



2011 Academic Contest Rules

I. General Rules

- 1) Contestants should arrive at the test centers 10 minutes before contest time to get contest instructions. Students arrive after the contest has started will be considered as giving up the chance to compete, thus will not be allowed to enter the test center.
- 2) For the honor of the contestants' own school, all students and parents are advised to follow the rules set by the school, respect all proctors and the school's decision regarding test results.
- 3) All test papers with names or unnecessary markings will be disqualified.
- 4) ANCCS Academic Contest winners are not allowed to enter the same age group of the category that they won. However, they can enter older age groups of the same category.
- 5) No parents are allowed in the test centers during testing.
- 6) Contestants in all the speech or read aloud categories are not allowed to say their names or their schools' names.
- 7) Only designated personnel from the organizing committee are allowed to photograph, audio record, or video tape the contest process.
- 8) The judging process will begin after competition has completed and all non judging personnel have left. Category leaders will direct the process in an efficient manner.
- 9) Contest result will be announced within 3 days of the competition. Award ceremony will be set on a later day. All parents are welcome.
- 10) Contest result is final after judges have signed the papers unless there are proofs of rule violation.
- 11) Except for Brush Calligraphy, test papers are to be written horizontally.

II. Judging General Rules

- 1) Categories with no answer keys: Pencil Calligraphy, Brush Calligraphy, Western Painting, Chinese Painting, Composition, Mandarin Read Aloud, Translation, Speech categories, and Chinese Typing judging rules are as follows:

a) Judges will follow the judging rules to determine participants' positions. The best will be in the first place, then the second best. Order will be lined up to the ninth place. All the rest will be the tenth. Only one person per position.

b) The winner of each group is determined in the following manner: the winning positions from all the judges are added up for each contestant: The smallest number will be the first place winner, second smallest number will be in the second place, and then the third. If there are more than 5 judges, each student's highest and lowest judges' scores will be taken away from calculation.

c) If there are more than one student getting the same score, the one with more first position from judges will win. If there is the same number of ones, compare the number of twos. The same rules will apply to the rest of the positions.

2) Categories with answer keys: Phonetics, Hanyu Pinyin, Dictionary, and Comprehension:

a) Winner list is determined by the actual score of contestants.

b) If there are the same scores from more than one contestant, judges will have to decide according to the contest rules.

3) Second round judging: if winner cannot be determined according to the above method, second round (and is also the last round) of judging is called for. If common consensus cannot be reached, the whole group of judges and the category leader will vote to determine the winner.

4) All judging decisions answer to the school only.

III. Information for Judges

1) Judges should arrive at the test center according to the time instructed by category leaders.

2) Upon arrival, please read all the Academic Contest Rules and sign.

3) No personal opinion should be expressed explicitly. Judges should not attempt to influence decision of other judges.

4) If second round of judging is called for, category leaders can direct judges to vote after a discussion.

5) Judges have to sign all the score sheets that turned in to the category leaders.

6) Please make sure that judging is completed by 4:30 PM

IV. Contest Rules for Individual Category

Speech (Mandarin Speech, Mandarin Impromptu)

1) Topics

Mandarin Speech:

Group A: 比讀書更重要的事

Group B: 從錯誤中學到的教訓

Group C: 假如我有一支魔法棒

Group D: 我想對老師講的話

Mandarin Impromptu: topic will be determined by on the spot drawing. Contestants have 30 minutes for preparation. No help is allowed.

2) The order of appearance is determined by lottery.

3) Judging criteria: content (30%), annunciation (25%), intonation (20%), manner (25%)

4) Speech duration: should be between two and a half minutes to three minutes. For all speeches: 5 points will be deducted if less than 2 minutes; 3 points will be deducted between 2 minutes 1 second to 2 minutes 29 seconds or between 3 minutes 1 second and 3 minutes 29 seconds; 5 points will be deducted for over 3 minutes 30 seconds and have to stop immediately.

Mandarin Read Aloud

1) Students choose from reading scripts decided by the ANCCS.

2) Order of appearance will be determined by lottery.

3) Judging Criteria: Non-verbal 40%, includes attire, appearance, eye expression, posture; verbal 60%, includes annunciation, intonation, quality of the voice, volume of the voice, and pausing positions of sentences and paragraphs.

4) Reading should present the spirit of the passages. Contestants should be able to show the emotion structure of the passages so that judges can see expressions directed by true feelings.

5) Contestants are to use their natural voices. No microphone is allowed.

6) Contestants have to hold their reading scripts. Hand Motions are not required but have to be natural and match the passages when used. Motions are not counted as one of the judging criteria.

8) Reading scripts are to be found on the school's website.

