



SCJ

Ritual Competition

**RULES,
INFORMATION,
and
SPECIFICS**

Revision 2

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I. **SPECIFICS**

- A. The SPECIFICS give required work for clarification or to make a change only for the purpose of competition.
- B. Competition will follow the SPECIFICS for all Team, Best Part or Individual Competition Ritual Contests.

- II. **SOURCE:** All contests: Ritual of Secret Work, Fifteenth Edition, 2013. Exception: In accordance with current SCJ Policy, the phrase "Holy Bible" is changed to "Books of our Faith" wherever it appears.

III. **ELIGIBILITY:**

- A. A qualified person eligible to participate in competition, is a DeMolay in good standing who is a registered member of the Chapter he may represent in the contest.
- B. DeMolay contestants must have successfully returned both degree proficiencies.
- C. No person may fill more than one required part in a contest, except where specifically allowed in the CONTEST SPECIFICS.
- D. No required parts may be filled by more than one person in a contest except where specifically allowed in the CONTEST SPECIFICS.
- E. All required parts must be filled with qualified persons; any part not filled with a qualified person will disqualify the Chapter in that contest.
- F. Ritual Assistants, singers, accompanists, musical directors, technical personnel or spokesman need not be qualified persons.
- G. No DeMolay who has reached his 16th birthday on the day of competition may compete in a Junior Division contest.
- H. No DeMolay who has reached his 21st birthday on the day of competition may compete in any contest.
- I. Leagues may enter team contests. However, they will be eligible to win only if there are no Chapter teams competing in that contest.

IV. **SCJ RITUAL COMPETITION CONTESTS**

A. **TEAM COMPETITIONS**

- 1. Chapter Proficiency
- 2. Initiatory Degree
- 3. DeMolay Degree
- 4. Fourth Section
- 5. Ceremony of Light Team

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- B. **BEST PART COMPETITIONS** An individual may compete in only one Best Part per Degree. Individuals competing with a team are automatically entered in the Best Part competition. Ironman contests will not be considered. Competition in the Best Preceptor Competition is limited to individuals in the Junior Division or with less than one year of membership unless competing with a team
1. Chapter Proficiency:
 - a) Master Councilor
 - b) Chaplain
 2. DeMolay Degree:
 - a) Orator
 - b) Master Inquisitor
 - c) Junior Inquisitor
 - d) Jacques DeMolay
 3. Initiatory Degree
 - a) Master Councilor
 - b) Marshal
 - c) Senior Deacon
 - d) Preceptor
 4. Fourth Section
 - a) Master Councilor
- C. **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**; An individual may compete in no more than three INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS. Individuals competing in the Ultimate Preceptor competition may not compete in a Preceptor competition or vice versa. An individual may compete in one age group only. Junior Level is through 15 years of age and Senior Level is 16 and older as of the date of competition.
1. Ceremony of Light – Junior
 2. Ceremony of Light - Senior
 3. Flower Talk – Junior
 4. Flower Talk – Senior
 5. Ultimate Preceptor – Junior
 6. Ultimate Preceptor – Senior
 7. OBLIGATIONS: Competitors must have joined DeMolay after the preceding Jurisdiction Competition. The Contest includes the queries.

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II.

V. **SPOKESPERSON:**

- A. Each competitor must have a spokesperson. Anyone can be the spokesperson. Competitors in Individual Competitions or Best Parts may be their own spokesperson.
- B. The spokesperson must be qualified to attend a tiled DeMolay meeting if the ceremony is not public.
- C. The member competing in an individual contest can be his own spokesperson or any member of a team can be the spokesperson.
- D. The spokesperson is responsible for questions and answers for the competitor.
- E. All questions regarding the contest must be asked by the spokesperson to the Chairperson of the Judging Panel if they are to have any official standing.

VI. **RITUAL ASSISTANT (RA):** The Ritual Assistant (RA) may be used for certain Best Parts Contests.

- A. The RA must be qualified to attend a tiled DeMolay meeting if the ceremony indicates the requirement.
- B. The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.
- C. Competitor must provide RA for their performance for those Best Part contests listed in the SPECIFICS, **if used**.
- D. RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
- E. The RA should be seated on the sideline, out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor.
- F. The RA may **ONLY** cue the last full sentence of Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
- G. The RA is not judged nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.

VII. **JUDGING SHEET PLUSES, BRACKETS AND BRACES:** Any words or actions listed on the judging sheets within pluses "+ +" brackets "[]" or braces "{ }" are there for clarification or information and will not be judged.

