

**MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC
SUNSHINE COAST BRANCH**



**RULES OF THE
2023 SUNSHINE COAST SPEECH CONTEST**

**Latest version of Speech Contest Rules available at
<http://www.mltaq.asn.au/> under Region/Sunshine Coast**

1. The Sunshine Coast Languages Speech Contest is an educational event organised by members of the Sunshine Coast Branch of the Modern Languages Teachers' Association Incorporated.
2. **Date:** Sunday 20th August 2023

Time: Judging takes place from 10:00am – 2:00pm
Winners will be announced after each judging section is Lecture Theatre 7, followed by results boards

Venue: USC Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs ('C' Block)

Closing Date for Entries: **Thursday 27th July 2023**
3. **Participants:** Languages include Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and **Spanish TBC**. Primary students from Year 5 to Year 6 and Secondary students studying from Year 7 to Year 12 within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area may **only** be entered in the contest by a teacher who is a member of the MLTAQ. In cases where there are very few educational institutions involved, other schools from outside this area may be invited at the discretion of the language convenor.
4. **Divisions:** There are 2 sections – Primary and Secondary. A separate entry form must be completed for each language and for each Section. Within these sections there are a number of divisions. There is a separate division for each language from Year 5 to 12 in each language eg Year 5 Chinese, Year 7 Japanese and Year 12 French. For each language, there are also Junior (Years 5 to 6), Middle (Year 7 to 9) and Senior (Years 10 to 12) Open Divisions. Students may enter more than one division **only** if they are in different languages. If there are more than 25 students in a division, divisions **may** be split at the discretion of the Speech Contest Convenor and Language Convenors.
5. **Number of Entrants:** There are different conditions dependent on the age group of the students. Each secondary school is limited to a maximum of three entries per division in years 9 - 12. Schools entering students in divisions from Years 5 – 8 may enter one student per draft per language e.g., if there are **four** Year 5 classes at your school studying the language, then **four** Year 5 students can be entered. The Junior, Middle and Senior Open categories are each limited to two entries per school. In special circumstances (e.g. where the cohort is very small), the Convenor may allow additional entries in any of the divisions, and advise schools accordingly.

6. Speeches:

Available at <http://www.mltaq.asn.au/> (Sunshine Coast Region subpage) after the June meeting each year.

- i. For Years 5 - 9 there are set speeches, for Year 10 either a set speech or a prescribed topic and for Year 11 and 12 prescribed topics are provided for each language division. Speeches and topics will be set by the language convenor (usually after consultation with other teachers of the language). Set speeches have no specific time limit but students may only add words into spaces, not whole paragraphs. The language used in set speeches is not to be altered in any way.
- ii. Speeches must be the original work of the contestant. The degree of assistance given by teachers or native speakers should be limited to no more than the correction of grammatical errors or the making of minor alterations for the sake of continuity.
- iii. Props and costumes may not be used. Presentation and delivery are, however, still important factors in the adjudication of each contestant.
- iv. **Judging criteria**
Primary: pronunciation, fluency, accuracy, question answering
Secondary: pronunciation, fluency, accuracy, creativity & language range, question answering
- v. No palm cards are allowed for set speeches. Palm cards are allowed for topics (Years 10, 11, 12, and Open divisions) but in note form only. Contestants may not read their speeches. They may consult their notes or palm cards. Excessive consultation will however, result in marks being deducted.
- vi. Each student should announce his/her name at the commencement of the speech.
- vii. Length of speeches:

Set speeches have no specific time limit – see 6.1 above

Year 10, 11 & 12 Topics	up to 3 minutes
Open Junior	1½-2 minutes
Open Middle	2-2½ minutes
Open Senior	up to 3 minutes
- viii. Questions will be asked by judges on conclusion of the speech. These questions will be based **only** on the content of the speech.

7. Registration Forms: Will be available at <http://www.mltaq.asn.au/> Sunshine Coast Region sub-page) after the June meeting each year. Please ensure participating students have standard media consent.

Schools should complete a separate registration form for each language area in which the school will be competing (ie Primary and Secondary on separate forms). Payments are to be made by EFT. *Registration/Entrant forms* are to be emailed to both the appropriate convenor cited on the Registration Form **and** cced to the Sunshine Coast Treasurer. **Entries will be accepted only from financial members of the MLTAQ.** All entry forms and payments must be received by language convenors on or before the closing date. Students will be ineligible to compete if the payment or membership requirements are not satisfied.

8. Eligibility:

i. **Native speakers:**

In the interest of equity, competitors who speak the language at home will **only** be eligible at the discretion of the language convenor and can **only** enter the relevant Open Division. The **entering teacher is responsible** for ensuring that students are entered in the correct category.

ii. **Speakers with language contact beyond standard school programs:**

The following students are only eligible for the Open Division:

Contestant's mother and/or father's first language is the language of the division
Contestant has completed between 3 months to 2 years of language compulsory education in country
Students learning a language in a full or partial immersion course

Note: In-country refers to where the language is spoken – e.g., German speaking Switzerland would be in-country for German. If in doubt, consult the relevant language convenor.

- iii. Students will be ineligible to compete if the payment or membership requirements are not satisfied.

9. Special Conditions of Entry:

- i. **The wearing of school uniforms is compulsory** for all competitors.
- ii. Contestants must report to the relevant language marshalling desk at least 10 minutes prior to their scheduled speech time.
- iii. No recording device or photography of any type may be used in a judging room.
- iv. A maximum of 2 family members/friends may enter the judging room with a contestant. They are welcome as spectators only. Teachers/tutors of the contestant may NOT enter the judging room.

10. Awards:

- i. Division winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) will be presented medals – gold, silver and bronze – as soon as possible after results have been finalised. Where there are fewer than **nine** contestants in a division, only 1st and 2nd places will be awarded. Where there are fewer than **five** contestants in a division, only 1st place will be awarded.
- ii. Winners will be decided by a panel of judges. Aggregates of the marks of all the judges will determine the place allocated to each contestant 1, 2 and 3. In the case of a draw in points, the judges will determine the outcome by discussion. **Under no circumstances will ties be awarded.**
- iii. All contestants will receive a Participation Certificate from the judges after completing their speech. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and Highly Commended certificates will be available for collection by teachers at the end of the day from the Convenor in the results room or at the MLTAQ meeting following the competition. These can be presented to students at their own school following the contest.

11. Entry Fees:

- i. For insurance purposes, to be eligible to enter students in the contest, at least one teacher from each school **must be a current member of the MLTAQ Inc.** Membership is \$90 p.a. and application forms can be downloaded from www.mltaq.asn.au.
- ii. In addition, each school/institution will be required to pay an entry fee in order to help defray competition costs. The entry fee system is a flat fee of \$10.00 per student per language. Entry fees will not be refunded if contestants do not attend on the day of the competition.