

Activities



Research

Hymns & Tasbehah

Coptic Language

Drama & Mime

Praise & Music

Arts



Creative Writing

Multimedia & Technology

Sports





RESEARCH

Description:

The Research Competition is an opportunity for participants to go deeper in their faith. They will research, exchange ideas, and improve their communication skills while competing for prizes.

Guidelines:

1. The research competition is for Gr. 3 and above.
2. The research paper must be related to the theme "Be My Witness".
3. Below is a list of suggested topics that connect with this year's theme:
 - Symbols of the Cross In The Holy Bible
 - Faith Facts In The Lord's Prayer
 - How Did God Prepare The World For The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Fasting In Our Coptic Church And Its Importance
 - One Essence And Three Hypostases
 - How To Benefit From The Holy Liturgy
 - Dogma of Incarnation
 - How To Be Witnesses To Our Lord Jesus Christ In Our Life
 - The Vessels Of The Altar
 - Lessons Learned From The Book Of Esther
 - St Karas The Hermit
 - The Well Rounded Personality And Its Characteristics
 - Team Work And Its Importance
 - Jesus' Five Parables About The Kingdom Of God
 - Dogma of Intercession
 - The Miracles Of Jesus Christ & His Authority On Nature

Other topics may be considered but will require approval from the research committee. Please send your topic to research@mahragan.ca for approval.

4. Submissions must be in Arial 12 point font and double spaced. Diagrams with references may be included but are not counted towards the total page count.
5. Page count per Grade:
 - Gr. 3 and 4: 2 - 4 pages
 - Gr. 5 and 6: 3 - 6 pages
 - Gr. 7 and 8: 4 - 8 pages
 - Gr. 9 and 10: 5 - 10 pages
 - Gr. 11 and up: 7 - 15 pages

6. Groups participating in the Research activity may have one or more submissions. If there is more than one submission representing the group, the higher mark will count as the group mark in Research.
7. The research project may be presented in the form of a poster, a brochure or an essay.
8. A bibliography must also be included with the submission. Please note that all research papers must be the student's original work. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will negatively affect your mark.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit one soft copy to research@mahragan.ca and two hard copies by the date of final submission; one with name, grade and Church and the other with no information.

See online calendar for submission dates.

Steps for research:

1. Select a topic and think of a specific thesis (have a question your research will answer)
2. Choose appropriate resources (books, online publications, etc.)
3. Identify the key information you will use and its source (through highlighting, annotating, etc.)
4. Reword the key information in your own words
5. Add the reworded information to your final copy
6. Include your source in your bibliography

Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Mark
Writing Conventions <i>Spelling, punctuation, grammar</i>	Frequent significant errors may impede readability	Control of most writing conventions; occasional errors with high risks	Strong control of conventions; errors are few and minor	Exceptionally strong control of standard conventions of writing	/4
Organization	Lack of structure; disorganized and hard to follow Missing or weak introduction and conclusion	Attempts at organization; may be a "list" of events Beginning and ending not developed	Strong order and structure Inviting introduction and satisfying closure	Effectively organized in logical and creative manner Creative and engaging introduction and conclusion	/8
Information	Few aspects of the selected topic are addressed.	Some aspects of the selected topic are addressed.	Most aspects of the selected topic are addressed.	All aspects of the selected topic are addressed.	/8
Quality of Research Information	Information presented has little to do with the main topic	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1- 2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	/8
Theological Accuracy	Information does not align with the teachings of the church	Some major inaccuracies with the theology in the information	1 or 2 minor inaccuracies with the theology in the information	All ideas are aligned with the teachings of the church	/4
Bibliography	Identified no appropriate sources in any format	Identified a few appropriate sources but made little attempt to balance format types	Identified mostly appropriate sources in a variety of formats	Identified highly appropriate sources in a variety of formats	/4
Presentation of the Research	Information is not presented in a neat and/or creative method that conveys their information appropriately	Information is somewhat presented in a neat and/or creative method that conveys their information appropriately	Information is presented in a neat and/or creative method that conveys their information appropriately	Information is presented in an extremely neat and/or creative method that conveys their information appropriately	/4
Connection of Research with the Theme	Topic selected and details presented do not show a connection with the theme	Topic selected and details presented somewhat connect with the theme	Topic selected and details presented show a clear connection with the theme	Topic selected and details presented show an extremely clear and effective connection with the theme	/8

