



## Lajna Ima'illah USA Ijtema Syllabus 2019

Allah <sup>swt</sup> says in the Holy Quran: 13:29

أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ ﴿٢٩﴾

*Aye! It is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort.*

*‘When people gather together for the remembrance of Allah angels surround them, mercy envelopes them, tranquility descends upon them and Allah makes a mention of them before those who are near Him’ [Muslim].*

### **Purpose of Ijtema**

“The purpose of these Ijtemas is to enable members to benefit from the educational and spiritual programs and speeches and to rid themselves of any shortcomings they may have. Also, the younger and older girls may participate in various educational competitions to improve their knowledge and sharpen their spiritual capabilities.”

“These gatherings provide an atmosphere that promotes discussion and identification of ways and means of self improvement. Any society, whose young girls and ladies gather in one place with the intention of spending their time in a purely spiritual atmosphere and engage in activities for self improvement, the future generations of that society are safeguarded, also it does not suffer from a decline.”. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V <sup>aba</sup> address to the Lajna Annual Ijtema, UK on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.

“Remember that the sole purpose of such events is not to carry out competitions only but is an avenue for gathering to listen to good words of advice and improving your religious knowledge. I hope that your speeches and competitions would have proved fruitful in achieving this” (Hazrat Amir ul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V <sup>aba</sup>.)

**Theme of 2019 Lajna USA Ijtema: *OUR LIVING GOD***

### **Goals of 2019 Ijtema**

- Improve moral and spiritual standard of participants
- Promote a spirit of peace, unity and love for each other
- Enhance righteousness, elevate spirituality and promote sisterhood in future generations
- Attendees of Ijtema return with more knowledge that becomes a part of their daily lives

## **General Guidelines and Suggested List of Activities**

*The proceedings of Ijtema should begin with recitation of the Holy Quran and Pledge (Hadith is not required but is included) after which the Ijtema program for the whole day and rules and regulations should be announced prior to conducting each section of the Ijtema. (Lajna Ima'illah USA Constitution pg.6)*

### **General Recommendations and Rules:**

- The host Region where Ijtema is held should be the overall in charge of Ijtema planning and its program. Other Regions should assist the host Regional Sadr.
- Each day the program should begin with Tilawat, Pledge, and then program should start.
- Participants names should come from Local Sadr through Regional Sadr
- Some competitions may run side by side.
- Ample time should be given to prepare for the Ijtema.
- Some links for information
  - <https://www.alislam.org/>
  - Suggested theme for the Local, Regional and National Ijtemas:

A brief description of activities planned for the Ijtema is provided below. The programs should be well thought-out and should capture the essence of the Ijtema theme. The presenters and co-coordinators should be carefully chosen. Try to bring new presenters each year.

### **Workshops/Panel discussions**

Theme for workshops from the 2018 shura proposals; **“No Lajna left behind”**

- How to encourage studies and employment in research
- The role of women as home-makers and researchers
- How to show respect to your children (Show respect to children in adolescents, teens and young adults)
- How to show love and respect to mothers (Mothers with young children, Young adults showing respect to the elderly and mothers with special needs children)
- What is the meaning of a safe zone in the mosque and how do you create a safe zone in the mosque

### **Scholarly Speeches**

There should be 1-2 scholarly speeches delivered by learned Lajna members.

Examples for speech topics:

- Certainty of Faith
- Our living God
- Importance of Research in Islam

## **Competitions and Other Activities**

### **The Holy Quran Competition**

There are two types of competitions for Holy Quran:

- Tilawat (Qir'at): Recitation of the Holy Quran with correct pronunciation and melodious voice.
- Hifz (Memorization): Memorization of given verses of the Holy Quran with correct pronunciation.

### **Poem (Nazm) Competition**

A Poem (Nazm) competition is for proper Urdu pronunciation and melody. The Urdu poem selection from the poetry of Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Khulafā are spiritually uplifting and full of prayers.

### **English Poetry Competition**

Members are encouraged to present their own poem in English. Recited poem should be of a religious nature. Poetry should be first submitted to the Regional Sadr for pre-selection.