Composition

- 1) Group CD is composition from picture(s).
- 2) Dictionary is allowed. Only Chinese characters, Zhuyin Fuhao, or Hanyu Pinyin are allowed in the writings. Except for Group A, characters written wrongly or Zhuyin Fuhao or Hanyu Pinyin misspelled will not lead to point deduction.
- 3) Scoring criteria: relevance to the topic (40%), content (30%), grammar and vocabulary use (20%), paragraphs (10%).
- 4) Any writings that indicate contestant's identity will be disqualified.
- 5) Contest duration: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Translation

- 1) Contestants have to translate one Chinese essay into English (50%) and one English essay into Chinese (50%).
- 2) Answer sheet will be provided by the school.
- 3) Scoring criteria: content (50%), accuracy (25%), grammar (15%), vocabulary use (10%).
- 4) Original wordings, Zhuyin Fuhao, or Hanyu Pinyin can be used in the writings when a contestant does not know the correct translation. Judges will decide on point deduction.
- 5) Stationeries other than pen/pencil and paper are not allowed. (No dictionaries or writing pads are allowed.)
- 6) Contest duration: 1 hour.

Comprehension

1) Proctors only explain matters regarding the contest. They will not answer any questions related to the test content.

2) Contest procedure: Test papers will be distributed face down. Proctors will control the time and tell contestants when to turn over the test papers at the same time to start the test.

3) Group D's test's articles and questions are printed in Zhuyin Fuhao only. Pictures may be included. Tests for all others groups have both Chinese characters and Zhuyin Fuhao, but no pictures.

4) Test contents: Group A - 6 articles; Group B – 6 articles; Group C – 6 articles; Group D – 4 articles. Test questions include multiple choice questions, simple questions, or open-ended questions.

5) Scoring is by point deduction: multiple choice questions each carries 2 points. Open-ended questions each carries 5 points, judges can decide how many points to deduct according to the answer given.

6) Average score is calculated from scores given by all the judges to determine winning positions.

7) Proctors will write down the time a contestant turn in the test. When more than one contestant score the same after repeated evaluation, test turn in time will be used for placement decision.

8) Contest duration: 50 minutes.

Phonetics

1) Teachers will read out the questions with their backs facing the contestants. The latter will write down their answers. There will be 150 words of phrases, sentences and short paragraphs.

2) Questions will be read in the following manner: phrases will be read at speaking speed once, the second time will be read word by word, the third time will be read slowly. Long sentence will be read slowly three times. Short paragraphs will be read three times, sentence by sentence, pausing at punctuations.

3) Each word should be with the correct spelling and tone denotation written in the correct format to receive a full score.

4) Students have to write the phonetic symbols correctly. For example, 「ㄎ」 「ㄎ」 「ㄎ」 「ㄎ」 「せ」 should not have hooks while 「ㄎ」 「ㄎ」 「ㄎ」 「ㄎ」 「ㄎ」 should. Half of the score of what one word is worth will be deducted if any of the phonetic symbols is written incorrectly. The same mistake will only be counted once.

5) Tone denotations should be written at the correct position, that is, at the upper right hand corner of the last phonetic symbol. Half of the score of what one word is worth will be deducted if it is written in an incorrect position. The same mistake will only be counted once. No more than the worth of the word would be deducted for each word.

6) Proctors will write down the time a contestant turn in the test. When more than one contestant score the same after repeated evaluation, test turn in time will be used for placement decision.

Hanyu Pinyin

1) Teachers will read out the questions with their backs facing the contestants. The latter will write down their answers. There will be 150 words of phrases, sentences and short paragraphs.

2) Questions will be read in the following manner: phrases will be read at speaking speed once, the second time will be read word by word, the third time will be read slowly. Long sentence will be read slowly three times. Short paragraphs will be read three times, sentence by sentence, pausing at punctuations.

3) Each word should be with the correct spelling and tone denotation written in the correct format to receive a full score.

4) Participants should be familiar with the general and special rules of Hanyu Pinyin. For example, 儿 should be written as “er” while it will be denoted as “r” at the end of a phrase.

5) Tone denotations should be written at the correct position. Half of the score of what one word is worth will be deducted if it is written in an incorrect position. The same mistake will only be counted once. No more than the worth of the word would be deducted for each word.

6) Proctors will write down the time a contestant turn in the test. When more than one contestant score the same after repeated evaluation, test turn in time will be used for placement decision.