HYMNS & TASBEHA

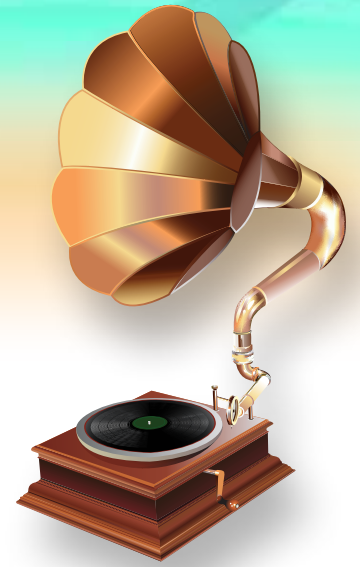
Description:

The Hymns and Tasbeha Activity is an opportunity to learn the beautiful hymns cherished by our rich Coptic Orthodox Church.

Guidelines:

1. Visual aid may be used for lyrics only, not with “hazaat”.
2. Participants can sing individually or in groups of up to 5 people.
3. Every participant will be graded individually, even if they sing in groups.

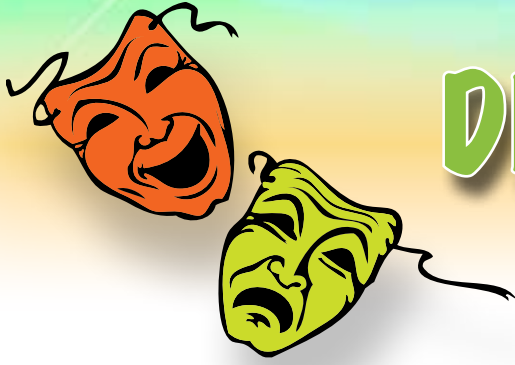
Grading criteria will be posted online separately.



Coptic Language



See separate file in Downloads section



DRAMA & MIME

Description:

This competition is intended to foster good ethical, social and Christian values through the presentation of drama or mime performances.

Competition Guidelines:

1. The drama and competition is for grades 1 and up, with each group competing against their own age.
2. The production must relate to the theme of Mahragan 2014, "Be My Witness" and should be drawn from our Church spirit, values and traditions.
3. The production must be in one of the following Dramatic Forms: short plays, pantomime scenes with music/narration, tableaux, or anthology.
4. Scripts should emphasise creativity, effectiveness and positive themes (bonus marks will be awarded for original scripts written by participants).
5. The storyline should NOT be in the form of a sermon or a lesson.
6. The use of flammable materials is prohibited during the production.
7. Complete running time should not exceed 30 minutes.

Evaluation Criteria for Short Plays and Anthologies:

1. Blocking and Staging: actors and set are clearly visible at all times; stage space is fully used; movement is purposeful and well rehearsed. /10
2. Storyline: a complete, creative and original story is presented with a clear beginning, middle and end, and a positive message related to this year's theme "Be My Witness."

OR

Topical Scenes: all scenes are NOT NARRATIVE (no through-line of characters) but are creatively linked to the chosen topic related to this year's theme "Be My Witness;" entire anthology demonstrates a minimum of 3 dramatic techniques (tableaux, thought tracking, mime, mask, scripted dialogue, monologue, choral speaking, movement, puppetry, song, etc). /20

3. Commitment: energy, focus, memorization, listening and reacting, engaging. /10
4. Voice: projection, clarity, emotional range, and expressiveness. /10
5. Characterization: expressive, engaging and believable characters are created through movement, facial expression, and gestures. /20
6. Production Elements: thoughtful use of costume, props, set, lighting (if available) and sound; production elements are well chosen and suited to the performance. /10
7. Preparedness & Overall Production Value: evidence of preparation; performance is polished and professional; smooth execution; doesn't exceed 20 minutes. /20

TOTAL /100

Note: Bonus marks will be awarded for original scripts.

