



Manar al Huda

Qur'an Competition

12th - 13th

SEPTEMBER

2026

INFORMATION PACK



IMPORTANT DATES AND REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Fees: £5 for under 15, £10 for 16+

Registration is open until **31st July 2026, 23:59 hrs**

Please note: Any registrations after this date will incur a penalty of £10 plus the standard registration fee. Late entry is not guaranteed and will be subject to the discretion of the organisers.

Cancellation deadline: 14th August 2026, 23:59 HRS

Cancellations before 15th August 2025 are refundable. After this date, refunds will not be available. However, please inform us for logistical purposes.

Competition dates: 12th – 13th September 2026

Proceedings will begin **after** madressa on Saturday 12th September

Closing ceremony and awards: **13th September 2026**

Please note:

- if unable to attend the closing ceremony, please advise on how you will collect the feedback forms/trophies via email to:
manaralhudaqurancomp@hyderi.org.uk.
- This year, the competition is open to participants from **SOUTH LONDON ONLY***. Registrations from other locations will not be accepted.

**Defined as those who live in South London or whose home/local Jamaat/Hussainiyyah is in South London.*

Register at: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/HyderiAdmin/MHQC2026>

For any queries, feel free to email manaralhudaqurancomp@hyderi.org.uk or contact us on our Instagram page @manaralhudaqc

CATEGORIES

Under 5 years – Hifdh only

5-7 years – Hifdh only

8-11 years – Open Recitation and Hifdh

12-15 years – Open Recitation, Hifdh and Tafseer

16-24 years – Open Recitation and Hifdh

25-49 years – Open Recitation and Hifdh

50+ years - Open Recitation and Hifdh

16+ years - Tafseer

All ages – Hifdh of 1 Juz

NEW CATEGORIES -

All ages – Written Tafseer, hifdh of 2 Ajza

Participants may enter multiple categories within their own age group.

Under 5 years

Hifdh: Surah Teen (95)

5-7 years

Hifdh: Surah A'laa (87)

8-11 years

Open Recitation: Surah Saad (38) and Hujuraat (49)

Hifdh: Surah Nazi'aat (79)

12-15 years

Open Recitation: Anywhere from 23rd to 28th Juz inclusive

Hifdh: Surah Munafiqoon (63)

16-24 years

Open Recitation: Anywhere in the Qur'an

Hifdh: Surah Fajr (89)

25-49 years

Open Recitation: Anywhere in the Qur'an

Hifdh: Surah Mulk (67)

50+ years

Open Recitation: Anywhere in the Qur'an

Hifdh: Surah Naba (78)

Tafseer:

12-15 years:

Accounting and Day of Judgement

75:22-30

83:7-12

88:1-11

99:7-8

16+ years:

Accounting and Day of Judgment

3:29-30

3:106-107

17:13-14

18:49

41:20-21

45:28

99:7-8

All ages

Hifdh: 1 Juz (any Juz) or 2 Ajza (any Ajza)

Witten Tafseer: Surah Fath (48)

GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPETITION

Open Qur'an Recitation:

Under 16:

Participants will receive assigned chapters or verses to prepare before the competition. On the day of the competition, participants will be asked to recite either a selection or the multiple chapters that they have prepared. For smaller chapters, they may be asked to recite the entire chapter. The selections will be randomly chosen on the day.

16+:

The participant will be required to recite a selection from any part of the Holy Qur'an which has been randomly selected. Prior to this, the participant would be unaware of the sections they will be reciting. Depending on the speed and quality of the recitation, the judges will determine the length of the recitation, up to a maximum of two pages (Uthman Taha script).

Hifdh (All Ages)

The participant is expected to memorise all the chapters given. On the day, the participant will be asked to recite from separate areas from anywhere in their surah/Juz. This may not be from the beginning of the surah/Juz. For smaller surahs, participants may be expected to complete recitation of the entire surah. Where judges would like to test on part of a surah, they will initiate by reciting a verse or the end of a previous verse, and the participant is then expected to continue. **Participants will be expected to give some lessons they learn about the surah after their recitation (excluding the Juz and under 5s categories).**

Tafseer (all ages)

Participants will be given verses to research and prepare for in advance. They are able to use any reference material to prepare as long as they are able to quote the source of their research if asked. Recommended tafseer references are provided later in this information pack.

Tafseer 12-15

As can be seen previously, for this age group, 4 series of verses have been provided for them to research. On the day, each participant will be given an allocated time to provide a general explanation of 1 series of verses (from the allocated verses). This will be randomly selected for each participant. For the verses, the judges will then question the participant based on the general explanation they presented. Participants will be expected to comment on all verses in the series chosen. Participants can quote and refer to a tafseer in any language. Participants will have access to a copy of the Arabic Holy Qur'an for reference.

Tafseer 16+

On the day, each participant will be given an allocated time to provide a general explanation of **1 verse** (from the allocated 7 verses). This will be **randomly selected** for each participant. For each verse, the judges will then question the participant based on the general explanation they presented. Participants can quote and refer to a tafseer in any language. Participants will have access to a copy of the Arabic Holy Qur'an for reference.

Written Tafseer (all ages)

This is a **NEW** category that has been introduced this year. Participants will be required to study the given surah in complete detail – the Arabic, translation and tafseer – using the resources suggested (as well as other relevant resources). Participants will be allocated an hour to complete a written quiz. Please note: this is a closed book test, hence participants will **NOT** have access to their mobile phones, the Qur'an or any other books/notes.

