



Panjab University SSG Regional Centre,
Hoshiarpur



A EQUITAS '24

SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX ESTO

LAW AND CULTURAL FEST

RULE BOOK

OF

PARLIAMMENTARY

DEBATE

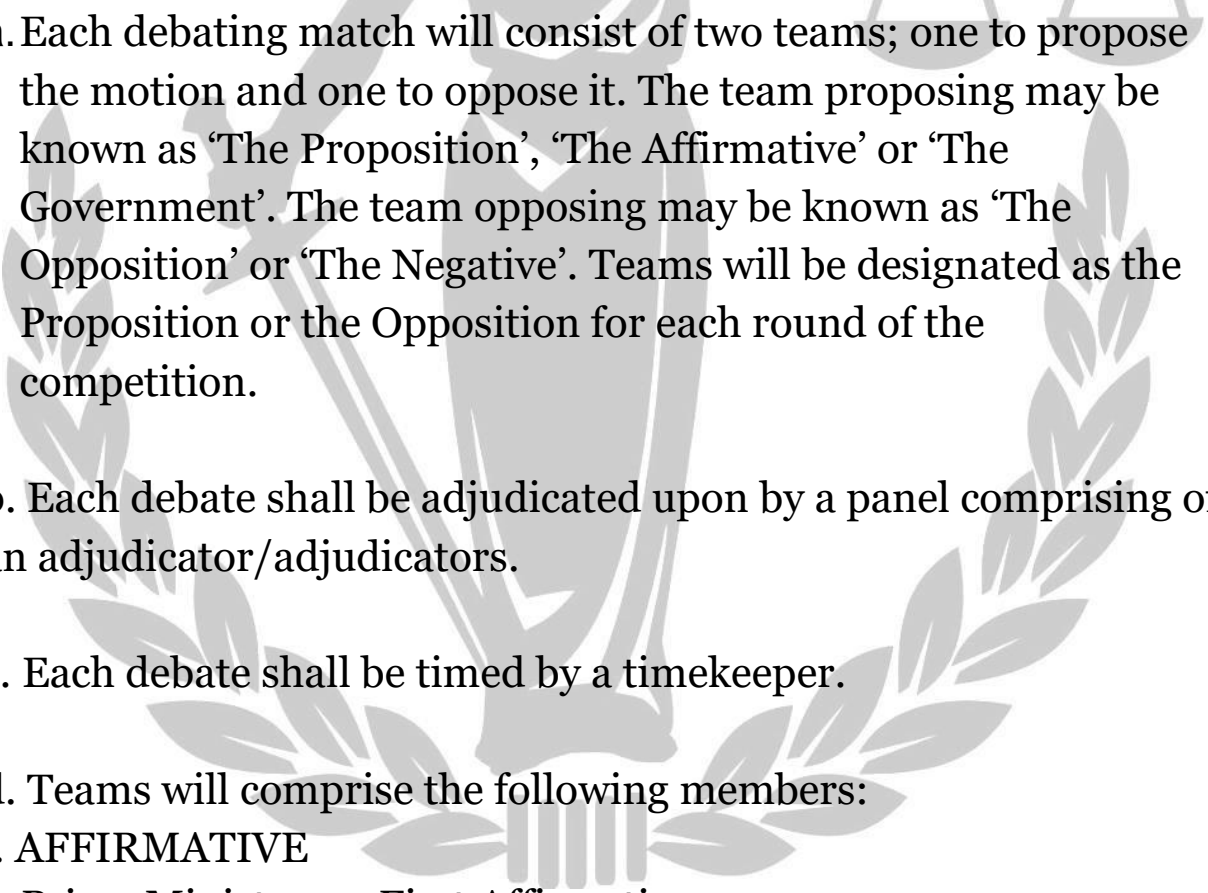
15th FEB - 17th FEB
2024

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

These rules will be hereby referred to as the parliamentary debate rules and must be conformed to whilst participating for this very edition of the AEQUITAS'24.

The parliamentary debate will follow the '3-on-3' Asian parliamentary style of debating governed by the following rules, regulations, and guidelines.