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VIII. **COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. Prepare the room, compete, and clear the room within the time limit.
- B. Prevent interruptions while competing.
- C. Fully and correctly follow all SOURCE and SPECIFICS instructions.
- D. Comply fully and correctly with all rules, Specifics, procedures and Judges' rulings.
- E. Fill the required parts and other optional parts with qualified persons.
- F. Clothe all parts appropriately.
- G. Present the complete, correct, required work.
- H. Correctly and audibly say the words and make the sounds of the ceremony from memory; prompts are not allowed; cues are permissible only as set forth in the SPECIFICS of the contest.
- I. Deliver the words with expression appropriate to the ceremony and to the part.
- J. Interpret and present the ceremony so as to achieve maximum good impression.

IX. **CONTEST PROCEDURE:**

- A. Rituals, Monitors of Public Ceremonies or judging sheets other than those provided to the judging panels are not allowed in the competition room.
- B. Observers from other chapters during competitions are encouraged. Delegations may witness all competitions they desire, recalling that any misconduct or harassment of a competitor will subject their group to severe penalty and possible disqualification. However, the contestant has the right to have the room cleared of observers prior to the beginning of their contest.
- C. A Spokesperson should check for time and place of competitor's briefing, if scheduled, which the spokesperson or representative thereof, should attend. At this briefing:
 - 1. The judging panels will be introduced.
 - 2. Announcements and schedule adjustments will be made.
 - 3. Questions of the judges may be asked.
- D. Parts, crew and doorkeepers should arrive at the place of competition at least 5 minutes early.
- E. Disturbances and interruptions will be penalized.
- F. Parts should arrive dressed appropriately for competition.

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- G. Near their scheduled time, the competitor(s) will be called to the door. Competitive room doors should never be opened from the outside. The judging panel will open the competitive area from the inside when they are prepared for the next competitor. The spokesperson will reply at once to the judge who called and inform the judge that the competitor(s) is/are present and ready.
- H. Judge and spokesperson enter the room, followed by the crew with equipment. Doorkeepers may take their places.
- I. The Panel Chairman will inform the panel of the competitors name, chapter, and category of competition. The Panel Chairman will call the room to order and proceed with the Panel Ritual. After "TIME ON" is called by the Panel Chairman, the spokesperson may ask any questions they may have.
- J. Once "TIME ON" has been called, other than natural disaster, instructions from police, fire or building officials, no person may stop or delay the contest performance other than the competitor or Panel Chairman.
- K. Parts and crew arrange the competitive area. When preparations are complete and the competitor(s) is/are ready to start, the spokesperson or designate will say "BEGIN" at which time judging commences.
- L. Competitor(s) presents the required work for the ceremony from memory. Prompts and interruptions, unless specified, will be penalized. When the ceremony has been completed, the spokesperson or designate says "STOP" at which time the judging ceases.
- M. Parts and crew clear the area of competitive equipment.
- N. When the area is clear, the Panel Chairman says "TIME OFF", ending the official timing period.
- O. After the results are announced, the spokesperson may obtain their judging sheets.

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X. JUDGING PROCEDURES:

A. SCORING:

1. Each competitor starts a contest with a PERFECT SCORE of 1000 points. Every error is penalized and each PENALTY is worth 5 points. The FINAL SCORE is the perfect score less all penalty points. The winner in a contest is the competitor with the highest FINAL SCORE.
2. Competitors may earn a BONUS for being exceptionally good in a particular area of an individual performance category in the Best Part or Individual Competition categories. Each BONUS is worth 1 point. It is possible to score higher than the PERFECT SCORE.

B. RITUAL CATEGORY:

1. Words spoken and sounds made (gavel raps, knocking on a door, etc.) are RITUAL. Items inside pluses “+ +” on the judging sheets are not judged.
 - a) Competitors must follow correctly the SOURCE text and any additions or amendments made by the SPECIFICS.
2. A DEVIATION is a penalty assessed for each word, syllable or sound that is:
 - a) Omitted, replaced by another (substitution), or mispronounced. A line drawn through it indicates the error (word). Reasonable latitude will be considered for regional accents.
 - b) Inserted. It is indicated by a caret (^) at the point of insertion. The point of the caret will be on the bottom of the line. A second insertion at the same point is indicated by a tally mark, as is each additional insertion at the point (^|) indicates two insertions. Any repeated words or stuttering are considered insertions.
3. MAXIMUM RITUAL PENALTY is 400 points.