Evaluation Criteria for Abstract Forms (Mime/ Choral Movement/ Tableaux):

1. Technique: MIME/MOVEMENT--The use of gesture, movement/choreographed group movement and facial expression without dialogue to communicate story, character, relationships, and emotion. Actors use large & specific movements; storyline is clear made clear with accompanying music and/or narration; group moves as one ensemble; accurate timing; strong emotional impact.

OR

Technique: TABLEAUX—"A group of silent, motionless figures used to represent a story, theme, or abstract idea (e.g., peace, joy)." /10

2. Strong use of stillness, levels, facial expression & gesture, composition (depth, focal point, balance/imbalance), and conflict to tell the story; transitions are smooth, slow, and well choreographed; storyline is clear through the images and music. /10
3. Storyline: a complete, creative and original story is presented which contains a strong, hopeful, positive message related to this year's theme "Be My Witness." /20
4. Commitment: energy, focus, memorization, listening and reacting, engaging. /10
5. Characterization: expressive, engaging and believable characters are created through movement, facial expression, and gestures. /20
6. Production Value: use of abstract dramatic forms allows audience to be fully involved and engaged in performance. /10
7. Production Elements: appropriate and meaningful use of costuming, narration (optional), and music/sound effects to enhance performance value; set and props should either be all mimed or all real--consistency is key. /10
8. Preparedness: evidence that rehearsal time was used wisely; performance is polished and professional; smooth execution. /10

TOTAL /100

Note: Bonus marks will be awarded for original scripts.



Praise & Music

Description:

Praising God is not just a group activity. The teachings and traditions of our Church fathers clearly show how praise is considered prayer and how God's presence could be felt during praise that flows from the heart.

Competition Guidelines & Evaluation Criteria:

The Praise and Music contest will be divided into 3 separate competitions: Choir, Solo or Instrumental.

Choir Performance:

1. The choir competition is for all ages.
2. The performance must relate to the theme of Mahragan 2014, "Be My Witness" and should be drawn from our Church spirit, its values and traditions.
3. All teams are required to present in harmony and unity reflecting a prayerful spirit throughout all performances.
4. A pamphlet must be prepared and 5 copies are to be presented to the judges on performance day. The pamphlet should include the following: Church name, Team / Group name, Age Group and all of the song lyrics.
5. The choir performance must not exceed 15 minutes.
6. Each performance may include one old heritage song (3 minutes only, regardless of its original length). Teams can select a few lines of the song(s) to stay within the time frame. Each performance can have 3 additional short songs for a maximum of 15 minutes in total.
7. Technical difficulties related to sound equipment will not result in any mark deductions. The choir should continue to perform and present normally.
8. Songs chosen for the choir performances must be in English.

Solo & Duet Performance:

1. The Solo & Duet competition is for Gr. 3 and up.
2. In a Solo or Duet performance, contestants are required to present part of a song with or without music. This is different from a solo performance within a choir.
3. The Solo & Duet performance must not exceed 3 minutes.

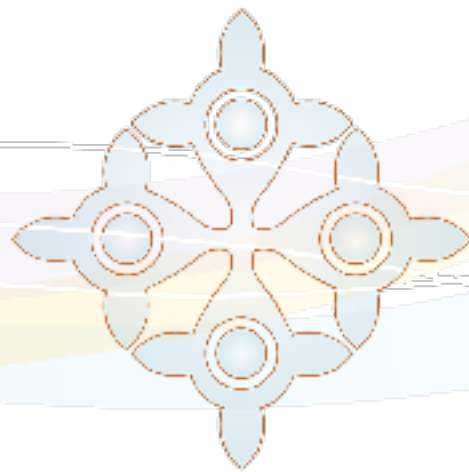
Instrumental Performance:

1. The instrumental competition is for Gr. 3 and up.
2. Participants may choose to do a solo performance or perform within a group.
3. The musical instrument performance must not exceed 3 minutes.
4. Avoid playing heavy beats or inappropriate music that is inconsistent with the spirit of our Church or the atmosphere of praise which this musical exercise is meant to create.

