

# Bhagavad Gītā Chanting Competition

## Judges' scoring Rules

1. **Completeness of Chanting:** (Total points equal to # of Shlokas to be chanted)
  - a. The verses are to be chanted in correct order and fully.
  - b. 5 points for each fully and completely chanted verse.
  - c. Prompting: One prompt will be allowed with no deduction of a point. No second prompting.
  - d. Missed verse: 5 points to be deducted for each missed verse: for example,
    - i. Any verse missed partially or completely;
    - ii. Inserting the missed verse anywhere out of sequence
    - iii. Mixing lines of different verses.
  - e. The introduction (Atha pañcadaśo) and the ending (i.e. śrīmad bhagavad gītā su) do not count toward completeness and must not affect the scoring.
  - f. However, the student **must** chant (Śrī Bhagavāna uvāca or Arjuna uvāca) correctly prior to chanting the Shloka.
  - g. If the participant corrects his/her own mistake and proceeds to chant, no points are deducted in this category. However, note that this may affect the subjective score for 'Confidence' and/or 'Ease of chanting' categories.
2. **Clarity of Chanting :** Total of 10 points
  - a. Diction: crisp
  - b. Tone: Continuous and smooth
  - c. Flow: in **Anuṣṭhupa chandaḥ** (i.e. break each line after the 8<sup>th</sup> syllable).  
For example: 'ūrdhvamūla madhaḥśākhaṁ' break... 'aśvatthaṁ prāhura vyayam'.
3. **Confidence and Ease of Chanting:** Total of 10 points
  - a. Poise: Composure, distracting habits
  - b. Presentation: Verses chanted in correct order, without interruptions, fumbling or need for prompting.

### Pronunciations:

- a. A **visargaḥ**:  
should be pronounced fully only when applicable (typically at the break of a line or at the end of a line),  
For example: na tadbhāsayate sūryaḥ , na śaśāṅko na pāvakaḥ  
should not be chanted fully in the middle of the line.  
For example: ūrdhvamūla madhaśśākhaṁ'
- b. A **dirgha** or prolonged sound should be chanted twice as long as the hrasva or

short sound.

For example: **ū**rdhv**a**m**ū**la madhaśś**ā**kha**m**' (bolded prolonged sounds)

**a**śvattha**m** prā**h**uravyaya**m**'.(bolded short sounds)

- c. **Sandhi vicchedaḥ** to be done properly. (split compound words correctly if needed).
- d. Halant should be chanted properly.
- e. The following letters are to be chanted with clear distinction from each other:  
ka versus kha, ga versus gha, ta versus tha, da versus dha  
example: ghore gītā niṣṭhā buddhi

all **sa ṣa śa** sounds to be clearly pronounced.

**Avagrahas** are not to be chanted (letter '**s**' in Samskr̥ta shlokas and '**.a**' in English transliteration)

N sounds – **na, ṇa** – to be clearly and distinctly chanted.

for example: karmā**ṇi** , manasā

A participant repeating the same mistake shall be penalized only once.