C. DIRECTION CATEGORY:

1. Instructions of a ceremony are DIRECTION. Items on the judging sheets inside pluses “+ +”, brackets “[]” or braces “{ }” are not judged.
2. Competitors must follow correctly those directions that are provided in the SOURCE or any additions or amendments made by the SPECIFICS.
3. A LAPSE is a competitor’s failure to comply with an instruction by a part or in the placement or use of an object or prop.
4. If an instruction or tactic is attempted, the DIRECTION Judge will consider it done; how well the attempt is made is not assessed by the DIRECTION Judge.
5. MAXIMUM DIRECTION PENALTY is 300 points.

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D. PERFORMANCE CATEGORY:

1. Teaching the content of the ceremony with audible, visual and emotional impact which can achieve a favorable response is PERFORMANCE.
2. Assessments are made on a penalty subtraction basis for team competitions and on a variable evaluation scale for Best Part and Individual Competitions.
3. MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE PENALTY is 300 points.
4. PERFORMANCE – TEAM COMPETITIONS - All team competitions are judged on a penalty subtraction basis. Positive comments do not add points to the total score. Any Penalty must be validated by an appropriate specific comment on the judging sheet.

a) TEAM EVALUATIONS:

- (1) IMPRESSION – the maximum effective use of facilities, music (if used) and cooperation of parts to achieve a favorable reaction. A maximum of 10 penalties on a sliding scale is assessed in each of the following areas, except music, for errors:
 - (a) ATTENTION – following the action of the ceremony.
 - (b) COMPETITIVE AREA – effective use of the room, equipment and facilities.
 - (c) COORDINATION – sitting or standing together, walking, squaring corners, uniformity in posture, sitting or standing positions.
 - (d) PACING – speed with which the ceremony is performed. Does it flow well or does it drag on and on?
 - (e) MUSIC – the favorable and appropriate use of selections. Does it fade in and out at the appropriate times or is it abruptly stopped. Does the volume distract from the performance. A maximum of five penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for errors. Music is optional and is not penalized if not used.
 - (f) OTHER – allows the judges to assess penalties for something not already covered by the existing Rules and Procedures. A maximum of 10 penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for errors not covered by the above sub-categories.
- (2) INTERPRETATION – the choice of major points to be emphasized and the logical and tasteful means of successfully focusing that emphasis: a maximum of twenty- five penalties on a sliding scale are assessed for errors in each of the following:
 - (a) The emphasis of major points of the ceremony.
 - (b) The presentation of points in a logical manner.
- (3) PROCEDURE – following the rules and contest procedures

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- (a) PARTS SPEAKING THEIR OWN LINES – a competitor may deliver only the Ritual for his part from memory unless allowed by the Specifics of the contest. Fifty penalties are assessed for each occurrence.
 - (b) DECORUM – maintaining proper actions and language. A maximum of five penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for each occurrence.
 - (c) PROMPTS – an unsanctioned communication, whether verbal or visual, by competitors or from non-competitors during the judging of the contest. Ten penalties are assessed for each occurrence.
- (4) INTERRUPTIONS – intrusions into the competitive area during the judging of the contest. The intrusion must be disruptive to the contest and/or competitor(s) in order to be penalized. The competitor is responsible for providing a doorkeeper to prevent interruptions. Ten penalties are assessed for each occurrence
- b) PART EVALUATION – TEAM CONTESTS:
- (1) APPEARANCE - the aptness and correct interpretation of the part's grooming appearance, clothing and costume for the ceremony (how well it fits on each part, can the competitor walk without tripping on the hem and the maintenance of the garments, shoes, etc.), including its relation to that of the competitive team. Uniformity is assessed when a competitor attempts it. The value of the clothing will not be considered, only how well it looks on the competitor. This section also includes the grooming appearance of the competitor. A maximum of two penalties per part on a sliding scale is assessed for errors.
 - (2) ACTING - is subdivided into six areas; a maximum of five penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for errors for each of the following:
 - (3) MOVEMENT - action alone or with others.
 - (4) VOLUME - loudness or softness of voice. It is the competitor's responsibility to be heard clearly through the entire room.
 - (5) EFFECT - sound for mood, illusion or characterization.
 - (6) GESTURES - natural or appropriate body motions as means of expression without detracting from the performance.