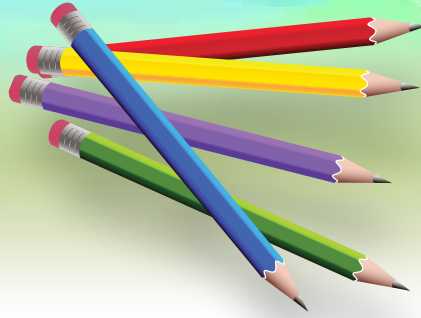
Evaluation Criteria:

The evaluation will be based on 3 main criteria:

1. Main Message and Purpose (25%)
2. Performance (40%)
3. Music Tunes and voices (25%)
4. Within time limit (5%)
5. Relates to theme (5%)



Arts



Description:

This competition is intended to foster artistic creativity within a Christian context while competing with other Mahragan participants.

Guidelines:

1. Choose one of the projects below and make sure to relate it to the theme of the Mahragan 2014, "Be My Witness".
 - Dry Media: Any two-dimensional work done with dry media such as pencil, pastel, crayon, charcoal, etc. or combination done on paper or other flat surfaces.
 - Oil/Acrylic Painting: Any oil based or synthetic based (such as acrylic or alkyd) painting done on a two-dimensional surface such as canvas or hardboard (No Bristol Boards).
 - Photography: Any image created by the use of camera, whether film or digital. Images must be printed on paper no smaller than 8x10 inches.
 - Sculpture/Carving: Three-dimensional sculptural work created by carving or modeling. May be figurative or non-figurative.
 - Wet Media Painting: Any water based media such as transparent watercolor, opaque watercolor, water based tempera or any combination of these done on a two-dimensional surface. Includes acrylic thinned down to the consistency of watercolor done on paper (No Bristol Boards).
 - Woodwork: Wood pieces formed by the use of mechanical aids such as saws, sanders, etc. This includes furniture, musical instruments, tools, toys, etc... whether functional or decorative.
 - Handcraft: Any handmade item with artistic emphasis that does not fit into any other category such as mosaic, stained glass or pottery paint.
2. All art projects must be the original work of the presenter and should reflect his or her creative ability and cannot include any printed or copied images from books, magazines, catalogues, newspapers, the internet etc...
3. Groups participating in the Arts activity may be represented by one or more members of the group and have one or more art projects. If there is more than one project representing the group, the higher mark will count as the group mark in Arts.
4. All work must be done by the competitor. Grades will be negatively affected if the work is clearly not at the level of the competitor.
5. At the final presentation, all work must be clearly labelled with the name(s) of the competitor(s), their grade, Church name, and a brief explanation of the project.
6. THE MAHRAGAN COMMITTEE AND/OR THE CHURCH ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ART WORK AFTER THE TIME OF EXHIBITION.

Evaluation Criteria:

Evaluation of the production will be based on the following aspects, as follows:

Category	4	3	2	1
Overall Visual impact	Unique. Has lasting impact to viewers.	Cohesive work. Holds attention of viewers.	Little impact on viewers	No impact on viewers
Elements and Design	Planned carefully. Showed awareness of elements and principle of design. Chose color schemes carefully; used space effectively	Participant applied principles of design while using one or more elements effectively; The space is filled adequately	Participant did the assignment in a satisfactory manner, but it shows lack of planning	Little evidence of any understanding of elements and principles. No evidences of planning.
Creativity/ originality	Artwork demonstrates a unique level of originality.	Artwork demonstrates good idea.	Artwork lacked sincere originality	Artwork shows little or no evidence of unusual idea.
Effort	Participant gave an effort beyond the requirements of the project	Participant completed project in an above average manner, yet more could have been done	Participant finished project, but lacks finishing touches and can be improved with little effort	Participant did not finish work in a satisfactory manner
Craftsmanship/ Skill	Artwork is outstanding and was finished with a great deal of patience	Participant showed above average craftsmanship and understanding	Participant showed average craftsmanship and understanding	Participant shows poor craftsmanship or lack of understanding
Age Level Skill	Artwork reflects actual skill of age level	Artwork reflects adequate skill of age level	Artwork reflects minimum skill of age level	Artwork does not reflect actual age skill

Creative Writing



Description:

The creative writing competition includes two categories: Poetry and Short Story. Poetry is a rhymed or unrhymed verse which develops a central theme or image. A short story is a fictional piece which utilizes setting, plot, and characterisation to reveal an implied theme.