Dictionary

- 1) *SJCS uses the Far East Chinese English Dictionary (1995 or later editions). Contestants have to bring their own dictionaries. Do not use editions older than 1995 or Guoyu Ri Bao Dictionary. No markings are allowed in the dictionaries. The “Hard to Find Word List” 難字檢字表, “Zhuyin Fuhao Word List” 注音符號表 and the “Hanyu Pinyin Word List” 漢語拼音表 are to be pinned up during the contest.
- 2) Group A and Group B have 80 questions each, Group C has 60 questions. (The time at which each contestant turn in his/her test will be marked on the test paper.)
- 3) Each question have to include the followings: page number (the page on which this word first appears), radical, number of strokes of the radical, Zhuyin, the number of strokes besides the radical, circle the first phrase appears in the dictionary (choose one from two choices).
- 4) Any answer which does not contain a page number or with a wrong page number will not receive any points. (If the mistake is an obvious typo, or just off one to two pages, the judge can decide how many points should be deducted. Full score should not be deducted in such circumstances.)
- 5) The characters and the Zhuyin Fuahao should be written in a correct way. This criterion will be taken into consideration when there are more than one contestant getting the same score.
- 6) Only the radicals are allowed to be used to check the words. The “Hard to Find Word List” 難字檢字表, “Zhuyin Fuhao Word List” 注音符號表 and the “Hanyu Pinyin Word Lists” 漢語拼音表 are not allowed in the contest.
- 7) Proctors will write down the time a contestant turn in the test. When more than one contestant score the same after repeated evaluation, test turn in time will be used for placement decision.
- 8) Contest time: 50 minutes.

* ANCCS will only use the Xin Bian Guoyu Ri Bao Ci Dian 新編國語日報辭典 this year. Students representing our school will use this dictionary instead.

Pencil Calligraphy

- 1) The school will provide paper. Contestants will bring their own pencils and eraser.
- 2) No restrictions on how many pages of calligraphy a contestant can write. Contestants are only allowed to turn in one sheet of writing.
- 3) Scoring criteria: structure of each word and its appearance (40%), tidiness and evenness of color (30%), correct stroke order and accuracy (30%). Points will only be deducted from the same mistake once.
- 4) If there are more than one contestant getting the same score, the time which the contestant turn in the test paper will determine who is the winner.
- 5) Proctors will write down the time a contestant turn in the test. When more than one contestant score the same after repeated evaluation, test turn in time will be used for placement decision.
- 6) Contest time: 50 minutes.

Western Painting

- 1) Topics will be determined by the school and announced at the time of the contest. Proctors will further explain the topics when necessary.
- 2) Contestants will bring in media of their choices. The school will provide paper only.
- 3) Please specify at the time of registration if the contestant plans to use watercolor.
- 4) Judging is based on the whole picture.
- 5) If second round of judging is called for, creativity, use of color, theme, and structure of the picture will also be considered.
- 6) Contest Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Chinese Painting

- 1) Topic is to be chosen by the contestant.
- 2) Paper and medium are to be brought in by the contestant. There is no size restriction for the paper. No markings on the paper and no drafts should be brought into the test center. Contestant violating these two rules will be disqualified.
- 3) Judging is basing on the whole picture.
- 4) If second round of judging is called for, layout, brush skill, ink color and structure of the picture will be taken into consideration.
- 5) Contest Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Brush Calligraphy

- 1) The school will provide two pieces of “Xuan Zhi”宣紙 (15” x 30”, i.e., 35cm X 70cm) to each contestant. Chinese paint brush, ink, ink stone, paper weight, and other stationeries are to be brought in by contestants.
- 2) Copy books, calligraphy dictionary, or drafts prepared ahead of time are not allowed in the test center.
- 3) Please arrive 10 minutes before the contest to get the “Xuan Zhi” and instructions.
- 4) No punctuations. Contestants are not allowed to put their names on the test. All calligraphy styles are accepted.
- 5) Each line should run up and down and lines should start from right to left. Only one piece of work is accepted to the contest.
- 6) Judging Criteria: Structure of the whole page and calligraphy skill 60%, structure of each word 40%.
- 7) Three of the test questions of each age groups and contest details are to be found on the school’s website.
- 8) Contest Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Chinese Typing

- 1) Students will bring their own laptops, fully charged. There will not be electrical outlets available at the test center.
- 2) Proctors will not answer questions regarding computer usage.
- 3) Each student will open a new file on his/her laptop for typing. There is no limitation on input method. Students are required to type exactly what is on the test, word by word, sentence by sentence, and paragraph by paragraph, including punctuations. Leave a space for each missed word. Punctuations should be in Chinese format: for example: “ , ” , and “ ° ” .
- 4) Students are required to put their student ID number as file names: A13.doc, B01.doc. They need to stay until the proctors successfully transfer their files to the proctors' flash drives.
- 5) Students can type in either traditional or simplified Chinese, but combination is not allowed.
- 6) Contest duration: 50 minutes