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- (7) PACING – fast or slow; choppy or smooth.
 - (8) EXPRESSION – conveying characterization of a part and saying words with appropriate emotion.
 - (9) BALKS – fluency errors are unintentional, unnatural pauses in the process of delivering a part; one penalty is assessed for each instance in the ceremony (no limit on the number of penalties) and is marked in the performance judge area.
- c) PERFORMANCE – INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES IN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION OR BEST PART CONTESTS:
Individual performance is judged using a judging matrix. Eleven separate categories are marked with plus or minus scores and validated with appropriate comments. All eleven categories must be scored. The range of “0” is considered the error free norm and require no comment. The competitor must be performing above the norm in order to achieve a positive rating in an Individual or Best Part Competition. There are no bonuses given for individual performances on a team Competition. The competitor must be committing performance errors to receive a negative rating. Each error negative comment is worth five points. Each positive comment (BONUS) is worth one point. Unless an exception is noted, a maximum of three penalties or bonuses on a sliding scale is assessed in each of the following:
- (1) APPEARANCE – the aptness and correct interpretation of the part’s grooming appearance, clothing and costume for the ceremony (how well it fits on each part, can the competitor walk without tripping on the hem and the maintenance of the garments, shoes, etc.). The value of the clothing will not be considered, only how well it looks on the competitor. This section also includes the grooming appearance of the competitor. A maximum of two penalties per part on a sliding scale is assessed for errors.
 - (2) ACTION AND EXPRESSION – the proper use of appropriate mannerisms and attitudes as they pertain to the degree. Examples could include but not be limited to: reverent actions, facial expression, expressions of madness, empathy, hostility, fierceness, gentleness, love, etc.
 - (3) CONFIDENT AND RELAXED – expressing a feeling that the competitor not only knows the words but also has practiced the ceremony to the extent that a candidate would be favorably impressed.
 - (4) ENUNCIATION – pronunciation of the words clearly and distinctly.

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- (5) **VOLUME** – proper use of a volume loud enough for the entire room to hear and understand any specific interpretation at that moment in the ceremony. Proper volume includes the adjustment, up or down, due to acoustics or external noises which would necessitate a change from the competitor’s normal delivery.
- (6) **PACE** – the proper speed for the specific ceremony. This speed ties into proper acting and expression and greatly affects enunciation. In some instances, this could be fast (e.g., DeMolay Degree parts) but in most instances would be a fairly even, moderate pace, but not monotone, allowing for good enunciation and volume.
- (7) **PAUSES** – the use of appropriate breaks in the delivery of the ceremony in order to enhance the mood, illusion or characterization. This category is not used for fluency errors which are shown elsewhere on the judging sheet.
- (8) **EYE CONTACT** – the use of eye to eye contact at the correct time. In all ceremonies, this area includes not only talking to the candidate, but to other parts of the room at large where appropriate. In the DeMolay Degree, this area is liberally interpreted for acting.
- (9) **GESTURES** - the appropriate use of hands without distracting to enhance the mood or impression of the ceremony.
- (10) **BODY MOVEMENT** – your posture, required movement and body language should be appropriate for the ceremony without distracting.
- (11) **BALKS** - fluency errors are unintentional, unnatural pauses in the process of delivering a part; one penalty is assessed for each instance in the ceremony (no limit on the number of penalties) and is marked in the performance judge area.

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XI. **CONTEST APPEALS:**

- A. The result of any contest may be appealed by first filing a verbal protest to the Official (the DeMolay Ritual Coordinator/Director) in charge of that competition within 48 hours of the release of the judging sheets.
- B. Appeals must be made by the Primary Advisor or Coach present at Tournament, hereafter referred to as the Competitors Representative.
- C. A detailed written statement of the basis of the protest and a legible copy of the original judging sheets must be mailed/emailed to the Tournament official postmarked no later than three (3) work days after the verbal appeal.
- D. If a verbal protest is not made, the written statement and documentation must be received by the Tournament official within 5 work days of the release of the judging sheets. An email appeal with legible electronic photo copies of the sheets is acceptable.
- E. The competitor's representative will be notified of the final ruling within 30 days of receipt of the written appeal and forms.

- XII. **MINIMUM PROFICIENCY:** Minimum proficiency standards are listed in the Contest Specifics of each contest. These must be met in a contest in order to win an award in that contest. If the minimum proficiency standard is not met in a contest, no award will be made in that contest.

CONTEST SPECIFICS

SOURCE: All contests: Ritual of Secret Work, Fifteenth Edition, 2013. Exception, in accordance with current SCJ Policy, the phrase "Holy Bible" is changed to "Books of our Faith" wherever it appears.