### **General Knowledge Competitions:**

There should be an interactive program to increase the religious knowledge of the members. A few choices are;

History of early periods of Islam, of Ahmadiyyat in general and Ahmadiyyat in USA

## **Detailed Description of Activities and Competitions**

### **The Holy Quran Competitions**

#### **1) Hifz-e-Qur'an Competition**

This competition is to encourage memorization of the Holy Qur'an and the translation. Participants may select any one of the three choices. Require members to choose the option that they don't already know.

Chapter 3: 174-176

Chapter 8:3-5

Chapter 33:23-25

**Rules:**

- Participants will memorize all given verses of the Surah with translation
- Two or three judges should test one person
- Use the following criteria for judgment

<b>Hifz-e-Qur'an Criteria</b>	<b>Points</b>
Correct Pronunciation (Tajwīd rules)	20
Correct rules of recitation (i.e. stop sign, pause)	20
Memorization	30
Translation	20
Total	70

**2) Quran Recitation/Qira'at Competition**

This competition is to encourage the beautiful recitation of the Holy Quran: ‘...and recite the Qur’an slowly and thoughtfully’ (73:5) (memorization not required)

Chapter 41:31-33

Chapter 59:23-25

Chapter 24:36

Chapter 02:256

**Regional Sadrs may add other verses on the topic**

**Rules**

- Present any one set of verses from selected verses (By Regional Sadrs) in a melodious voice
- Memorization is not required for this competition
- Lajna certified teachers should be the judges (if they are not available then a learned Lajna member can serve as a judge)
- Use the following criteria for judgment

<b>Qira'at Competition Criteria</b>	<b>Points</b>
Correct pronunciation (Tujweed rules)	20
Correct rules of recitation (i.e. stop sign, pause)	20
Melody	20
Total	60

## Poem (Nazm) Competitions

### 1. Urdu Poem (Nazm) Competition:

There should be a Poem (Nazm) competition for melody and memorization of poems from the following books be sure to have the English translation:

1. **Durre Samin** (Precious Pearls, written by Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>)
2. **Kalame-Mahmood** (Words of Mahmood, written by Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>)
3. **Kalame-Tahir** (Words of Tahir, written by Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup>)

### Suggested Nazms for competition:

### Regional Sadrs are welcome to add more Nazms

Maarfat-e-Haq last 4 Couplets (Durre Sameen)  
Haqiqi Ishq Gar Hota...First 4 couplets (Kalaame Mahmood)  
Ummul Kitab First 4 couplets (Durre sameen)

### Urdu Poem Rules:

- a. Only three couplets of a poem are enough for presentation, but it can be decided locally
- b. Judgment will be based on melody, memorization and correct pronunciation
- c. Couplet should not be repeated
- d. Every participant must provide their selected couplets in Urdu and their English translation to their Sadr before Ijtema by assigned date
- e. Use the following criteria for judgment

Urdu Poem (Nazm) Criteria	Points
Melody	20
Clarity and Correct Pronunciation	10
Memorization	10
Total	40

### 2. English Poetry Competition: Poem (nazm) in English (Optional Activity)

### English Poem Rules:

- a. Original work, written by the presenter
- b. Religious topic
- c. Maximum of 10 or 12 lines
- d. Use the following criteria for judgment

English Poem (Nazm) Criteria	Points
Melody	20
Clarity and Correct Pronunciation	10
Subject and Compilation of thoughts	20
Total	50

### 3. Qasida Competition:

Another option for poem competition is to recite poetry in Arabic and Qasida is the best choice. This activity can be held in two ways:

- a) Melodious presentation of the memorized portion of the Qasida
- b) Memorization competition of the assigned part of the Qasida that can be checked by judges in a separate room.

### **Baitbazi: (competition of memorization of couplets from the following books)**

Baitbazi should include poetry from the following books:

1. Duresimin (written by Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>)
2. Kalame Mahmood (Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>)
3. Dure'adin (Hazrat Nawab Mubarika Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> )
4. Kalame Tahir (Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>th</sup> )
5. Bukharay Dil (Hazrat Mir Ismaeel<sup>ra</sup> )

### **Speech Competitions**

Impromptu speeches should be on the theme of the Ijtema and could be both in English and Urdu based on the audience. The topic of the speeches will be the same for both languages and the same rules will apply.

This activity could be one out of the following three types:

1. Impromptu speech competition (Speak unprepared on any topic)
2. Extempore speaking with competition on the given topic
3. Prepared speeches
4. Answer a question (This activity is sharing ideas related to the issues we face in our daily lives through question/answer format, as impromptu speaking. A number of prepared questions are offered to the participant and one question is randomly selected. The answer may include personal experiences but participants are encouraged to use guidance and references from the Holy Quran, Ahadith, quotes of Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Khalifatul-Masih.

