by the breath, suitably projected for the space, resonant, maintains correct pronunciation, effective pace, accent -if applicable, vocal colouring/ modulation, effective pause, emphasis, measured reverent pace	
Confidence 10% secure stance, verbal fluency, audience rapport, a desire to perform, generous eye contact, scripts held securely, embodiment of meaning	
Interpretation 30% Facial expression, understands and embodies each word, recognises and brings the author's intention to life, contrasted and linked to alternate selection appropriately	
TOTAL	/ 100

Adjudicator's Signature _____ Date: _____

Religious and Ethical Questions' Guidelines

Participation

Team Eligibility

Each school may enter one team comprising three students. It is suggested they be from the senior years.

If a student is forced to withdraw on the day, the team may compete with 2 students and will be eligible for all awards.

Punctuality

Participants to be advised they will be penalised if they do not adhere to time allocations. A team which is not on time for the competition will be considered to have scratched.

Article Selection

Each participating team will select **one (1)** article from the three (3) provided as stimulus material. Teams should concentrate upon the criteria for adjudication when preparing their material. The articles offered by the Section Convener will be based on contemporary issues that will invoke an exploration of the relationship between **contemporary issues** and relevant social, moral and / or religious beliefs. However, please note that there is no expectation that teams force a discussion of religion if they do not identify this as being directly relevant to the topic.

Material Availability

The reading material will be made available six (6) school weeks in advance of the competition. **The questions are not provided to the teams in advance of competing.** Teams will respond in real time as they are questioned by the adjudicator.

Presentation Rules

Teams will wait in an adjacent room before presenting. Coaches may not join their teams in the holding room.

Teams may not bring in notes, articles or other materials when presenting.

Each team is questioned separately by the adjudicator.

Team members may only join the audience after they have been questioned by the adjudicator.

Conduct of Questioning

Questioning Format

Participants will be required to answer a **maximum of 5 questions** asked in open forum by the adjudicator over a **10-minute period**. **All questions will be based on the particular article which the team has chosen to discuss.** Team members will have the chance to consult one another before being required to respond. Teams should strive to manage their time so as to address all 5 questions with all members of the team contributing to the presentation.

Team members will have the chance to consult one another before being required to respond. The aim is for teams to engage in natural discussion with each other and the panel of adjudicators in real-time - not to confer privately prior to responding to a question.

Time Management

A 10-minute time limit will be strictly observed.

Team members must remain seated during their presentations.

A warning bell will be sounded at **9 minutes** and a continuous bell at **ten minutes**. Teams will be penalised if they continue speaking beyond the time limit.

Article Selection

One (1) article will be chosen from the three (3) articles provided as stimulus material. Teams should concentrate upon the criteria for adjudication when preparing their material. It is expected that the articles offered by the Section Convener will represent significant contemporary ethical issues which will lead to discussion involving social, religious and ethical dimensions.

Criteria for Adjudication:

Students should aim to discover the relationship between contemporary issues and relevant social, moral and/or religious beliefs. Wider reading and research may be useful.

The adjudication criteria will be based on the team's ability to:

1. Understand the central ideas
 - a. Understand the theses of the article, i.e. the main ideas the writer wants to convey
2. Evaluate the Argument
 - a. Understand how the thesis is explained, defended and supported
3. Assess the effectiveness of the article
 - a. To what degree does the writer succeed? How effective are the chosen methods, examples, language, style, voice, etc? Where do they agree or disagree with the writer's viewpoint? Where do they think the writer was wrong – factually, in emphasis, in any other way?
4. Explore Social, Moral and Religious Connections
 - a. Explain how the chosen article explores the relationship between sound social policies, moral principles and/or religious beliefs. Are religious notions used to criticize political or social arrangements? Or is the position reversed?

This section will be marked out of a total of 50 marks.

Religious and Ethical Questions' Adjudication Guidelines

Adjudication Process

The competition will be adjudicated by three adjudicators. The adjudicators will prepare 3 sets of questions (the same set of questions for all three of the articles?), 1 set for each of the articles. The set of questions for each article should essentially follow the same pattern to allow for consistent evaluation. **The adjudicators should try to avoid asking compound questions. If a compound question is asked, it should have no more than two parts to it. The sets of questions should be submitted to the Convener at least one week prior to Festival.**

Presentation and Questioning

Each participating team presents separately.

The adjudicator should not prompt team members for more information during questioning, nor give any indication of assent or disapproval as team members speak. No adjudication is given after each team presentation.

Final Adjudication

In making the final adjudication at the end of the competition, the adjudicator should give a **brief** summary of their decision, providing constructive comments for improvement where possible. There are 5 places awarded, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th.