I. **CHAPTER PROFICIENCY (Team)**PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 700

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. Initiatory Degree Opening Ceremony, the DeMolay Degree Opening Ceremony, the Closing Ceremony and Nine O'clock Interpolation as they appear in the SOURCE except as noted below.
2. Room to be set as in Diagram One, except the only stations necessary are those of the required parts. The following required **items** must be used as in the SOURCE:
 - a) **Books of our Faith** lying closed on the Altar.
 - b) **School Books** are at the Junior Steward's station.
 - c) **National Flag** in appropriate location.
 - d) **Seven Candles** are not lighted.
 - e) **Gavel** at the Master Councilor's station.
 - f) **Gong**.
3. The **11** required ritual parts may be filled with a minimum of **8** competitors with:
 - a) the **Senior Councilor** assuming the part of the **Senior Steward**;
 - b) the **Junior Councilor** assuming the part of the **Junior Steward**;
 - c) and the **Senior Deacon** assuming the part of the **Standard Bearer**.
 - d) Stations of assumed parts are considered those of the person assuming the part.
4. Parts are seated in respective stations at beginning of ceremony which starts with the Master Councilor's gavel rap and first line, "Brother Marshal, you will see that all present are members of the order of DeMolay or visitors".
5. Omit actions and lines raising, vouching for and/or welcoming Master Masons or Senior DeMolays; omit actions and lines concerning lost words; and omit the Opening Ode.
6. The "Word of the Day" is "RITUAL".
7. Words and grips are collected from the Chaplain, Marshal, Standard Bearer, Senior Steward and Junior Steward only. The salute to the flag is that as set forth in the SOURCE.

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8. The official Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States is spoken by all parts except the Standard bearer.
 9. Insert competing Chapter's name and sponsoring body in the appropriate blanks.
 10. For the Nine O'clock Interpolation, the ringing of the gong is mandatory.
 11. Closing Ceremony:
 - a) The Nine O'clock Interpolation prayer may not be used instead of the closing prayer.
 - b) After the Junior Deacon advises the Sentinel that the Chapter is closed and then advises the Master Councilor that the Sentinel is informed, the Master Councilor raps once, ending the ceremony.
- B. **REQUIRED PARTS:** Master Councilor, Senior Councilor, Junior Councilor, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Marshal, Chaplain and Sentinel. Additional required ritual **and direction are** the parts of the Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Standard Bearer.
- C. **TIME LIMIT:** 40 minutes.
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II. **INITIATORY DEGREE (Team)**PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 750

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

- A. **REQUIRED WORK;** The Initiatory Degree as it appears in the SOURCE **except** as noted below:
1. Room to be set as in Diagram One, except the only stations necessary are those of the required parts. The following required **items** must be used as listed in the SOURCE:
 - a) **Books of our Faith** lying open near center of Altar.
 - b) **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of Altar.
 - c) **Gavels** at the stations of the Master Councilor and Senior Councilor.
 - d) **Seven Candles** are lighted.
 - e) **The Crown of Youth** is lying on a pedestal near Master Councilor's station.
 - f) **Gong**.
 2. Omit instructions for handling large classes.
 3. Senior Steward for each Candidate (if used) makes all the verbal responses for Candidates, including "I" and speaking name(s). The obligation is not repeated and the Master Councilor may omit the pauses.
 4. After the Master Councilor says, "Brother Senior Deacon, you will conduct the new brothers to seats", the Senior Deacon and the Stewards do so, then go to their respective stations. The Master Councilor raps once and all sit down ending the ceremony.

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5. Instructions for the Chaplain, Marshal, Preceptors and Standard Bearer will not be judged in the formation and execution of the shield position. See Source Diagrams Seven and Eight. The Marshal may take the Chaplain's place in the shield at the competitor's option.
 6. The ritual of the Scribe and Preceptors is required, but may be given by any qualified person at the competitor's option.
 7. All Direction instructions for conducting Candidates on the symbolic journey, for Preceptors and for placing the jewels in the Crown of Youth are omitted from judging. Competitors are to devise their own presentation of the Preceptors' parts using qualified persons. Only the ritual and performance of this portion of the presentation will be judged.
- B. **REQUIRED PARTS:** Master Councilor, Senior Councilor, Junior Councilor, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Marshal. Additional required **ritual** are the parts of the Scribe and all 7 Preceptors. Candidates may be imaginary or real. If real, they must be qualified persons. If imaginary, required parts must pantomime Candidates existence whenever they are escorted, conducted, addressed, presented or otherwise acknowledged.
- C. **TIME LIMIT:** 60 minutes.
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III. DeMOLAY DEGREE (Team)

PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 750

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. The DeMolay Degree, First Section and Orator's lines only of the Third Section, as they appear in the SOURCE. References to Godfrey de Goneville and Hughes de Peralde may be omitted as appropriate. See Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. Spokesman will inform the Panel Chairman whether the Chapter will follow a stage or lodge arrangement. Instructions not peculiar to one arrangement apply, regardless of where they appear.
3. The First & Third Sections' speeches for the Orator may be given by one of the required parts or by another qualified person.
4. Stage directions in parentheses in the text are suggestions only and are not included on judging sheets.

