



THE INTERNATIONAL  
CHURCHILL SOCIETY  
—UNITED KINGDOM—

# ESU-CHURCHILL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Teacher  
Handbook  
2020-21



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION  
discovering voices

# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPETITION

## Welcome to the ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition!

This short guide provides an introduction to the competition for teachers in participating schools. It will help you understand the format, judging process and organisation of the competition as it progresses throughout the school year. The Competition, now in its sixty-first year and sponsored by the International Churchill Society, is the oldest and largest public speaking competition in England and Wales.

In light of the new challenges posed by coronavirus, the ESU have made some changes to how their competitions are run. All rounds will take place online via Zoom in 2021. The format of each presentation has been slightly simplified for online use. Details of all changes are in the following sections.

We hope your school enjoys taking part. Don't worry if this is your first time. This guide should help and there is a great deal of supporting material, including videos, on our website at [www.esu.org/competitions/psc/](http://www.esu.org/competitions/psc/).

Should you need any further assistance, please contact a member of the Competitions Team ([competition@esu.org](mailto:competition@esu.org)) and we'll be happy to help you.

## THE ESU COMPETITIONS TEAM

### Why enter?

Students who participate in this competition develop key skills for the future.

- They develop valuable oracy skills through a range of activities.
- They come to grips with topical subjects in a range of fields, learning to consider ideas analytically, and building evidence to support conclusions.
- They learn to question the ideas of others, and present their thoughts before an audience.

### Who can enter?

- All state or independent schools in England and Wales.
- Students in Years 9, 10 and 11.
- A maximum of 2 teams may be entered from any one school.

# FORMAT

## What makes this competition unique?

- Teams consist of three to five students, all of whom must be in full-time secondary education at the same school. Three students will compete in each round, but it is perfectly acceptable to switch out these students between rounds from the team of (maximum) five. If a school enters two teams students should not switch between teams, however.
- Each team presentation involves three participants: **Chairperson, Questioner and Speaker.**
- The Chairperson and Questioner of **your** school, are partnered up with the Speaker from a **different school.**
- Your Speaker is similarly "hosted" by the Chair and Questioner of a **different school.**
- One week before your heat each team's speaker will send a few paragraphs about their topic and their relation to it to their 'host' team so that the chairperson can prepare relevant remarks.

Each presentation lasts for 10 minutes. The time breakdown for the presentation is:

Duration	Guest Speaker	Chairperson	Questioner
1 minute		Introduction	
5 minutes	Speech		
3 minutes	Questioner's Questions		Questioner's Questions
1 minutes		Summary	

Note for 2020-21: The format has been changed slightly this year, as it is on Zoom, and the audience questions have had to be removed for this year only.

## Timekeeping

- A Timekeeper will give an audible signal when the Speaker's five minutes have elapsed, and after 10 minutes when the presentation should have finished.
- It is, however, the responsibility of the Chairperson to ensure that the presentation runs according to time and fits within the 10 minutes allocated.



## STUDENT ROLES

Whilst you will eventually need to select a team of three to five students, other students can be invaluable in helping the team to prepare. Ways in which they might do this include:

- Help the speaker to choose a topic.
- Help the speaker to write an interesting and entertaining speech.
- Take it in turns to speak the 1st rough draft and let the others ask questions. This way, students will be able to practise predicting the sort of questions they may be asked in the actual competition.
- Help the Chairperson to practise introducing the speaker.
- Try out some impromptu speeches on random topics to help the Questioner practise developing questioning techniques.
- Present the finished speech in front of an audience of a year group or assembly.

Each team must consist of:

- **A Chairperson** – to manage the presentation.
- **A Speaker** – to give the main speech.
- **A Questioner** – to lead the questioning of the Speaker.

Everything you and your students need to know to form a fantastic team, can be found in the Student Handbook.



## ADJUDICATION

This is how our judges will mark the speeches:

Adjudication is given on the basis of three main criteria;

1. **Content.**
2. **Effectiveness in role.**
3. **Style.**

These criteria are weighted in the following manner:

	Content	Effectiveness in Role	Style
Chairperson (30)	15	10	5
Speaker (40)	20	10	10
Questioner (30)	15	10	5

The mark scheme reflects the fact that this is a team competition and is rewarded appropriately.

