

**SAI & TIMES OF OMAN OPEN ESSAY WRITING AND POSTER MAKING COMPETITION -  
"SPREADING THE LIGHT THROUGH HUMAN VALUES"**

**Important Guidelines to be followed by the students  
(This should be given to the participating students by the school)**

**1. Understand the main aim of the competition:**

The main aim of the competition is to make the students pursue the path of human values in their journey of life. In this competition, the topics are given in advance with a view to enable the students think deeply on these principles, discuss with their friends and siblings and also take the guidance from the teachers and parents. A serious preparation this way will make the students absorb the 'Values' fully and enable them to integrate these virtues in their daily life. Besides, when the teachers, parents, friends and siblings are involved in aiding the students in their preparation, they are also in a position to carry forward these lofty ideals in their lives. In this way, a wide spectrum of population is benefitted by this competition.

**2. A helping hand for Students to know the topics better**

To help the students to start the thinking process, a brief write-up is given below for each of the topics. This is just to provide some hints to the parents and teachers to discuss with or guide the participating students. It is not for memorizing and repeating the same in the competition. These ideas can be developed further by the students after thinking deeply, reading relevant books, referring to relevant websites, discussing with others and rehearsing before the actual day of the competition.

**3. Evaluation Criteria:**

Each paper will be evaluated for a total of 50 marks. Marks will be awarded for (i) Content Relevance, (ii) Efficacy of conveying human values, (iii) Presentation and Neatness (iv) Language (for essays) and Creativity (for posters).

In the case of essays, it is expected that there should be a proper introduction followed by logical explanation, with appropriate quotations, famous words / poems, linking stories, life incidents, etc and finally should bring out a nice conclusion. It is advised to use simple words and ideas should be expressed in original sentences, with good grammar. The essay should be written in good hand writing.

**4. Suggested Word Limit for Essays:**

400 words (roughly 2 pages) for Group A & B and 700 words (roughly 4 pages) for Group C & D. However, the time limit is 90 minutes for all the groups.

All those associated with this contest can bear in mind that after all, this is a contest on human values. So, let us all display the best of human values at every stage of this competition starting from preparation. All the Best to the children.