B. **REQUIRED PARTS:** Master Inquisitor, Senior Inquisitor, Junior Inquisitor, Senior Guard, Lord Constable, Marshal of the Commission, Jacques DeMolay and Geoffrey de Charney. Additional required **ritual** is the part of the Orator. Non-speaking parts are at the competitor's discretion.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 60 minutes.

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IV. **FOURTH SECTION**PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 850

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The Fourth Section of the DeMolay Degree, with only the actions and lines of the Master Councilor, Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon required.
2. Room to be set as in Diagram One, except the only stations necessary are those of the required parts. The following required **items must** be used:
 - a) **Books of our Faith** lying open near center of Altar.
 - b) **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of the Altar.
 - c) **Seven Candles** lighted.
 - d) **Gavel** at the Master Councilor's station and at Senior Councilors Station (if used),
3. Just prior to Obligation, Master Councilor goes to head candle on East side of altar and faces West. Junior deacon joins Senior Deacon on West side of Altar. If additional officers are used, all officers will move and position per Diagrams 7 and 8.
4. Senior Deacon makes all verbal responses for Candidates, including "I" and speaking name. The obligation is not repeated and the Master Councilor may omit the pauses.
5. Master Councilor; Scores from this contest may be used for the Best Part event. If the team includes the Senior Councilor and Junior Councilor members, the Master Councilor will be required to enter a separate Best Part competition.

B. REQUIRED PARTS: Master Councilor, Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon.

1. This contest consists of a 3 or a 5 member team. At the option of the Chapter, the Senior Councilor and Junior Councilor parts may be performed per the Source.
2. Master Councilor will perform where "Mem." or "member" is indicated.
3. Deacons perform functions of Stewards as indicated.
4. The specifics of the additional parts are included in the Direction judging sheets for this completion.
5. Candidates may be imaginary or real. If real, they must be qualified persons. If imaginary, required parts must pantomime Candidates' existence whenever they are escorted, conducted, addressed, presented or otherwise acknowledged.
6. Parts are seated in respective stations at beginning of ceremony which starts with the Master Councilor's first line, "Brother Senior Deacon, you **will conduct ...**"

C. TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes.

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V. **CEREMONY OF LIGHT (Team)** PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. The Ceremony of Light, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
2. Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
3. The following are the required items:
 - a) **Books of our Faith** lying open near the center of the Altar.
 - b) **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of the Altar.
 - c) **Seven Candles** lighted.
 - d) **National Flag** in appropriate place.
4. The Speakers begin and end from the same seated positions. (Source reference 9418).
5. The Speakers talk to the room at large.

B. **REQUIRED PARTS:** Minimum of **3** Speakers, each of whom must present a minimum of 2 of the stations. A station is defined as the portion of the ceremony where there is a logical break and/or the speaker is required to move from one point to another. If 4 or more Speakers are used, each speaker must represent at least one station. There are no Candidates.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 20 minutes.

VI. **BEST PART AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:** One complete part as it appears in the SOURCE or as Specified on judging sheet.

1. Competitor is judged on the ritual (words spoken and sounds made) of the part as shown in the SOURCE and as excepted in Contest Specifics for Best Part or Individual Competitions.
2. Appearance and costuming will be judged based on the degree's normal requirements.
3. Best Part competitors are to perform per accepted "team" performance standards. See specific Best Part instructions and Source materials.
4. **RITUAL ASSISTANT (RA):**
 - a) The RA may be used only for those Best Parts and Individual contests identified below.
 - b) The RA must be qualified to attend a tiled DeMolay meeting if the ceremony indicates the requirement.
 - c) The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.

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- d) The competitor that opts to use a RA must provide the RA for their performance for those Best Part contests listed in these SPECIFICS.
- e) RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
- f) The RA should be seated on the sideline out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor, but should be seated at a place designated by the Panel Chairman.
- g) The RA may ONLY cue the last full sentence of the Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
- h) The RA is not judged nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.
- i) The following Best Part competitions have RA sheets available: Master Councilor Chapter Proficiency, Jacques DeMolay, Junior Inquisitor, Master Inquisitor, Obligations.
- J) No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.