The Speaker has 10 more potential marks than Chair and Questioner to reflect the greater time allotted to their role.

### Feedback

The judges will give general feedback before the results are announced.

Individual feedback can be given to teams after the results – just ask one of our judges!

Our aim here is to be positive about the performances, making all of our constructive and positive.

Each member of the team will be awarded a certificate marking their participation in the event. Special awards/certificates may be given for Best Individual in all the speaking roles, at the local branch's discretion. Winners and runners-up also receive certificates to mark their achievement .



## WHAT NEXT?

- On Wednesday 9th December we will give you the date of your Heat and a list of topics from which your team will choose; should you have two teams entered, then you will be sent double the number of topics.
- Heats will all take place online, hosted by the ESU on zoom. We will send detailed guidance nearer to the time.
- At least one week before the Heat you will submit.
  - Your choice of topic
  - The names of your team
  - The role of each team member
- Regional Finals will take place in mid-March.
- ESU Regional Organisers will send you a fresh set of topics, and the date and time of your Regional Final.
- The winning team from each of the Regional Finals will then progress to the Grand Final in late April. This is managed by the ESU Competitions Team.

## How will the ESU help?

**Our aim is that your students not only improve their oracy skills but also have fun!**

- To this end, we will send you bulletins and helpful coaching resources throughout the year, even if your team does not progress in the competition, to help you to keep developing student oracy skills all year round.
- Should you need any further assistance, please contact a member of the Competitions Team ([competition@esu.org](mailto:competition@esu.org)) and we'll be happy to help you.

## What do I need to do?

**In order to co-ordinate such a large competition, it's really helpful if you can:**

- Provide accurate registration info on your form
- Answer ESU emails as soon as you are able to
- Call the ESU Competitions Team if you are having any problems, such as staff or student illness, other events clashing etc. We can most often work around these issues to find you a solution!
- Make sure that the 2nd member of staff (whose details we will ask you for on registration) is able to supervise students on the competition day, in case you are unable to.
- Encourage your team to prepare in a larger group such as a public speaking or debating club. This way, if you have a student who is ill or otherwise unable to attend, you will have several willing volunteers to take their place!



## EQUITY POLICY

The English-Speaking Union is committed to providing opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds to access and develop communication skills. We expect all ESU events to be welcoming, inclusive, and to foster a safe and supportive atmosphere in which all individuals feel that they are able and encouraged to express themselves.

In such a safe space, individuals should feel that:

- They are afforded the same high level of respect that is due to all
- They are never in a position where they feel under physical or psychological threat
- They will never be judged on things they cannot change
- Their opinions and beliefs can be challenged, but will always be respected
- If their safety and well-being is threatened, that others will listen and support them

The responsibility is placed on all individuals (students, school staff, ESU staff and members, judges etc.) to ensure that such a safe space is created and maintained. Any person who is found to breach these rules may be excluded from this or future events.

If any individual feels that these guidelines have been violated, whether the incident was directed against them or not, they should:

- Approach any member of ESU staff at the event
- Contact a member of staff at the ESU if an issue is not, or cannot, be resolved satisfactorily at the event
- If an issue remains unresolved, direct any complaints towards the ESU Safeguarding Lead, Gavin Illsley ([gavin.illsley@esu.org](mailto:gavin.illsley@esu.org)) or to one of the deputies: Matthew Christmas ([matthew.christmas@esu.org](mailto:matthew.christmas@esu.org)); Robert Saull ([robert.saul@esu.org](mailto:robert.saul@esu.org)); Aameena Khan ([aameena.khan@esu.org](mailto:aameena.khan@esu.org)).

## ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

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.

For more information about the ESU and to view our other educational opportunities, please email a member of the team at [competition@esu.org](mailto:competition@esu.org) or visit our website at [www.esu.org](http://www.esu.org).

You can also find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/the.esu](https://www.facebook.com/the.esu) or on Twitter [@TheESU/@ESUdebate](https://twitter.com/TheESU)



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