GENERAL MARK SCHEMES FOR REFERENCE

Hifdh and Open Recitation

1. Accuracy e.g. is the recitation correct/incorrect
2. Fluency - pace of recitation, continuity of recitation, stopping and pausing at appropriate places and breath control
3. Makhaarij - correct pronunciation of letters and words
4. Rules of Tajweed
5. Lahn - style of recitation

The judging criteria for the Hifdh category will include all of the above but more emphasis will be placed on the memory/memorisation of the participant.

There will also be marks allocated for the lessons learnt by the participant from the surah.

General Tafseer Marking Guide

1. General understanding of the verse/surah (e.g. historical background)
2. Cross referencing (e.g. other verses, tafaseer, Hadith, interfaith views)
3. Clarity of explanation
4. Ability to answer questions
5. Lessons learnt and implementation

Written Tafseer

1. General understanding of the Ayat.
2. Accuracy in responding the questions.
3. Ability to reflect on the verses and apply them to their daily lives (practical application).

COMPETITION RULES

Dress Code:

- Male: Khanzu/Dish Dashe/thobe, (topi recommended)
- Female: Loose Chadar/Abaya with modest head covering (maqnah, scarf or sheila)

Please note: Good Akhlaq is expected from all participants at all times. Anyone not following the dress code above will have marks deducted from their final result.

The Organisers/Judges

- Will carry out a brief on the rules and the marking system before the competition.
- The judges' decision will be final, with no appeal.
- They will judge every aspect very critically and they will maintain impartiality.
- The judges may be male or female. Participants will not be able to request to be assessed by a particular judge. For the Open Recitation and Hifdh categories, we will ensure that all male participants are judged by male judges and female participants by female judges.

The Competition

- ◆ The competition will take place in public where the participant shall recite in front of the judges. Other participants, spectators and the MHQC team members may also be present.
- ◆ As part of the registration process, participants can opt out of being photographed or being on video. If participants want to request no live streaming, this needs to be requested.
- ◆ The competition dates and times may change depending on unforeseen circumstances.
- ◆ Participants are only allowed to compete in their age group (based on their age on the date of the competition).
- ◆ If participants of the tafseer category prefer to present in another language, this needs to be requested during the registration process. All

efforts to accommodate requests will be made but may not always be possible.

- ◆ Copies of the Mus'haf (Qur'an) shall be provided to participants during the competition. Participants will have the option to choose between the Uthman Taha or Indo-Pakistani script, which will NOT be color-coded. It is the participant's responsibility to inform the judge or competition coordinator of their preferred script before beginning their recitation. Failure to do so will result in them reading from the default script provided on the day.
- ◆ For the written quiz, participants will **NOT** have any access to the Qur'an. Participants will have the option to choose from 2 available slots, during which they will sit in an exam-style setting, in the presence of an invigilator, to answer all the questions in the quiz. Once the slot is completed, all the quiz papers will be taken back for marking.

MHQC organizers reserve the right to dismiss, cancel and/or disqualify any participant without liability at any time, with immediate effect; this includes, but is not limited to, any participant who tampers with the operation of the competition or competition site or violates the terms and conditions, or any other applicable laws and regulations.

GENERAL REFERENCES

The Enlightening Commentary by Sayyid Kamal Faqih Imami and group of scholars – can be found on al-islam.org by typing enlightening commentary in search bar.

Link to first volume - <https://www.al-islam.org/enlightening-commentary-lightholy-quran-vol-1>

Also available in Qur'an Hadi app on Apple and Android

Tafseer by Aqa Mahdi Pooya/Mir Ahmed Ali - <https://quran.al-islam.org>

Tafseer al-Mizan.

Available in complete at <https://almizan.org> or by searching mizan on al-islam.org

Tafseer Nemouneh/Amthal of Ayatollah Nasir Makarem Shirazi has been translated but is not available online and scarcely available in bookshops. Available in Arabic online and on the Qur'an Hadi Arabi app.

Tafsir Tadabbur al-Qur'an – while only a few volumes are available, this is an ongoing work being carried out by a group of scholars under the supervision of Sheikh Mohammed Sa'eed Bahmanpour and Sheikh Tahir Ridha Jaffer. Can be found at Hujjat Bookshop - <https://www.hujjatbookshop.co.uk/holy-quran?page=3>

The Ocean of the Qur'an - <https://theoceanoftheguran.org/>

This reference is again under the guidance of Sheikh Bahmanpour, but is aimed at being more advanced than the above. Contains parts of the Qur'an as it is still an ongoing project.

Above are the predominant Shi'a tafaseer in English. Isolated tafaseer/reflections on certain suras can be found by searching tafseer in al-islam.org. Arabic tafaseer can also be found in abundance using Arabic tafseer apps or websites (*such as https://www.greattafsirs.com/Tafsir_Books.aspx?LanguageID=1 or al bayaan fi tafseer al-Qur'an app in Arabic*).

The Study Qur'an – pdf to be emailed to registrants for tafseer. This tafseer is compiled using Sunni and Shi'i tafaseer

Some tafaseer below are listed which are from Sunni origin. These may be used and referenced but please compare to the Shi'a references first and only use if does not oppose Shi'a references.

Tafseer ibn Kathir: - <https://www.qtafsir.com/>

In the Shade of the Qur'an by Sayyid Qutb: -

<https://www.holybooks.com/shade-quran-dhilal-quran-sayyid-qutb/>

Selection/search engine for a number of Sunni tafaseer: -

<https://www.altafsir.com>

Online YouTube lectures may also be of use – you can find tafseer from the likes of Sheikh Mohammed Sa'eed Bahmanpour, Sheikh Murtadha Alidina and Sayed Ammar Nakshawani. Some Sunni teachers such as Nouman Ali Khan may also be of use.

FOR THE WRITTEN TAFSEER –

Please be aware our main two references will be The Enlightening Commentary and Tafsir al-Mizan. If you quote any other work please give your reference.