

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

2021

Guidance for
Adjudicators



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
discovering voices





Prepared Speeches

Notwithstanding the general principles laid out above, when adjudicating a prepared speech, adjudicators should consider the guidance for speakers for prepared speeches set out in the 'Guidance for Speakers' document (and should consider that part of the adjudication guidelines for prepared speeches).

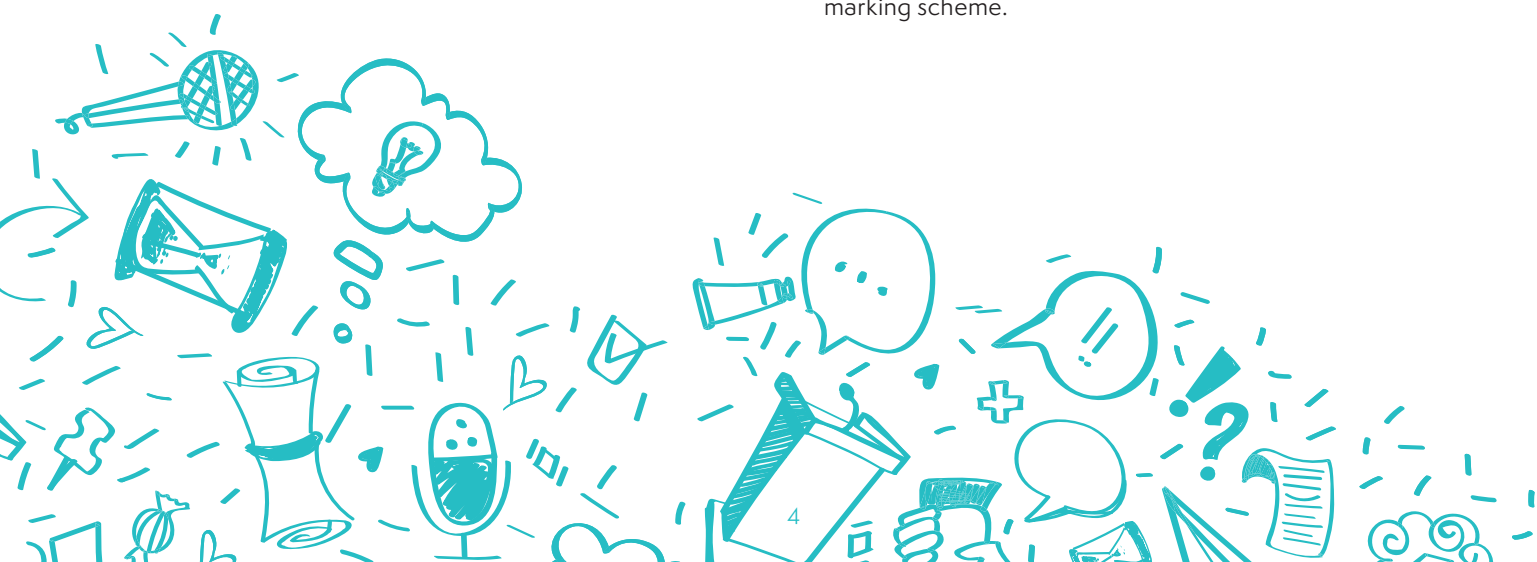
The key point for adjudicators to bear in mind for the heats and the grand final is that all speakers will have had a considerable amount of time to interpret the theme, choose a topic and a title, research the topic, write a speech and practice delivering that speech.

It should be evident from the speech that the speaker has researched and thought about the chosen topic, and the arguments in the speech should be supported by an appropriate level of evidence and/or analysis. It should be evident from the question period that the speaker has a reasonable level of background and/or ancillary knowledge relating to the topic. Speakers who demonstrate an ability to reinforce their arguments by reference to additional evidence or analysis, not contained in their speech, should be rewarded.

It should also be evident from the speech that the speaker has not learnt their speech word for word. Speakers who demonstrate a sense of spontaneity, while also appearing prepared (making effective use of notes if necessary), should be rewarded.

Finally, the IPSC is not an English language exam. Even when adjudicating speakers who have had a considerable amount of time to prepare their speeches; adjudicators should not penalise speakers for occasional grammatical errors, mispronunciations etc.







Feedback

The IPSC is an invaluable opportunity for participants to be exposed to a range of world-class speakers and adjudicators, providing them with the chance to learn new skills and improve their public speaking techniques. Adjudicators play an integral part in that educational process, by providing constructive feedback to speakers after the competition.

When giving feedback, adjudicators should bear in mind that each speaker is a national champion and has therefore achieved huge success already by earning their place in the competition. Adjudicators should also bear in mind that, even though there is a certain extent to which adjudication is subjective and intuitive, decisions are more likely to be understood by speakers and coaches if they are justifiable by reference to the objective criteria laid out in this handbook. This also allows speakers to focus on the specific area(s) where there is room for improvement.

Adjudicating is also a valuable learning experience for public speaking and debating coaches in particular. It gives them an insight into how their own speakers can be successful from an adjudicator's point of view. It also hones their skills as coaches and enhances their ability to deconstruct and critique a speech, and give constructive feedback.