Competition Guidelines:

1. The creative writing competition is for all ages.
2. The work must relate to the theme of Mahragan 2014, "Be My Witness" and should be drawn from our Church spirit, its values and traditions.
3. At the final stage of the competition, submit two copies of your work. Only one of the copies must contain a plain, undecorated title page clearly indicating your Church, your name, and the title of your work.
4. Recommended word count per grade for short stories:
 - SK: up to 100 words with pictures
 - Gr. 1 and 2: 100 - 200 words
 - Gr. 3 and 4: 200 - 500 words
 - Gr. 5 and 6: 500 - 800 words
 - Gr. 7 and 11: 800 - 1000 words
 - Gr. 11 and up: 1000 - 1500 words
5. Recommended line count per grade for poetry:
 - Sk: 3 to 5 lines
 - Grade 1 - 2: 5 to 8 lines
 - Grade 3 - 4: 8 lines
 - Grade 5 - 6: 10 lines
 - Grade 7 - 8: 15 lines
 - Grade 9 - 10: 18 lines
 - Grade 11 and up: 18 +
6. Groups participating in the creative writing activity may be represented by one or more members of the group and have one or more submission. If there is more than one submission representing the group, the higher mark will count as the group mark in creative writing.
7. All submissions must be the student's original work. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will negatively affect your mark.

Evaluation Criteria:

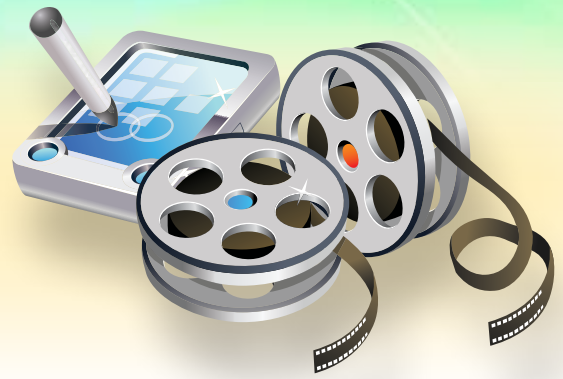
Criteria for evaluating stories

1. Idea and purpose – 10%
 - The idea has to be serious and must have a purpose.
2. Creativity and Choice of words – 10%
 - New way of treating an issue
3. Clarity and Brevity – 10%
 - The vocabulary must be clear and easily understood. Use of archaic language should be avoided.
4. Arrangement & Flow of Sentences – 20%
 - Creates natural flow of events, or creative arrangement of events that inspire interest or intrigue
5. Use of figurative language – 10%
 - Using allegorical or metaphorical language to illustrate the main idea.
6. Grammar and composition – 10%
 - Vary your syntax
7. Efficiency in producing the desired effect upon the reader – 10%
 - No unnecessary phrasing
8. The overall effect of the story – 20%

Criteria for evaluating poetry

1. Idea and purpose – **10%**
 - The idea has to be serious and must have a purpose.
2. Creativity and choice of words – **10%**
 - A new way of treating an issue
3. Clarity and Brevity – **10%**
 - The vocabulary must be clear and easily understood. Use of archaic language should be avoided.
4. Rhythm – **20%**
 - Creates rhythmical echo appropriate to the intention of the poem
5. Use of figurative language – **10%**
 - Using allegorical or metaphorical language to illustrate the main idea.
6. Grammar and composition – **10%**
 - Vary your syntax
7. Efficiency in producing the desired effect upon the reader – **10%**
 - No unnecessary phrasing
 - Don't use words just to fill out the missing rhythm
8. The overall effect of the poem – **20%**

MULTIMEDIA & TECHNOLOGY



Description:

This competition is intended to foster the creativity and technical ability of the participants and to utilize the latest technology in serving God in a Christian context.