FORMAT OF THE TOURNAMENT

- 
- a. Each debating match will consist of two teams; one to propose the motion and one to oppose it. The team proposing may be known as 'The Proposition', 'The Affirmative' or 'The Government'. The team opposing may be known as 'The Opposition' or 'The Negative'. Teams will be designated as the Proposition or the Opposition for each round of the competition.
 - b. Each debate shall be adjudicated upon by a panel comprising of an adjudicator/adjudicators.
 - c. Each debate shall be timed by a timekeeper.
 - d. Teams will comprise the following members:
 - i. AFFIRMATIVE
 1. Prime Minister, or First Affirmative.
 2. Deputy Prime Minister, or Second Affirmative.
 3. Government Whip, or Third Affirmative.

ii. NEGATIVE

1. Leader of the Opposition, or First Negative.
2. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, or Second Negative.
3. Opposition Whip, or Third Negative.

e. Debaters will speak in the following order:

- i. Prime Minister
- ii. Leader of Opposition
- iii. Deputy Prime Minister
- iv. Deputy Leader of Opposition
- v. Government Whip
- vi. Opposition Whip
- vii. Opposition reply
- viii. Government reply

f. Common minute will not be given within reply speeches.

g. Speakers not 'holding the floor' may not disrupt during a speech unless it is to offer a 'Point of Information'. Speakers doing so, or considered to be heckling, barracking or whose behaviour is interfering with the acceptable course of a debate will be declared 'out of order' or will be 'called to order' by the Adjudicator.

MOTIONS

a. The motions for each round will reflect a specific and well known theme, and each round of the competition will comprise of three choices of motions.

b. On release of the motions, both teams will turn by turn opt out motions and the last motion standing stand shall be put to debate.

c. 5 motions in total will be released for all rounds of the parliamentary debate a day prior i.e. 15 February,2024.

Preparation

a. Match-ups and venues will be announced before motions are revealed.

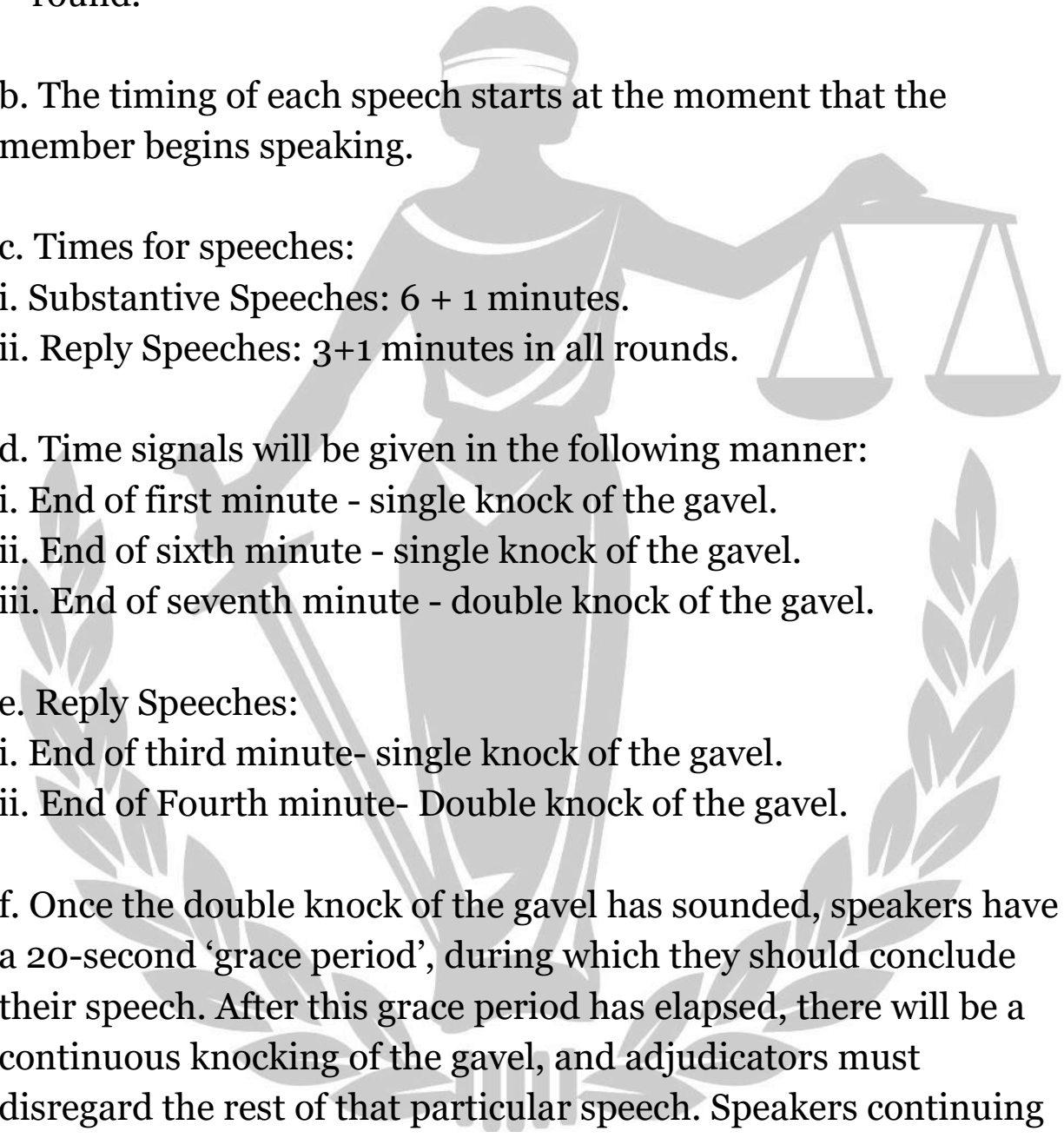
b. From the time of release of the motions, teams have 30 minutes preparation time until the commencement of the debate in that round.

