



Schools' Public Speaking Competitions 2018-19



welcome!

The ESU was founded in 1918 to promote international friendship and understanding. Today, the ESU is a dynamic educational charity and membership organisation and our aims have remained the same - to promote the value of effective communication around the world and help people realise their potential.

The importance of effective spoken communication skills cannot be underestimated. Even in a global village where communication has moved more and more online, the ability to speak confidently in public remains invaluable for people in all walks of life. World leaders in politics, law, religion, business, science and technology all have an important skill in common: they speak with confidence.

Oracy skills are key to all our activities and our speech and debates programmes include competitions, workshops and outreach projects which focus on persuasive spoken English. ESU Scotland runs two single-speaker Public Speaking competitions: the Speakers' Corner Challenge for S1 to S3 pupils and the Senior Public Speaking Competition, for pupils in years S4 to S6.

The format is the same for both competitions and comprises regional preliminary heats and a national final. Different themes are set for the preliminary heats and the final, and the format allows pupils to present a creative speech of five minutes on a very broad topic. This provides a forum for competitors to develop their own personal speaking style and to build confidence in articulating and sharing their ideas; skills that will help them at school and throughout their everyday lives. Speakers are expected to answer questions after their speech to help the adjudicators ascertain how well-researched the speech is. Not only does the competition enhance public speaking and critical thinking skills; it also gives students the opportunity to showcase them in a national competitive arena, which makes the practice of public speaking even more engaging and exciting for everyone involved.

This year we are absolutely delighted that our Public Speaking Competitions are kindly sponsored by the Confucius Institute for Scotland in the University of Edinburgh, a national centre to promote educational, economic, and cultural ties between Scotland and China. We have worked together in the past with the Confucius Institute and are enormously grateful for their continued support of our programmes.

More detailed information about the competitions can be found in our Schools' Public Speaking Competitions Handbook, which is available to download from our website www.esuscotland.org.uk. If you would like further information about this year's competition or our other programmes, please email debates@esuscotland.org.uk or phone 0131 229 1528.

We wish you the best of luck!



from our sponsor

Dear Participants,

We are very proud to support the English-Speaking Union (ESU) in this special public speaking competition. This is our third year of cooperating with the ESU. We believe public speaking is a wonderful way for you to share your ideas with a broad audience and to develop your skills of clear, confident communication.

The Confucius Institute for Scotland in the University of Edinburgh is very interested in your insights into Chinese proverbs. Together with the ESU, we have carefully selected a group of Chinese proverbs for your speech topics. Each proverb is rooted in history and still has relevance for all of us today. This is your opportunity to breathe new life into these ancient sayings. You can choose the proverb that sparks your imagination and bring your own unique interpretation to the proverb in your speech.

We look forward to hosting the Edinburgh heats at Abden House, the home of the Confucius Institute for Scotland. We are located close to Arthur's Seat. We have arranged for the finals of the competition to be held in the Playfair Library at the Old College of the University of Edinburgh. We look forward to hearing your speeches at this spectacular, grand venue.

We would like to share with you a wise Chinese proverb:

功夫不负有心人
Gōngfū bù fù yǒuxīn rén

This means: Hard work pays off!
We wish you courage and determination.

The Confucius Institute for Scotland
In the University of Edinburgh



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competition format

speakers' corner challenge

The Speakers Corner Challenge competition was launched in 2014-15 and is aimed at younger students, in the S1-S3 age range. The format requires the student to present a five minute speech on a given theme and then answer questions after their speech, posed by members of the audience or the adjudication panel to help the adjudicators ascertain how well-researched the speech is.

senior public speaking competition

The Seniors Competition is open to pupils in S4-S6, although students must be aged 18 or under on the closing date for applications. The format is exactly the same as for the Speakers' Corner Challenge.

preliminary heats

The preliminary heats are the first stage of the competition. Participants speak in a random order determined by the chief adjudicator and deliver their five-minute prepared speech, which must be connected with the theme. A timekeeper gives an audible signal at 4:30 minutes (to indicate that 30 seconds remain), a double signal at 5:00 minutes (to indicate that the participant's time is up), and again at 5:30 minutes (at which point the participant must conclude their speech immediately). The judges may mark down speeches that are significantly shorter than 5 minutes. Anything said after 5:30 minutes will not be written down or counted in adjudication.

