



UNIVERSITY OF
ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY

Arbitration Criteria Guide

Criteria Guide

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University of Arabic Calligraphy

Academic Documents

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Introduction

Arabic calligraphy is a delicate blend of tradition, skill, and artistic expression. At UAC, we have established clear and comprehensive criteria to assess the quality and authenticity of submissions. This guide is designed to help participants understand these criteria and prepare their work accordingly.

Purpose

To outline the criteria used for evaluating Arabic calligraphy submissions in competitions or assessments, ensuring fairness, precision, and academic integrity.

Arbitration Criteria Breakdown

1. Script Accuracy

Definition:

The adherence of the calligraphy to the established rules and guidelines of the selected script.

Key Elements Evaluated:

- Proper formation of letters and ligatures according to the chosen script style (e.g., Naskh, Thuluth, Diwani).
- Consistency in angles and curves across the text.
- Appropriate letter connections and alignment within words and phrases.

Scoring Weight: 25%

2. Proportions and Measurements

Definition:

The balance and harmony of letters, words, and overall composition based on the proportional rules of Arabic calligraphy.

Key Elements Evaluated:

- Proportions of letters relative to each other (e.g., Alef to Jeem).
- Uniformity in letter heights and widths.
- Consistency in the size and placement of diacritical marks.

Scoring Weight: 20%

3. Aesthetic Composition

Definition:

The overall visual appeal and balance of the calligraphic work, including its layout and use of space.

Key Elements Evaluated:

- Effective use of space to avoid overcrowding or excessive gaps.
- Balance between positive (inked) and negative (blank) spaces.
- Symmetry and harmony within the composition.

Scoring Weight: 20%

4. Creativity and Innovation

Definition:

The incorporation of unique and artistic elements that enhance the work while respecting traditional rules.

Key Elements Evaluated:

- Originality in the design without deviating from script integrity.
- Artistic embellishments, such as flourishes, that enhance the piece.
- Integration of modern techniques or materials while preserving the spirit of the script.

Scoring Weight: 15%

5. Precision and Neatness

Definition:

The technical execution of the calligraphy, focusing on the clarity and sharpness of strokes.

Key Elements Evaluated:

- Clean and consistent strokes free of smudges or uneven ink flow.
- Smoothness in curves and sharpness in edges.
- Uniformity in line thickness throughout the composition.

Scoring Weight: 10%

6. Diacritical Marks and Vowel Placement

Definition:

The correct positioning and proportionality of diacritical marks (dots, vowels, etc.).

Key Elements Evaluated:

- Placement accuracy relative to letters.
- Consistency in size, style, and shape of marks.
- Integration of marks into the overall composition without distraction.

Scoring Weight: 5%

7. Paper and Presentation Quality

Definition:

The choice and preparation of materials to achieve a professional and polished presentation.

Key Elements Evaluated:

- Use of high-quality materials (e.g., traditional treated paper, reed pens).
- Appropriately prepared surfaces for ink application.
- Presentation elements such as borders, framing, or additional decorative designs.

Scoring Weight: 5%

Scoring Summary

Criterion	Weight (%)
Script Accuracy	25%
Proportions and Measurements	20%
Aesthetic Composition	20%
Creativity and Innovation	15%
Precision and Neatness	10%
Diacritical Marks Placement	5%
Paper and Presentation	5%

Total Score = **100%**

Evaluation Process

Step 1: Preliminary Screening

Submissions are first reviewed to ensure compliance with competition guidelines, such as script type, size, and required materials.

Step 2: Detailed Scoring

Each submission is evaluated against the criteria outlined above. Scores are assigned by a panel of expert calligraphers based on the quality and adherence to standards.

Step 3: Re-Evaluation for Finalists

The top submissions are re-evaluated for tie-breaking purposes or further refinement of scoring.

Step 4: Feedback and Results

Participants receive individual feedback on their work, including strengths and areas for improvement. This is accompanied by a detailed score breakdown.

Preparation Tips for Participants

1. **Practice Proportions:** Study and replicate the proportional rules of your chosen script.
2. **Use Quality Tools:** Invest in high-quality pens, ink, and paper to achieve the best results.
3. **Focus on Neatness:** Ensure clean strokes, smooth curves, and consistent line thickness.
4. **Seek Feedback:** Share your work with experienced calligraphers for constructive critique.
5. **Experiment Wisely:** While creativity is encouraged, avoid deviating from the traditional guidelines of the script.

Important Notes

- Submissions that do not adhere to the basic rules of Arabic calligraphy or competition guidelines may be disqualified.
- Plagiarism or replication of another artist's work is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- Feedback provided is aimed at fostering growth and development in calligraphy skills.

Contact Us

For any questions or further clarification, please contact:

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