c. Printed and prepared materials may be used during the preparation period. No access to electronic media or electronic storage or retrieval devices is permitted after motions have been released. This includes but is not limited to, all kinds of computers, electronic data banks, cellular phones, etc. Printed and prepared materials may be accessed during a debate, but may not be used by a speaker holding the floor.

d. Teams must prepare on their own. Once motions have been released, there must be no contact between debaters in a particular team and coaches, trainers, friends, observers or any other individual for the purposes of assistance in the context of the debate. Such contact and assistance is deemed as 'cheating' and will be punished strictly.

e. Teams failing to arrive in time for the debate will forfeit that particular round or be subject to penalty .

TIMING

- 
- a. It is the duty of the timekeeper to time all the speeches in each round.
 - b. The timing of each speech starts at the moment that the member begins speaking.
 - c. Times for speeches:
 - i. Substantive Speeches: 6 + 1 minutes.
 - ii. Reply Speeches: 3+1 minutes in all rounds.
 - d. Time signals will be given in the following manner:
 - i. End of first minute - single knock of the gavel.
 - ii. End of sixth minute - single knock of the gavel.
 - iii. End of seventh minute - double knock of the gavel.
 - e. Reply Speeches:
 - i. End of third minute- single knock of the gavel.
 - ii. End of Fourth minute- Double knock of the gavel.
 - f. Once the double knock of the gavel has sounded, speakers have a 20-second 'grace period', during which they should conclude their speech. After this grace period has elapsed, there will be a continuous knocking of the gavel, and adjudicators must disregard the rest of that particular speech. Speakers continuing after the 'grace period' can also be penalized by the adjudicators .

g. If the speaker concludes his/her speech before the second single knock of the gavel, he or she should be penalized .
Assuming that less matter was advanced, or that it was clearly underdeveloped.

POINTS OF INFORMATION

a. Points of Information (POIs') may be offered during the six substantive speeches only, after the first single knock of the gavel and up to the second single knock of the gavel. Points of Information may not be offered during the first and last minutes of substantive speeches. If a Point of Information is offered in the first or the last minute of a constructive speech, it is the duty of the speaker holding the floor to reject the same as being out of order. Only if the speaker holding the floor fails to do the same, the chair of the adjudicator panel may very briefly intervene and call the house to order.

b. A POI must be indicated by a member of an opposing team rising from his/her seat. A member offering a Point of Information may draw attention to the offer by saying "on that point Sir/Madam," or a short word calling attention to the member of the opposing team raising the point of information.

c. A member holding the floor must respond to an opposing member, or members offering POI's, in one of the following ways.

- i. A clear gesture or hand signal rejecting the offer.
- ii. A verbal rejection of the offer, or
- iii. A verbal acceptance of the offer.

d. If a POI is accepted, the point should be phrased as a question, or clarification, or comment, and ideally made in no more than 15 seconds. Points of Information should be such that they allow the member holding the floor some chance of responding.

e. After a POI has been offered, no further clarifications may be sought either by the speaker holding the floor or by the member offering the Point of Information, except strictly in situations where the Point of Information is clearly inaudible, and therefore a repetition of the same is necessitated.

f. Once a POI is accepted the speaker holding the stage is bound to give adequate time for the completion of the question.

g. Points of Information are marked for their strategic use . Unwarranted use of points of information can be marked down .

MARKING THE DEBATE-

- At the end of every debate, each adjudicator must complete their adjudication forms.
- There are no draws in competitive debating.
- Teams failing to turn up for the debate on time, and with no valid reason, will lose the debate by the widest possible margin. The other team will then face - off against a stand-by swing team constituted by the host University.

