

A) Judging Criteria

(1) International Speech contest (ISC)

Content 50% of which

a) Speech development – structure, organization, support material (20%)

The way a speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose, and this structure must include an opening, body and a conclusion. A good speech immediately engages the audience's attention and then moves forward toward a significant conclusion. The development of the speech structure is supported by relevant examples, illustrations, facts, and figures, delivered with such smoothness that they blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.

b) Effective- achievement of purpose, interest, reception (15%)

Measured in part by the audience's reception of the speech, but a large part of the judge's subjective judgment of how the speech come across. The judge should ask himself such questions as "Was I able to determine the speaker's purpose?" "Did the speech relate directly to such purpose?" "Was the audience's interest held by the speaker?" "Was this speech appropriate for this particular audience?"

c) Speech value – ideas, logic, original thoughts (15%)

Justifies the act of speaking. The speaker has a responsibility to say something meaningful and original to the audience. The listeners should feel the speaker has made a contribution to their thinking. The ideas should be important ones, although this does not preclude a humorous presentation of them.

Delivery (30%) of which

a) Physical – appearance, body language (10%)

Presentation of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous or instructional. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning.

b) Voice – flexibility, volume (10%)

The sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard and the words easily understood.

c) Manner – directness, assurance, enthusiasm (10%)

The indirect revelation of the speaker's real self as the speech is delivered. The speaker should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions.

Language (20%) of which

a) Appropriateness - speech purpose and audience (10%)

Appropriateness of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.

b) Correctness – grammar, pronunciation, word selection (10%)

Correctness of language ensures that attention will be directed to what the speaker says, and not how it said. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.

B) Timing

For international speech contest: each speech is to fall within 4.5 to 7.5 minutes. The green light, amber light, and red light would be switched on after 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0 minutes respectively.

Note: for all contests, upon being the red light being switched on, the red light will remain on until the end of the presentation by the contestant. There is no indication of overrun of time, if any.

C) Eligibility

For international speech contest, contestant needs to sign off “in compliance with the current speech contest rules, I certify that I alone prepared my speech and that it is substantially original”.

For international speech contest, contestant needs to sign off, confirming that he has done up to speech # 6 in the Communication manual.