B. BEST PARTS:

- 1. Chapter Proficiency:
 - a) Master Councilor (*) (* *)
 - b) Chaplains Contest (* * *)
- 2. Initiatory Degree:
 - a) Master Councilor
 - b) Marshal
 - c) Senior Deacon
 - d) Preceptor
- 3. DeMolay Degree:
 - a) Jacques DeMolay (*)
 - b) Junior Inquisitor (*)
 - c) Master Inquisitor (*)
 - d) Orator
- 4. 4th Section:
 - a) Master Councilor (Scores for this contest may be taken from the Team event)

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C. **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS:**

1. Flower Talk
2. Ceremony of Light
3. Ultimate Preceptor
4. 1 through 7 Preceptor (Junior Division only)
5. Obligations (*)

(*) A Ritual Assistant (RA) may aid by providing the authorized "cue" to the competitor.

(* *) Exceptions to Source of starting point requirement in Chapter Proficiency Master Councilor Best Part Specifics. RA notation included in this contest. See Specifics following.

(* * *) Chaplain's Best Part is incorporated into the Chaplain's Contest. Source exceptions to this contest are contained in contests Specifics.

D. **TIME LIMITS:**

1. Best Parts: 15 minutes for Master Councilor Chapter Proficiency, Master Councilor Initiatory Degree, Master Councilor 4th Section and Jacques DeMolay. 10 minutes for Chaplains, Initiatory Degree Marshal, Initiatory Degree Senior Deacon, Junior Inquisitor, Master Inquisitor and Orators Contests,
2. Individual Competitions: 20 Minutes for Flower Talk and Ceremony of Light. 10 minutes for Magnificent 7 and Obligations. 5 minutes for individual Preceptors.

VII. **MASTER COUNCILOR, CHAPTER PROF (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. Competitor must start with the Master Councilor's gavel rap and first line, "Brother Marshal, you will see that all present are members of the order of DeMolay or visitors". This requirement mirrors the Chapter Proficiency Team Specifics starting point.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
3. Best Part competitors are to perform per accepted "team" performance standards. See Source page 7, lines 28-32: "During prayers, all Active DeMolays kneel facing the Alter. An Active DeMolay kneels..." and page 24, line 13 and 21: "Placing the right hand over the heart with fingers joined".
4. After the Junior Deacon advises the Sentinel that the Chapter is closed and then advises the Master Councilor that the Sentinel is informed, the Master Councilor raps once, ending the ceremony.

SCJ Ritual Competition

5. The RA may be used for this contest.
 - a) The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.
 - b) Competitor must provide RA for their performance (if used).
 - c) RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
 - d) The RA should be seated on the sideline out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor, but should be seated at a place designated by the Panel Chairman.
 - e) The RA may ONLY cue the last full sentence of Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
 - f) The RA is not judged nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.

B. **REQUIRED PART:** The Speaker.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 15 minutes.

VIII. **CHAPLAIN'S CONTEST (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. The presentation of the Opening, Nine O'clock Interpolation and Closing Prayers as shown in the Source.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
3. Chaplain should perform per accepted "team" performance standards. Source page 7, lines 32-34: "Chaplain kneels at the Alter on both knees, both hands palms down on the Books of our Faith, body erect, and head slightly turned up; eyes may be opened or closed".
4. Chaplains "Amen" response after the opening and closing prayers as listed in the Source as "ALL" will NOT be given.
5. Chaplain's response to Nine O'clock Interpolation phrase, "God bless mother, God bless father, God bless the purposes of DeMolay, Amen" will be given. Source page 7, lines 32-34.

B. **REQUIRED PART:** The Speaker.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 10 minutes.

SCJ Ritual Competition

IX. **Master Councilor, Initiatory Degree (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. The presentation of the part as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.

B. **REQUIRED PART:** The Speaker.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 15 minutes.

X. **Marshal, Initiatory Degree (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. The presentation of the part as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.

B. **REQUIRED PART:** The Speaker.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 10 minutes.

XI. **Senior Deacon, Initiatory Degree (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. The presentation of the part as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.

B. **REQUIRED PART:** The Speaker.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 10 minutes.

XII. **PRECEPTOR, Init Degree (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 950

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

1. Any preceptor ritual part as it appears in the SOURCE.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.

B. **REQUIRED PARTS:** The Speaker

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 5 minutes.

SCJ Ritual Competition

XIII. **Jacques DeMolay (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The presentation of the part as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
3. The RA may be used for this contest.
 - a) The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.
 - b) Competitor must provide RA for their performance (if used).
 - c) RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
 - d) The RA should be seated on the sideline out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor, but should be seated at a place designated by the Panel Chairman.
 - e) The RA may ONLY cue the last full sentence of Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
 - f) The RA is not judged nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker.