2025 Section Conveners

PLC Sydney – Gwen Dabaja, SCEGGS – Dynielle Whitney & Santa Sabina - Evangelia Stivactas

Religious & Ethical Questions Adjudication Form

School: _____

Participants' Names: _____

Topic Nominated: _____

<p>Knowledge of Text</p> <p>Discussion of the main ideas in the article</p> <p>Use of relevant examples to support arguments.</p>	/ 15
<p>Application of Knowledge</p> <p>Comprehension and examination of selected material.</p> <p>Exploration of the relationship between relevant social, moral and/or religious beliefs</p> <p>Relevance of conclusions with supporting evidence</p>	/ 15
<p>Clarity of Thought</p> <p>Clarity, logicity, and development of arguments and discussion.</p>	/ 10
<p>Clarity of Expression</p> <p>Clarity of voice and conviction in ideas.</p>	/ 5
<p>Team Presentation</p> <p>Equality of team member contribution to discussion.</p> <p>Demonstrated engagement and collaboration skills</p>	/ 5
TOTAL	/ 50

Adjudicator's Signature _____ Date: _____

Speaker's Soapbox Guidelines

Participation

Each school may enter **1 Junior and 1 Senior students**. Names and outlines of speeches must be submitted to the adjudicator at least one week prior to the event.

Section Overview

Soapbox in terms of its original format (i.e. Speakers' Corner) was a place where speakers aired issues, with passion, on matters that were close to their hearts.

Students will identify an issue that they are passionate about, then stand up and deliver an original three - four minute "rant speech" to their peers, the audience and adjudicator, on a raised platform at an outdoor venue. If the weather is wet, an alternative venue will be provided. A microphone will be provided.

Festival Soapbox welcomes light-hearted, unique and emotive speeches where pet peeves can be aired. Please note that this event differs from a highly persuasive, formally delivered, and structured speech.

This event requires students to craft a speech around a grievance or issue, in a persuasive and emotive manner. A solution may be offered but is not necessary. Some research and evidence of points raised should be expected. The rant may be serious but the event encourages light-heartedness such as: "Cats are better than dogs", "Neighbours should be required to put bins out before 11pm", "Why can't we speak in slam? (and here's my attempt - the rest of the speech is delivered a la slam)

Format / Presentation

Part A Speech – A three-to-four-minute pet peeve speech, being an emotive or "what gets my goat" speech injecting passion, persuasion and lots of personality!

The use of notes is permitted but reliance on notes will adversely impact the speech. The use of a microphone is optional.

Part B Two minutes of heckle questions -In line with the notion of the original Soapbox, heckle questions will follow the student's speech. The adjudicator will formulate two brief heckle questions to which the speaker must respond in an impromptu manner.

Responses to the **two** questions should be a maximum of two minutes (with no penalty for going undertime). Not responding to the heckle will reduce effectiveness of the overall presentation. There is no preparation time given to respond to the heckle.

Procedure

Topics, names of speakers, year group, school and outlines will need to be submitted to the **Festival Adjudicator** of this section, at least one week before the event. A link to an online form will be provided.

When presented to the **school convener**, student's speeches must have a coversheet stapled to the front of their speech including name, grade, title and a dot point outline of content. Offensive and highly controversial topics will not be accepted. Coordinators should be familiar with students' material and should collect it in time to pass on to the adjudicator, one week prior to the Festival.

Soapbox Adjudication Guidelines

Success of the rant is based on the student's knowledge of their topic, addressing any objections or concerns raised by the adjudicator and focuses on student's ability to maintain composure during the Heckle.

Marking

Manner: 30% manner. Effective use of voice including projection, eye contact, stance, gestures, tone.

Matter: 30% matter. Contributions will be judged on overall content, delivery, structure and overall impact of both sections. Humour, engagement, passion, and emotive language. Supporting material may indicate evidence or research.

Questions: 30% impromptu questions (Two heckle questions)

Impact: 10% engagement/ impact on audience. Points are up for grabs! By observation and anecdotal evidence (did audience applaud warmly, was there laughter/ audible positive reaction, were a few people nodding).

No written feedback will be provided, however a document containing general adjudicator feedback will be circulated to schools after the event.

2025 Section Convener

IGSA – Sonia Berry & St Catherine's School – Stuart Roberts

Soapbox Adjudication Form

Individual adjudicators should allocate each student a mark out of 30 for Speech Content, a mark out of 30 for Manner, a mark out of 30 for responses to Heckle questions and a mark out of 10 for Impact on audience.

Under no circumstances are marks to be divulged to competitors

Student	Topic	School	Speech / 30	Manner / 30	Questions / 30	Impact / 10	Total	Rank
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

Adjudicator's Signature **Date:**