

2024 Arabic Speaking Competition

Competition Guidelines

Introduction

QFI invites students to showcase their talents in the Arabic language by taking part in the Arabic Speaking Competition. The Arabic Speaking Competition 2024 continues its mission of nurturing the learning of the Arabic language among students in the UK while also celebrating their linguistic achievements and creativity. This competition is an inspiring and inclusive event that encourages young learners to become confident speakers of and advocates for the Arabic language by:

- raising the profile of Arabic as a global language
- increasing student's motivation for learning Arabic
- developing vocabulary and improve pronunciation and speaking skills
- raising confidence for oral examinations
- fostering creativity and innovation
- inspiring students to discover more about Arab cultures
- celebrating the skills of young people who are studying the Arabic language

QFI invites teachers to work with their Individual learners of Arabic aged 10-18 to record an oral presentation at a language level appropriate to their learning. Individual learner presentations may last up to a maximum of 2 minutes, but can be shorter, especially for beginners.

The competition will be followed by the winners being announced in late May and recognized at an Arabic Speaking Celebration Event in late June/early July 2024.

Format of competition

To participate in the 2024 Arabic Speaking Competition, students will be required to record a 2-minute audio presentation of a spoken text in Modern Standard Arabic (fuSHa) created by themselves related to one of the following themes: Friendship, Music, Environment, Education, Likes and Dislikes, A Day in My Life, or A Person or Place I Like. They will be encouraged to be creative and innovative.

Each entrant will complete an accompanying entry form explaining why they chose the piece they are recording, what message the piece is sending to other young people, and what their favourite words/phrases in their created text are. This form can be completed in English or Arabic.

Each entrant will submit a sound recording of their presentation. Their recording will begin with them saying their name, age, school, location, how long they have been learning Arabic, and the title of their oral submission followed by their spoken presentation. The recording may include an accompanying slide or illustration of the entrant's own creation with images and/or text in Arabic. (Please be aware that copyrighted images should not be included).

Entries will be judged in two categories: mother tongue/heritage language speaker, and non-heritage/non-native language speaker, and at four age levels: Primary, KS3, KS4 and KS5. The emphasis throughout will be on creativity and language use. While schools (state and supplementary) will submit entries, entries from individuals

not affiliated with a school will also be considered for this competition if submitted through a teacher.

If a school has more than 10 entries, the school is responsible for selecting and submitting the 10 best entries. Please note that the criteria for short listing the 10 entries should not be based purely upon fluency, and should showcase a range of backgrounds and skill levels.

A second short listing of the entries submitted to QFI will then be conducted by a panel of judges.

An awards ceremony will be held where up to 30 finalists will be recognized for their outstanding achievements and will receive a certificate and prize celebrating their dedication and language skills. Several winning students may be invited to recite in-person their entries at the event. The ceremony and the performances will showcase how beautiful, imaginative and creative Arabic as a world language can be. You are welcome to [watch last year's ceremony](#) with your students.

Categories

The supervising teacher (the teacher coordinating the entries and who is the main link between the school and the competition) should ensure the students are entered for their appropriate category level. This competition is for fun, to encourage the spark of learning, and allow children to shine and show off their Arabic language skills across the varying levels.

The categories are based on the age and background of the learner.

Native speaker/heritage speaker

- Primary
- KS3
- KS4
- KS5

Non-native/non-heritage/beginner

- Primary
- KS3
- KS4
- KS5

NB we hope that this guide gives enough indication to teachers as to where their students would be. If you have any questions or queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to ask at ukarabic@qfi.org.

Themes

Students will choose from one of eight themes for their presentation. The themes are:

- A Day in My Life
- A Person or Place I Like
- Likes and Dislikes
- Friendship
- Music
- Environment
- Education

Eligibility

Students aged 10-18 from any school in the UK can apply through their teacher for the competition. Supplementary/Weekend schools and Private Tutors are also eligible to enter students. Students should not enter as individuals, only through a teacher.