■ For speeches of each team member , marks shall be awarded to speakers based on the following:

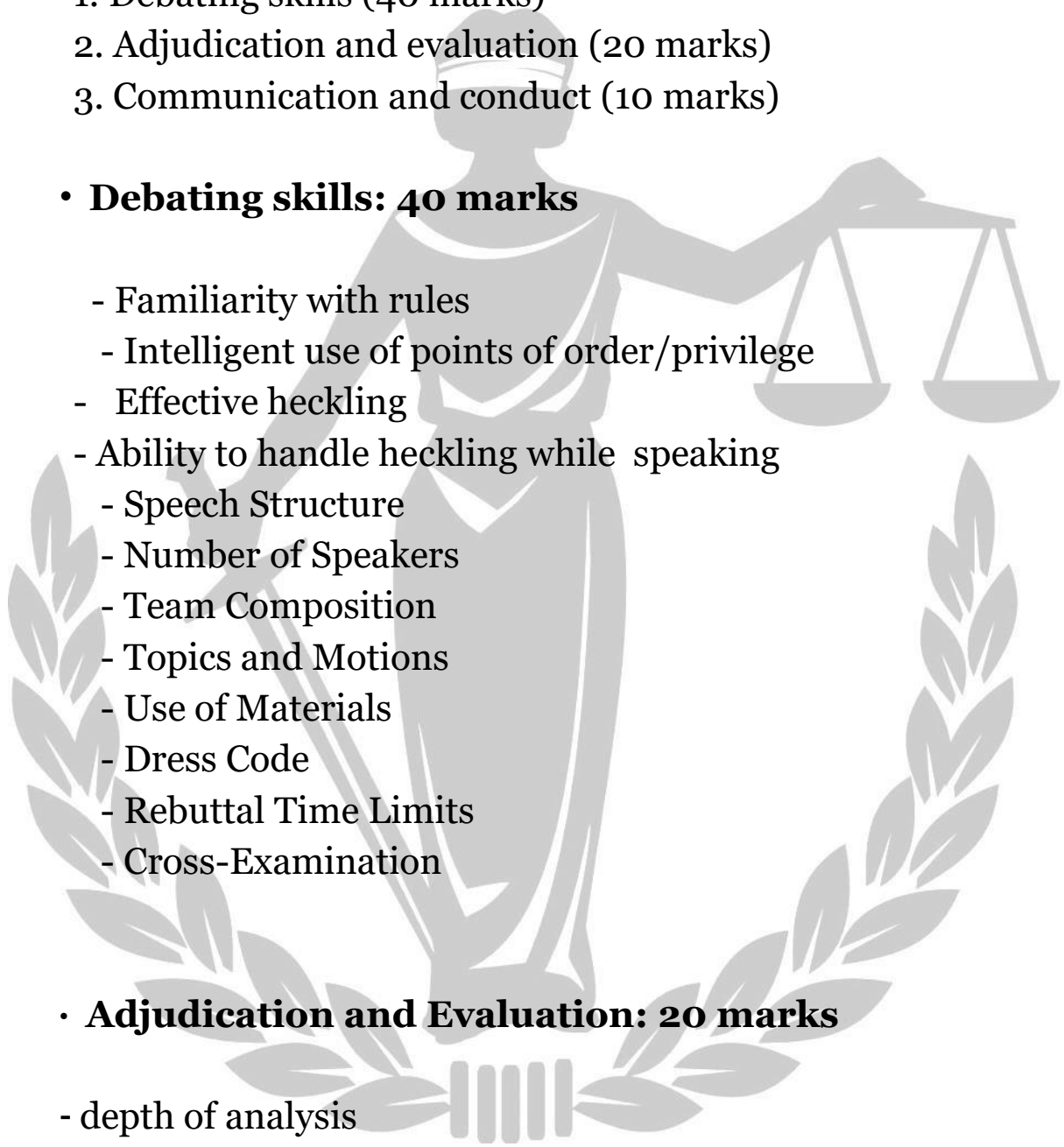
1. Debating skills (40 marks)
2. Adjudication and evaluation (20 marks)
3. Communication and conduct (10 marks)

• **Debating skills: 40 marks**

- Familiarity with rules
- Intelligent use of points of order/privilege
- Effective heckling
- Ability to handle heckling while speaking
- Speech Structure
- Number of Speakers
- Team Composition
- Topics and Motions
- Use of Materials
- Dress Code
- Rebuttal Time Limits
- Cross-Examination

• **Adjudication and Evaluation: 20 marks**

- depth of analysis
- Responsiveness
 - Feedback and Appeals
 - Point of Information Protocol



- Penalties and Disqualifications
- **Communication and Conduct: 10 marks**

- Language and Conduct
- Communication of Topics and Motions
- Team Communication and Coordination

TIE BREAKER-

A tie breaking round shall be conducted as per the following rules:-

- ◉ One single debate shall be conducted
- ◉ Each team must send forward one member for the tie breaking round.
- ◉ Time for preparation shall remain the same. However the time for constructive speech shall be 3 minutes (2+1):
 - Each speaker shall present their topic within two minutes
 - One minute shall be given for rebuttal
- ◉ Marking criteria shall remain the same tie breaker.

FOR ANY QUERIES CONTACT:

Email ID: pd.aequitas24@gmail.com

Akshita Nanda: 78883 01649

Ananya Singh: 70092 93188