The speech is immediately followed by a 3-4 minute question period. Questions may come from members of the audience or members of the adjudication panel and participants should respond to each question individually. However, audience members who are connected with a participant (e.g. a family member or an accompanying guest) may not ask questions of that participant.

No visual aids, props or amplifying microphones may be used, but of course the speakers' personal notes are allowed.

The adjudicators judge the participants in the preliminary heats in accordance with the adjudication guidelines and the marking scheme and speaker scale, contained in the Schools' Public Speaking Handbook. The adjudicators' decision is final in all matters. Participants may seek feedback from the adjudicators, and are encouraged to do so.

The top speakers from all of the preliminary rounds will progress to the National Final. Usually eight to ten speakers from each competition progress to the National Final.

national final

Both competitions have their National Final on the same day as a joint event. Once again, participants speak in a random order determined by the chief adjudicator, and deliver their five-minute prepared speech on the theme set out for the National Final. The rules relating to timing, questioning and adjudication apply to the National Final exactly as they apply to the preliminary rounds. No visual aids or props may be used, but dependant on venue, amplifying microphones may be used. The adjudicators select a winner and a runner up in both the Senior Public Speaking Competition and the Speakers' Corner Challenge, both of whom receive an award.

The winner of the Senior Public Speaking Competition is also invited to represent Scotland at the International Public Speaking Competition, held in London, the following year. This event sees national winners from ESUs across the world come together for a week of workshops, competition and cultural activities.

competition faqs

This is our first time taking part in the competition! Do you have any resources to help me get started?

Yes. In addition to our Schools' Public Speaking Competitions Handbook we have resources on our website dedicated to helping you get your students interested in debating and public speaking. Everything is free to download and ready to use in your clubs and classrooms. Visit our Resources page www.esuscotland.org.uk/resources

How old do my pupils have to be to take part?

The Speakers' Corner Challenge is open to pupils in S1-S3. The Senior Public Speaking Competition is open to pupils in S4-S6, and students must be aged 18 or under on Friday 31st August, the closing date for applications.

How many pupils can I enter?

You can enter one or two pupils into the Speakers' Corner Challenge and one or two pupils into the Senior Public Speaking Competition (4 pupils in total per school).

How much does it cost to enter the Public Speaking Competitions?

One speaker: £25 Two speakers: £35 Three speakers: £45 Four speakers: £55

I've registered. What happens next?

After registration closes, you'll receive an email stating on which date your speakers will be competing and where your heat will be. Heats are arranged according to geographical proximity in groups of schools, depending on the number of speakers entered. Host schools are chosen based on convenience for the surrounding schools amongst those that have offered and the dates available. Usually the heats involve a room for the Senior Public Speaking Competition and a room for the Speakers' Corner Challenge. However, if numbers are low in each category then the two heats may run consecutively.

Why are there different dates for each round?

Heats will be held on the dates below. On your entry form you will need to tell us all the dates you are available to compete. We will then schedule your heat on one of your available dates and confirm as soon as possible.

My school has offered to host this year. What do I have to do as a host?

Host schools are vital to helping run the Public Speaking Competitions across the country, so we really appreciate schools that offer to host heats. Please have a look at our Schools' Public Speaking Handbook for more information on what is required by a host school.

I've chosen our speakers but I have a whole class/debating club eager to be involved. Is there a way that they can all take part?

Although you can only enter two speakers in each category, it's great if you can get a whole class or club involved in helping your speakers prepare. Additionally, students can also accompany their school's speakers to the heat and contribute to the questions on the day, making the competition a real team activity.

What are this year's topics?

The themes for this year's competitions are below. For more information about how to interpret themes, please see our Schools' Public Speaking Handbook.

Why do you need my mobile number on the entry form?

All information regarding the competition is communicated by email. However, as the heats take place in the evenings, we need contact details for outside of school hours in case of emergency. In order to organise the rounds of the competitions as efficiently as possible, we will need to share your email address with contacts from other schools. We will also need to share your email address and telephone number with the other participants in your heat (i.e. the other teachers and judges) so that you are able to contact each other should you need to on the day. We will not share your details in other ways or outside these groups or further than necessary for this purpose. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to ask us.

themes for 2018-19

Participants must write and deliver a speech, the content of which is connected with one of the themes below. Participants may interpret the theme in any way they wish, but may not use the theme as the title of their speech. There is a choice of two themes for each category and speakers should choose ONE of the two themes. The themes are given with the Chinese characters and also the pronunciation (pinyin).

speakers' corner challenge heats

百闻不如一见

bǎi wén bùrú yī jiàn

Seeing for oneself is a hundred times better than hearing from others.

