

Lajna Imaillah USA

National/Regional Lajna Ijtema 2018 Program

“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 (atba) address to the Lajna Annual Ijtema, UK on 19th 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 (atba)).

Goals of 2018 Ijtema

- Improve moral and spiritual standard of participants
- Promote a spirit of peace, unity and love for each other
- Increase in righteousness and instill goodness and morality in future generations
- Increase the knowledge of attendees and inspire them to make this knowledge as part of their daily lives

2018 Lajna USA Ijtema Theme

1. Love and High Regard for Khilafa

List of Activities

A brief description of activities planned for the Ijtema is provided below.

Workshops/Panel discussions/Speech

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.

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

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Competitions and Other Activities

The Holy Quran Competition

There are two types of competitions for Holy Quran:

1. Tilawat (Qir'at): melodic recitation of the Holy Quran with correct pronunciation.
2. Hifz (Memorization): memorization of given verses of the Holy Quran with correct pronunciation.

Poem (Nazm) Competition

A Poem (Nazm) competition for melody and memorization can be held. The Urdu poem selection from the poetry of Promised Messiah^{as} and Khulafā is most beneficial and full of prayers, which are spiritually uplifting.

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. History of early period of Islam, of Ahmadiyyat in general and Ahmadiyyat in USA in particular can be incorporated in the program.

Speech Competition

There could be two types of competitions:

1. Impromptu speech could be a competition, or just extempore speaking without competition on the given topic.
2. Prepared speech competition for age group 15-25 can be held side by side with other competitions. This will require prior speech competitions held at the local Ijtema so that only the best can participate in the National/Regional Ijtema.

Cooking, Handicraft Competition and Fundraising: An opportunity for Lajna members to display their talent and view others. 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.

Fundraising for Lajna special program such as Lajna Hall can be arranged at the Ijtema.

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Detailed Description of Activities and Competitions

Workshops/Panel discussions/Speech

The Workshops/Panel discussion should be interactive. In large Regions where attendance is high and space is available then 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 loose 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.

Suggested Topics:

- 1. Blessings of Khilafat**
- 2. State of the Muslim world without Khilafat**
- 3. Establishment of divine Khilafat in Islam**
- 4. Establishment of divine Khilafat in Jama'at Ahmadiyya**
- 5. Khalifa is appointed by Allah**
- 6. Love of Allah through devotion to Khilafat**
- 7. First four Khula'fa of Jama'at Ahmadiyya**
- 8. Khilafat-the key to unity and peace**

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
- Questions can be asked by the audience. But for the competition Workshop/presentation both judges and the public can ask questions

The Holy Quran Competitions

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.

1. Surah Al-Nūr 24:56-57
2. Surah Al-Ahzāb 33:46-49
3. Surah Al-Naml 27:63-64
4. Surah Al-Mu'min 40:1-4 & Surah Al Baqarah 2:256

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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

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

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)

Qira'at Verses:

1. Surah Al- Jumu'ah 62:1-5
2. Surah Al- Jumu'ah 62:10-12
3. Surah Al Furqan 25:72 – 75
4. Own choice of a similar length

Rules:

- Present any one set of verses from these options 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

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

Poem (Nazm) Competition

1. Urdu Poem (Nazm) Competition:

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

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1. Durre Samin (written by Promised Messiah^{as})
2. Kalame-Mahmood (written by Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Masih II^{ra})
3. Kalame-Tahir (written by Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Masih IVth)

Urdu Poem Rules:

- a. Only two 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.

General knowledge Competition

1. Game Format-Jeopardy or some other similar game

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Topic: Khilāfat-e-Rāshidah

Source: Most of the questions will be from the first source

<https://www.alislam.org/topics/khilafat/>

<https://www.alislam.org/library/articles/khulafa-e-rashideen-rightly-guided-successors/>

Few questions from the book 'Khilāfat-e-Rāshidah' Page 49 to 75

<https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Khilafat-e-Rashida.pdf>

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.

2. 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 Ijtemah

Optional Activities and Competitions

Speech Competition

Lajna age 15-25 are encouraged to participate in the English speech competition.

Speech Topics:

1. Institution of Khilafat, a blessing for humanity
2. Importance of Khilafat
3. Prophethood (Nubuwwat) and Khilafat
4. Khilafat, the key to the victory of Islam

Rules:

- Speech must be written by the participant
- Speech should be well prepared, memorization not required

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- Speech should begin with the recitation of Kalima Shahadat
- Speech should include references from the Holy Quran, Hadith and writings of Promised Messiah^{as}, and Khulafa
- Duration of speech time 4 minutes

Impromptu Speech

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
2. Extempore speaking without competition on the given topic
3. 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^{as} and Khalifa-tul-Masih.

Rules:

- 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 wishes to use any references they are free to do so.
- 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.

Handicraft & Baking Competition:

(Use Jalsa Salana handicraft competition criteria and rules for this activity)

Baitbazi:

Baitbazi should include poetry from the following books:

1. Duresimin (written by Promised Messiah^{as})
2. Kalame Mahmood (Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra})
3. Dure'adin (Hazrat Nawab Mubarika Begum Sahiba^{ra})
4. Kalame Tahir (Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IVth)
5. Bukharay Dil (Hazrat Mir Ismaeel^{ra})

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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.

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, Hadith and Nazm
- 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/friday-sermon/2014-06-06.html>
 - <https://www.alislam.org/urdu/pdf/Barkat-e-Khilafat.pdf>
 - <https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Blessings-of-Khilafat.pdf>
 - <https://www.alislam.org/library/articles/passage-quran-khilafat/>

Special Competition

Holy Quran Translation:

Learning the translation of the Holy Quran is an important part of our religious knowledge. We should learn the translation of the first half of the Part 1 of the Holy Quran, in English or Urdu during the year of 2018. A national test will be conducted at local level in October 2018. A special certificate will be awarded at the National/Regional Ijtema of 2019.