

2025-26 Arabic Speaking Competition

# Student Preparation Guide

## Introduction

The Arabic Speaking Competition (ASC) is a chance for you to use Arabic to talk about something that you care about and show off your Arabic speaking skills. We've left the prompts open-ended so you can pick something relevant to your interests.

The format of this Competition is designed to help you practice for different types of speaking tests, such as the AAPPL, STAMP 4S/4SE, GCSE speaking exam, or other proficiency tests that can help you earn credentials that recognize your language skills. Although every test has its own format, preparing for the ASC can help you feel more comfortable speaking Arabic and give you a chance to explore topics that commonly appear in assessments.

## Judging Criteria

The judges will score entries based on these five categories:

- Creativity – the judges want to see you tackle one of the topics in an original way that includes interesting details.
- Organization– does the speech make sense? Are your ideas in order?
- Vocabulary & pronunciation – are you using a variety of vocabulary, or repeating the same words over and over? Can the judges understand the words you use?
- Grammar & usage – is your grammar clear and understandable?
- Delivery – the judges want to see a confident and natural-sounding speech. This means you sound like you know what you're talking about and you're not reading from a script.
- Q&A – the judges want to see you use Arabic in a conversational/spontaneous way.  
This is another way to demonstrate that you know what you're talking about.

All participants should use Arabic throughout the Arabic Speaking Competition, but it is up to you and your teacher to decide on the variety of Arabic. QFI recognizes all forms of communicative Arabic for the purposes of the ASC. Students preparing for MSA-only exams may wish to exclusively use MSA so that their entry is a component to their exam preparation. Students who are preparing for more flexible exams or working on a particular dialect may wish to focus more heavily on dialect usage.

## Preparation Advice

1. Start by talking to your teacher. Let them know that you're interested in participating and come up with a plan together.
2. Prepare your speech (up to 2 minutes) based on one of the following topics:
  - a. Family
  - b. An important person or place in your life
  - c. Hobbies/likes and dislikes
  - d. A day in my life
  - e. Travel
  - f. Music
  - g. Environment
  - h. Celebrations
  - i. Education
3. Practice your speech! This can take lots of different forms depending on what works for you. Here are some ideas to get you started:
  - a. Practice with a friend, classmate, or family member. Imagine you are the judge and ask them a few questions at the end of their speech, then switch roles. What did you learn?
  - b. Set a timer and say as much as you can about your topic before it goes off. Then, do it again and focus on smoothing out your ideas, adding more details, taking fewer pauses, or other goals you're working towards.
  - c. Instead of writing out your whole speech, write down a list of the most important words and practice putting them together out loud.
  - d. Create a practice recording and then listen to it. Use the Competition rubric and score it yourself.
  - e. Brainstorm questions that the judges might ask you about your presentation, then try to answer them.
  - f. Remember, the judges are looking for natural-sounding presentation that you're interested in! They will take off points if you read word-for-word from your notes.
4. Complete your entry form and ask your parents/guardians to complete the consent form. These are both required parts of the submission. Ask your teacher for a copy if you don't have one.



Competition  
Consent Form

## How To Record Your Entry

1. Before you record:
  - a. Make sure that you have filled out the entry & consent forms. Your teacher should have a copy for you.
  - b. Practice running through your introduction and speech so you feel confident when it's time to record.
  - c. Prepare your recording space. You want somewhere that is quiet and doesn't have a lot of background noise, so that it's easy to hear you. If you're submitting a video entry, the camera should be placed on a stable surface at about eye level. Your teacher does not need to be in the video, but they should be nearby so their questions can be heard clearly during the Q&A section at the end of your recording.
  - d. You have the option to submit an audio recording if you are uncomfortable submitting a video. If you choose this option, please be extra careful to record in a quiet space. Judges will apply the same grading criteria to video and audio submissions.
2. When you start recording, begin with a short introduction. You should include:
  - a. Your name
  - b. Your age
  - c. Your school, city, and country
  - d. How long you've been learning Arabic
  - e. The title of your presentation
3. Give your prepared presentation on one of the 9 topics. This portion of your presentation should be 2 minutes or less. Make sure you're not reading!
4. Finish your recording with a short question & answer section with your teacher.
5. After you record:
  - a. Rewatch your video or relisten to your audio to ensure that you are happy with the recording, and that it is easy to hear you and your teacher throughout.
  - b. Please do not edit your recording. You may trim the start and end of your recording if there is empty space.
  - c. Your final recording should be no more than 3.5 minutes. It is okay if the final recording is shorter, especially if you are new to learning Arabic.
  - d. If you make the recording on your own device, please send it to your teacher so they can submit it.