#### **Rules:**

#### **Impromptu Speech Competition:**

- Time allotted for each topic is maximum four minutes.
- When the participant selects a topic she will be allowed two minutes to think about what she would like to say about the topic. At this time she can make any notes she wants to.
- There is no requirement for quoting Qur'an, Hadith, or Malfoozat but if the speaker does use any of these references they will acquire one bonus mark for each.

- Once a topic has been picked from the basket it will not be returned. This way each participant will have a chance to speak on a different issue.

### **Prepared Speech Competition**

- Participant can speak for 5 minutes
- References from Holy Quran, Hadith and Malfoozaat or books of the Promised Messiah.
- Speech should be within the time allowed.

### **Topics for Lajna speeches may include:**

- Existence of God
- Scientific evidence of the Existence of God
- What does life after death mean?
- Ta'alluq Billah- Relationship with Allah
- Islamic Concept of Heaven and Hell
- Experiences concerning dreams and visions of the next life
- Trials- Blessing or Punishment?

## **Workshops/Panel discussions/Speech**

The Workshops/Panel discussion should be interactive. In large Regions where attendance is high and space is available, more than one workshop/program can be going on at the same time on different topics. This will provide an option for members to attend the program they are interested in. The programs should not be long as audience lose interest.

As an option there could be a Workshop Competition. This can be arranged by having Workshop/Presentation by each region on given topics and judges should decide which one is the best.

### **Rules:**

- One group from each Region should participate in the workshop/presentation
- Presentation time should be 10-15 minutes and 10 minutes for Q & A
- Audience are allowed to ask questions. But for the competition Workshop/presentation both judges and the public can ask questions

## **General knowledge Competition**

1. Game Format-Jeopardy or some other similar game

Topic: **Our Living God**

Book: Philosophy Teachings of Islam (Assign pages relevant to the topic in advance for preparation. Suggestion; pages 46-68)

Book: Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth (Assign pages in advance for preparation. Suggestion is Believe in the Unseen 271-291)

Source: Most of the questions will be from the above sources  
<https://www.alislam.org/library>

Questions will be asked on the topic from the sources provided. Members are expected to learn the subject at home and come prepared to participate in the game. It is preferred to include all attendees in this activity but it can be planned for willing participants in a group format as well. Themes for the workshops from the 2018 Shura proposals Slides, clips, and/or short videos (optional)

Small excerpts from sermons can be run as slides and/or clips of short videos from MTA can be shown and questions can be asked to the audience.

### **Rules:**

- Answers should not be provided prior to the competition.
- Groups can be formed from the audience or preplanned groups by region can be formed for this competition.
- If a question is not correctly answered by the participants then that question can be asked from general attendees
- Questions for this activity will be provided by National Taleem Department close to Ijtema

### **Cooking, Handicraft Competition and Fundraising:**

- An opportunity for Lajna members to display their talent and share others talent. These activities can be exhibition or competition.
- Members enjoy observing the talent of other members, and enjoy learning skills from others, especially cooking and handicraft. If possible there could be some interactive demonstrations related to these areas.
- In addition, fundraising for Lajna special programs such as Lajna Hall can be arranged at the Ijtema.
- Talent Exhibition for sale or just for competition
- Fundraising different stalls of food and drinks
- Handicraft stalls could be personal or Jama'at

These competitions "...promotes the youth and elderly working together..."  
(Encourage the youth to pair with elderly for these competitions)

(Also you May use Jalsa Salana handicraft competition criteria and rules for this activity)

### **Fund Raising for Lajna Hall:**

Handicraft and baking competition items can be sold and donated for Lajna Hall.



A special fundraising effort can be made for Lajna Hall fund.

**Health:**

**A health activity on one of the following topics like;**

- 1) You are what you eat
- 2) Memory challenging activity
- 3) Exercise activity or Sport Competition

**NOTE: If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Ijtema Syllabus please contact National Secretary Taleem sister Hajja Dr. Amtul Rehman Ahmad Sahiba at [taleem@lajnausa.net](mailto:taleem@lajnausa.net) or Text: 510-512-6009. *Wa Salaams.***