Competition Guidelines:

1. The multimedia competition is for Gr. 3 and above.
2. Choose one of the projects below and make sure to relate it to the theme of the Mahragan 2014 "Be My Witness".
 - Graphics: Create a computer image. Suggested Programs: Photoshop or Twisted Brush
 - Web Design: Design a webpage. The webpage may include images and/or music. Suggested Programs: FrontPage or WebDwarf or ChocolateBanana or StrawBerryMango.
 - Multimedia: Create a video or a slideshow. Suggested Programs: Windows Movie Maker or PowerPoint
 - Computer Game: Create any Christian computer game. Suggested Program: Game Maker 8
 - Mobile Application: Create a mobile app. Suggested Program: Qt Creator
3. All projects must be the original work of the participant and should reflect his or her creative ability. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will negatively affect your mark.
4. Groups participating in the Multimedia activity may be represented by one or more members of the group and have one or more submission. If there is more than one submission representing the group, the higher mark will count as the group mark in Multimedia.
5. At the final submission, the project must be handed on CD, DVD, our USB and cannot be submitted by email.
6. All resources used should be consistent with our Orthodox beliefs, whether images, movies, songs or data. All references should be included.
7. During the final presentation, the competitor must bring his/her own laptop ready to run the multimedia project for evaluation purposes.

Evaluation Criteria:

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Topic/Content	Covers topic completely and in depth. Includes properly cited sources and complete information. Encourages readers to know more.	Includes essential information with most sources properly cited. Includes enough elaboration to give readers an understanding of the topic.	Includes some essential information with few citations and few facts.	Includes little essential information and one or two facts.
Technical Capability	Includes at least 5 or more graphics or 5 or more animations and several advanced features, such as video.	Includes at least 3 or more graphics or 3 or more animations and several advanced features, such as video.	Includes fewer than 3 graphics or 3 animations and several advanced features, such as video.	Includes fewer than 3 graphics or 3 animations and no advanced features, such as video.
Mechanics	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization are correct. No more than 2 errors in the text.	Includes 3-5 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Includes 6-9 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Includes more than 10 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.
Oral Presentation Skills	Communicates ideas with enthusiasm, proper voice projection, appropriate language, and clear delivery	Communicates ideas with proper voice projection. Adequate preparation and delivery.	Some difficulty communicating ideas, due to voice projection, lack of preparation, or incomplete work	Great difficulty communicating ideas. Poor voice projection. Little preparation or incomplete work.

SPORTS



Description:

The sports competition emphasises sportsmanship and teambuilding skills. It can be an enjoyable way to get to know and spend time with different Church participants.

Competition Guidelines & Evaluation Criteria:

General:

1. All players should only compete in their respective age groups and respective gender category.
2. A form will be provided for each competition to be completed by each team providing the names of all the team members and their grade.
3. Any player who demonstrates non-Christian behaviour will be dismissed from the competition.
4. If a player is penalized during a game, he/she will not be permitted to play the next game.
5. The referees' decisions are final and should not be disputed. In the case of a valid objection, a formal complaint should be presented to the Mahragan committee.
6. Any team who is not punctual will automatically be disqualified.
7. The competitions will be organised on a league basis with semi-finals and finals, for each sport.
8. Any Sports competition that has less than 10 participants will be cancelled.

Relay (Grades SK-4)

1. Competing teams must have an equal number of players.
2. Each player will run about 30 meters and back, passing the baton to the next player on his or her team. This will be repeated until all of the players on the team have had a turn.
3. The team that completes the relay in the least time wins.

Soccer (Grades 1 & up)

1. Each game will run for up to 20 minutes.
2. If the two teams tie in the game, penalty shots will be taken.
3. Substitutions will be allowed at any time during the game, but only two substitutions are allowed per game.

Basketball (Grades 3 & up)

1. Each game will run for 20 minutes, with an intermission of no more than 2 minutes.
2. If the two teams tie at the end of the game, there will be an overtime of 5 minutes.
3. Substitution will be allowed at any time during the game.

Table Tennis (Grades 3 & up)

1. The team winning 2 out of 3 games is the winner.
2. Each team is allowed only one time-out.

Chess (Grades 3 & up)

1. The team that wins 2 out of 3 games is the winner.