

English Speaking Union  
The HSBC National Public Speaking Competition  
Tournament Rules



- Each Speaker will be allocated 5 minutes.
- No visual aids or microphones are used by the Chair, Judges or Speaker. This includes props of any kind.
- Five marks will be deducted for speeches which vary more than 45 seconds either side of 5 minutes. The Timekeeper will also give an audible signal after 4 minutes 15 seconds, and at 5 minutes, and 5 minutes 45 seconds. At the end of 6 minutes Speakers will be asked to finish their speech immediately.
- A Timekeeper will record the lengths of speeches.
- Students will be assigned to rooms randomly. The sequence of Speakers within each round and room will be selected at random, co-ordinated by the Timekeeper, and will be written on the board.
- Speakers will be scored out of 100 on the provided ballot for the preliminary rounds. The top five will advance to finals.
- Each round will be judged by a panel of judges. We will ask judges to complete all score sheets for all competitors and hand in both rounds at once.
- The scoring for the finals only will be done using a rank system. Judges will rank all competitors from 1st to 5th, and students will be assigned 5,3,2,1 and 0 points respectively. In the unlikely event of a tie, the prepared rounds will break the tie.
- The ESU Handbook makes reference to a question period from members of the audience and the judging panel. **WE WILL NOT BE DOING THIS.**