

A Guide for Judgment in Competitions of Recitation of the Holy Quran

Translated from instructions given by

Hafiz Burhan Muhammad Khan sahib
(Professor, Jamia Ahmadiyya Junior, Rabwah)

Three criteria should be observed when judging in the competitions of recitation of the Holy Quran:

1. Accuracy of Pronunciation
2. Ease and Expertise in Delivery
3. Melodiousness

1: Accuracy of Pronunciation

For this criteria, articulation of the letters with their proper sounds and characteristics (*makhaarij* and *sifaat*) should be observed. Some detail of these characteristics is as follows:

- *Tafkheem* (heaviness in articulation) of following letters: خص ضغط قظ; 'ل' in the word الله, preceded by fathah or zammah; 'ر' bearing *fathah* or *zammah*, or bearing *sukoon* preceded by *fatha* or *zammah*
- *Tarqeeq* (lightness in articulation) of letters (all the rest of the Arabic alphabet)
- *Izhaar* (articulation of ن *saakin* and ن of *tanween* clearly and firmly with short sound, followed by any of the 6 throat letters: نهحخغخ)
- *Ikhfaa* (articulation of ن *saakin* and ن of *tanween* softly with nasal sound and prolongation of sound). *Ikhfaa* in م *saakin* followed by ب
- Application of *qalqalah*, (in 5 letters of قطب جد)
- Gentleness or firmness of sound,
- *Traakhi* (softness in articulation with prolongation of the sound) in ن and م bearing *tashdeed*, and و and ي bearing *tashdeed* preceded by ن *saakin* or *tanween*,
- *Sur'at* (articulation of the letters bearing *tashdeed* without prolonging the voice over them)
- *Qasr* and *madd*, (articulation of short vowels, long vowels and excessive long vowels properly)
- Etc.

2: Ease and Expertise in Delivery

- How well and how skillfully the reciter employs the rules of pronunciation in delivery of the verses. And whether the application of the rules sounds natural, and free of strenuous formality and artificiality. [Application of rules should sound natural and not artificial or forced.]

3: Melodiousness

- In addition to correct pronunciation and appropriate application and delivery of the general rules of *tajweed*, it should be determined how skillfully the reciter delivers the verses beautifully, melodiously, and in a way that complements the inherent meaning of the text.
- The level of general appeal and attraction of the recitation should also be noted.

Note: Reciters who wish to appear in the Certification Test for teaching recitation of the Holy Qur'an should concentrate on first two criteria given above.

1. Accuracy of Pronunciation
2. Ease and Appropriateness of Delivery
3. Melodiousness

۱: صحیح تلفظ: (اقتباس قرآن شریف میں یہ ایک برکت ہے کہ اس سے ذہن صاف ہوتا اور زبان کھل جاتی ہے) (نمبر ۱)
 مخارج و صفات حروف، ترتیب و تقخیم، ساکن حروف کی ادا میں اظہار و اختفاء، تقلقلہ ہزنی یا مضبوطی،
 مشدد حروف کی ادا میں سرعت یا تراخی، آواز میں قصر (یعنی چھوٹا پڑھنا) یا مد و غیرہ۔

1: Accuracy of Pronunciation

[The following are some of the points that should be observed in determining correct pronunciation:]

- Articulation points (*makhaarij*) and characteristics (*sifaat*) of the letters,
- *Tarqeeq* (thinness) and *tafkheem* (thickness, fattening) of letters,
- *Izhaar* (making clear) or *Ikhfaa* (hiding) of sound, in *saakin* letters,
- Application of *qalqalah*,
- Gentleness or firmness of sound,
- Fluency (*sur'at*) or paused prolongation (*taraakhee*) of *mushaddad* letters,
- Brevity (*qasr*) of sound or elongation (*madd*), etc.

۲: حسن آواز: (اقتباس: عمدہ تقریر خوش الحانی سے کی جائے تو اس کا بھی اثر ہوتا ہے۔) (نمبر ۲)
 تلاوت کرنے والا صحیح تلفظ کے قواعد کو کس حد تک عمدگی اور مہارت سے استعمال میں لاتا ہے، ان کا استعمال
 کس حد تک طبعی ہے اور تکلف، فصیح اور بناوٹ سے مدبّر اور پاک ہے۔

2: Ease and Appropriateness of Delivery

[The points to consider when judging this criteria are:]

- How well and how skillfully the reciter employs the rules of pronunciation in delivery of the verses. And whether the application of the rules sounds natural, and free of strenuous formality and artificiality. [Application of rules should sound natural and not artificial or forced.]

	<p>۳: خوش الحانی: (اقتباس: خوش الحانی سے قرآن پڑھنا بھی عبادت ہے اور بدعات جو اس کے ساتھ ملا لیتے ہیں وہ اس عبادت کو ضائع کر دیتی ہیں) (نمبر ۲)</p> <p>تلفظ کی درستی اور تجوید کے عمومی قواعد کے اطلاق کے ساتھ ساتھ آواز میں خوبصورتی، اتنا چڑھاؤ اور عبارت میں موجود مضمون کے مفہوم کے مطابق کیفیات ادا میں کس حد تک مہارت جھلکتی ہے۔ نیز یہ کہ تلاوت میں عمومی طور پر جاؤ بیت اور کشش موجود ہے!</p>	
<p>3: Melodiousness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to correct pronunciation and appropriate application and delivery of the general rules of <i>tajweed</i>, it should be determined how skillfully the reciter delivers the verses beautifully, melodiously, and in a way that complements the inherent meaning of the text. • The level of general appeal and attraction of the recitation should also be noted. 		