C. TIME LIMIT: 15 minutes.

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XIV. **Junior Inquisitor (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The presentation of the part as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
3. The RA may be used for this contest.
 - a) The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.
 - b) Competitor must provide RA for their performance (if used).
 - c) RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
 - d) The RA should be seated on the sideline out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor, but should be seated at a place designated by the Panel Chairman.
 - e) The RA may **ONLY** cue the last full sentence of Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
 - f) The RA is not judged nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker.

C. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes.

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XV. **Master Inquisitor (Best Part)**.....PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The presentation of the part as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
3. The RA may be used for this contest.
 - a) The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.
 - b) Competitor must provide RA for their performance, (if used).
 - c) RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
 - d) The RA should be seated on the sideline out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor, but should be seated at a place designated by the Panel Chairman.
 - e) The RA may ONLY cue the last full sentence of Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
 - f) The RA is not judged nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker.

C. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes.

XVI. **DeMolay Degree Orator (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The presentation of the Orators part First Section and Third Section as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker.

C. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes.

SCJ Ritual Competition

XVII. **Master Councilor, 4th Section (Best Part)**PROFICIENCY: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The presentation of the "M.C." part as shown in the Source. See also the Ritual Judging sheets for this contest.
2. No room set-up is required. Competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker.

C. TIME LIMIT: 15 minutes.

XVIII. **CEREMONY OF LIGHT (Indiv Competition)**PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The Ceremony of Light, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
2. Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
3. The following are the required items:
 - a) **Books of our Faith** lying open near the center of the Altar.
 - b) **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of the Altar.
 - c) **Seven Candles** lighted.
 - d) **National Flag** in appropriate place.
4. The Speaker begins and ends from the same seated position. (Source reference 9418).
5. The Speaker talks to the room at large.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

C. TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes.

SCJ Ritual Competition

XIX. **FLOWER TALK (Individual)** PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The Flower Talk, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
2. The 5th word “just” of the first sentence should be used indicating that the ceremony is being presented to a new initiate.
3. Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
4. The following are the required **items**:
 - a) **Books of our Faith** lying open near the center of the Altar.
 - b) **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of the Altar.
 - c) **Red and white flowers** are arranged on the Altar so as not to touch the Books of our Faith.
5. The Speaker talks to the room at large.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

C. TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes.

XX. **ULTIMATE PRECEPTOR (Indiv)**PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. Seven Preceptor ritual parts, in order as they appear in the SOURCE.
2. No room set-up required. Competitor will stand at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
3. Competitor will be judged on **ritual and performance** only. There is no direction judging.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

C. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes.

SCJ Ritual Competition

XXI. **OBLIGATIONS (Indiv Competition)**PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 800

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

1. The presentation of the Initiatory and DeMolay Degree Queries as shown in the Source including Questions, Answers, Directions (ritual and pantomimed response) and the Obligations.
2. No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
3. Competitor is judged on the ritual (words spoken and sounds made) of the part as shown in the SOURCE and on the performance as outlined in the Scoring and Judging Rules specified for Individual Competitions.
4. The RA is recommended to be used for this contest.
 - a) The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.
 - b) Competitor must provide RA for their performance. w. RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
 - c) The RA should be seated on the sideline out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor, but should be seated at a place designated by the Panel Chairman.
 - d) The RA may ONLY cue the last full sentence of Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
 - e) The RA is not judged nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.
5. Appearance and costuming will be judged based on the degree's normal requirements.

B. REQUIRED PART: The Speaker.

C. LIMITED ENTRIES: Eligibility to register for Obligations competitions is limited to those initiated after or since the previous SCJ Ritual Competition.

D. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes

SCJ Ritual Competition

SUMMARY of CHANGES

Revision 1 2019

II The phrase Holy Bible is changed to "Books of our Faith"

IV B: Added a requirement that competitors in the Best Preceptor contest is limited to individuals in the Junior Division or with less than one year of membership unless they are competing on a team.

Contest Specifics Source Adds the exception that in accordance with current SCJ Policy, the phrase "Holy Bible" is changed to "Books of our Faith" wherever it appears.

Several editorial changes not affecting content.

Revision 2 2022

III H and IV C Changed ages of Junior Division to 12-15 and Senior Divisions to 16-20.

IX C and I Removed requirement for spokesman to retrieve entry form at competitor's briefing and to submit it to the Judge at the beginning of the competition.