滴水之恩，不忘涌泉相报

dīshuǐ zhī ēn, bù wàng yǒng quán xiāng bào

A drop of water given shall be returned with a burst from a spring.

senior public speaking competition heats

千军易得，一将难求

qiānjūn yì dé, yījiàng nán qiú

It is easy to find a thousand soldiers, but hard to find a good general.

不是一番寒彻骨，怎得梅花扑鼻香

bùshì yī fān hán chègǔ, zěn dé méihuā pūbí xiāng

Without freezing once to the bone, how could plum blossoms be so fragrant?

speakers' corner challenge national final

前人栽树，后人乘凉

qiánrén zāishù, hòurén chéngliáng

One generation plants the trees, the next generations get the shade.

桃李不言，下自成蹊

táolǐ bù yán, xià zì chéngqī

Peaches and plums do not speak, yet the world beats a path to them.

senior public speaking competition national final

当局者迷，旁观者清

dāngjúzhěmí, pángguānzhěqīng

The spectators see the chess game better than the players.

一寸光阴一寸金，寸金难买寸光阴

yīcùn guāngyīn yīcùn jīn, cùn jīn nán mǎi cùn guāngyīn

An inch of time is an inch of gold, it is hard to buy an inch of time with an inch of gold.



key dates for 2018-19

closing date for entries

The closing date for entries is **Friday 31st August**.

preliminary heats

The preliminary heats will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday 13th November

Wednesday 14th November

Monday 19th November

Wednesday 21st November

joint national final

The Speakers' Corner Challenge and the Senior Public Speaking Competition will have a joint National Final on **Saturday 23rd March 2019** at the Playfair Library in Edinburgh.



English-Speaking Union Scotland

The ESU is a unique educational charity and membership organisation dedicated to helping people realise their potential through giving them the skills and confidence in communication to articulate their ideas and share them with others. Our vision is to provide people in Scotland and internationally with communications skills, confidence and opportunities to engage in an exchange of ideas and opinions. We believe that good communication and cultural exchange is essential to individual, community and global development and understanding. Education is at the very heart of our work.

Central to our mission is a commitment to working with schools and young people to narrow gaps in opportunity and assist in closing the poverty-related attainment gap. We believe that the transferable long-term skills gained by pupils boost their exam performance, day-to-day confidence and future employability. We also believe in the value of lifelong learning to help build confident communicators of all ages.

The Confucius Institute for Scotland

The Confucius Institute for Scotland in the University of Edinburgh is a national centre to promote educational, cultural and economic ties between Scotland and China. In 2006 the Confucius Institute for Scotland was established in partnership with Fudan University in Shanghai with the backing of the Chinese and Scottish governments. It is an initiative of Hanban, the Chinese government department responsible for the promotion of Chinese language overseas.

The Confucius Institute for Scotland is one of more than 500 Confucius Institutes around the world. The principal remit for Confucius Institutes is the promotion and development of Chinese language and culture. The key objectives for the Confucius Institute for Scotland are:

- to be a major point of reference for Sino-Scottish relations in the areas of culture, education and business
- to help develop effective Sino-Scottish cultural, business and academic links
- to offer an extensive programme of Chinese language training
- to act as a bridge between Scotland and China, aiding understanding and facilitating engagement
- to work with other stakeholders to develop greater awareness of China in Scotland

The Confucius Campus encompasses the headquarters of the Confucius Institute for Scotland at the beautiful, historic Abden House and two additional buildings located in a stunning setting near Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh.

The Institute has received six excellence awards and a Gold Medal from Hanban for the quality of its work and the impact of its outreach programmes. The Institute has also received recognition as a Pioneer Institute, Cultural Pilot and Model Institute. Over the past 12 years, the Institute has seen a significant rise in interest levels and engagement in Sino-Scottish collaboration.

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