2024 Timeline

| Competition Stage | Timeframe |
|---|--------------------|
| Competition Announced and Advertised | February 2024 |
| Webinar for teachers explaining logistics of how the competition will work | February 27, 17:00 |
| Deadline for schools to submit interest form / enter competition | March 12 |
| Schools/teachers conduct competition, shortlist entries, submit recordings and student information sheets (and consent forms) | March and April |
| Deadline to submit content, competition closes | April 30 |
| Judging period | May 1 – May 31 |
| Winners announced | June |
| Celebration event for winners | July |

How to apply and submit student recordings

- Fill out the school registration form by **March 12** here: <https://forms.gle/cPdyygZA2LJQ9kwZ9>
- Once registered, each school will be sent a link to a folder where you can upload your students' recordings and their entry forms before the submission deadline. Teachers working with individual students will also receive a link.
 - All audio files should be submitted in **MP3 format**
 - All slide/illustrations should be in **PDF** or **JPEG** format (no raw PPT files please).
 - Each file (audio file, entry form, any slides/illustrations) should be **clearly labelled** in English with students' first name, last name, category/level: (FirstName_LastName_Category_Level)
 - Ex: Henry_Jones_Non-heritage_Primary

There will be a support webinar before the competition where we will run through the process of the competition and submitting recordings of student performances.

Judges

The Competition will be judged by an experienced group of judges who are either native Arabic speakers, or fluent second language Arabic speakers.

Scoring Criteria

The judges are looking for real communication rather than a rehearsed memorised performance. The winner of each category will be someone who has really got to grips with Modern Standard Arabic appropriate to their level of learning.

Each individual will be assessed by two independent judges, each scoring against the following criteria:

| | | Scoring |
|---------------------|---|---------|
| Creativity | The piece is original, thoughtful, and is not copied or plagiarised. The entrant has provided meaningful and unique perspective on their piece and a nice explanation as to why they have chosen the topic. | 1-5 |
| Language Use | The entrant uses Modern Standard Arabic throughout the presentation at a level commensurate with the amount of time they have been learning the language. This involves such aspects as pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. | 1-5 |
| Performance | The performance is engaging and displays enthusiasm and confidence. | 1-5 |

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The supervising teacher must adhere to their own school's child protection, behavioural standards, safeguarding, and IT regulations when overseeing student participation in the competition.

Preparation for the Competition

Schools should select no more than 10 students to enter in the competition.

- Schools should submit entries from a range of backgrounds and language skills.
- Please reference the judging categories above when selecting submissions.

We encourage teachers to attend the online workshop for more information on organising the selection within your school.

Terms and Conditions for Entering the Competition

General Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

Schools are responsible for checking the eligibility of all students. Entries that will not be changed after the closing date. Submissions that are political or religious in nature will not be accepted.

Entry deadline

Entries must be submitted by the closing date, April 30, 2024. Entries that do not meet this deadline will not be accepted.

Originality

By entering the Competition, the supervising teacher confirms that the work is that of the student(s). Plagiarism will not be accepted, and performances must be original. The submitting member of staff also agrees that to the best of their knowledge, each student complies with the entry criteria for the particular category that they have entered. If it transpires that inaccurate information has been provided that changes a student's eligibility, then said student may be disqualified. We reserve the right to make further inquiries into the background of the candidate if suspicions arise regarding their eligibility.

Incomplete or incorrect entries

Responsibility cannot be accepted for incomplete entries, delivered incorrectly, corrupted or those not received for whatever reason.

Prizes

All entrants will receive a certificate of participation from Qatar Foundation International (QFI). We will offer a prize to the category winners at an awards ceremony, the details of which will be announced in due course.

Privacy Notice

QFI will use the information that you are providing for organising the Arabic Speaking Competition Event. The legal basis for processing your personal data is consent/contract (T&Cs).

In addition to your school's privacy and data protection policies, QFI processes personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as well as national regulations of the EU member states. Regarding our data processing in the UK, QFI additionally complies with the UK Data Protection Act 2018.

You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information.

If you do not agree to the intended use of your videos and/or photos you are free to decide not to participate. If you are under 16 years of age, your parents or other legal guardians must agree with your participation.

You can withdraw your consent at any time. Please note that the withdrawal is only effective for the future. Processing that took place before the withdrawal is not affected.