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St. Mary's Seminary Nadiket
Debating Club
P.O. Box 46
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NORTHERN UGANDA DEBATING ETIQUETTE

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"FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY"

ARTICLE 1: HOUSE ORGANISATION:

1. There must be a Chairperson seated up facing the audience.
2. There has to be two (2) Time-keepers seated up facing the audience.
3. There can be two or three Judges, seated facing the Chairperson's table just a distance away, near to the audience.
4. There should be Seven (7) Speakers from both sides, among whom two (2) are to be Main Speakers. All sit left and right of the Chairperson's table, both facing their Opponents.

ARTICLE 2: THE CHAIRPERSON:

1. The Chairperson presiding over any debate shall be a full member of the Club, or shall be any other person well versed with the regulations set up by the Northern Uganda Debating Etiquette.
2. He/She shall be invited to take over his/her seat by the Motion Mover or General Organizer. After the actual debate is over, he/she shall hand over the house to the Motion Mover.
3. He/She shall officially open the actual debate, and invite the Honourable Speakers from both sides, the Judges and the Time-keepers to take over their seats in the house.
4. He/She shall take full control of the administration of Order in the house. In this case, he/she has the full right to send out or suspend a member of the house incase of any conduct.
5. The Chairperson's words "Order in the House" means dead silence.
6. In a debate, the presiding Chairperson shall be called and addressed by a title he/she has given him/herself before or at the opening of the debate from among the following titles:
   - Mr. Chairman
   - Sir/Madam Chairperson
   - Honourable Chairman
   - Most Honoured Chairman
7. He/She shall critically follow the regulations laid down by the Northern Uganda Debating Etiquette and shall refrain from being partial and biased.
8. He/She shall approve or disapprove any charge raised in the Points of Order by quoting the regulations of the Etiquette. He shall also approve or disapprove according to his/her personal discretion.
9. He/She is the final person in the Debating; therefore, anything during the debating time must be addressed through him/her.
10. The Chairperson has the full right to reject or allow Point of Order.
11. The Chairperson shall be informed with due respect if he/she should violate the provisions of the Debating Etiquette.

ARTICLE 3: THE JUDGES:

1. There shall be one or two (3 or judges, plus a Chief-judge for proper justice.
2. The judges shall refrain from partiality, prejudice and favouratism when passing out their judgments in a debate.
3. The judges shall be full-time members of the Club or at least persons with adequate knowledge of the Northern Uganda Debating Etiquette
4. They shall work hand in hand with the Chairperson critically taking note of whether a Point of Order is lawfully sustained or suspended by the Chairperson, and shall note whether the previous Speaker holding the floor has adequately defended his/her point or not when given a Point of Information. They shall deduct and add mark accordingly.
5. The judges shall always be given a copy of the Etiquette and the Format or Scheme for the judgment before the debate opens.
6. They shall add or subtract not more than five (5) marks to or from the basic mark allotted in the judgment Scheme.
7. The judges are to check from the Speakers the following:
   - i) Smartness.
   - ii) Title/address of the Chairperson as given by him/her at the opening of the debate.
   - iii) Order of greetings (Chairperson first, Judges next, Time-keepers, Speakers from both sides, and lastly the audience).
   - iv) Taking a side stand that is, standing at ajar.
   - v) Gestures.
   - vi) Grammatical and fluent expression.
   - vii) Coherent, accurate and distinct solutions to the problems in question.
   - viii) Logical and methodical reasoning.
   - ix) Audibility.
   - x) Contact with the audience.
   - xi) Misquotations and other spellings.
   - xii) Conduct of the debator in the house.
8. The judges shall follow the following Format/Scheme for judgment and award of points:

-	Time Management	5 Marks
-	Smartness	10 Marks
-	Fluency in English	15 Marks
-	Conduct with the Audience	15 Marks
-	Points of Order	15 Marks
-	Points	20 Marks
-	Summary of all the Points	10 Marks
-	Definition of Motion	10 Marks
	TOTAL	100 Marks

The Chief-judge has to announce at the end of the debate the winning side and inform the audience how the points were gained or lost.

ARTICLE 4: HONOURABLE SPEAKERS:

1. There shall be two Main Speakers and five Subsidiary (Floor) Speakers in every debate from each side.
2. A Speaker holding the floor shall be called "The Informer", "The Current Speaker" or a "Current Informer". A Speaker holding the floor shall call the Speaker who spoke before him/her as "The Pre-Current Informer", Pre-Current Speaker" or "Previous Speaker".
3. A Speaker shall begin by addressing first the Chairperson and then followed by the Judges, the Time-keepers the two opposing sides and lastly the audience. He/she has to address the Chairperson with the exact title the Chairperson gave at the start of the debate.
4. A Speaker shall not be allowed to address the Chairperson while he/she is in motion. He/she shall not be allowed to waggle on the floor or stand akimbo.
5. Speakers are gentle people and should, therefore, try as much as possible to apply all sorts of gentility by being fully and smartly dressed.
6. A Speaker shall pay due respect to the "house" by his/her language: that is, abusive language shall not be allowed in the debate. This form of misconduct shall dully be penalized by the judges.
7. A Speaker currently holding the floor shall refrain from over-dramatization and over use of gestures; but shall be allowed to use controlled dramatization and gestures.
8. A Speaker holding the floor shall not obstinately argue with the Chairperson presiding over the debate otherwise he/she shall be ordered.
9. A Speaker holding the floor shall not talk as if he/she is threatening his/her opponents and shall avoid facing them directly; neither shall he/she be allowed to launch a direct attack on the opponents.
10. Speakers are allowed to quote from a text, but with permission from the Chairperson.
11. Speakers are allowed to glance at their points from the sheet but not to read them directly.
12. Speakers should not coincide/concur with his/her fellow side-mate in raising Points of Order and Information towards their opponent.
13. A Speaker shall have some support for his/her points, and not to come with a mere paper.
14. The first Main Speaker shall first define the Motion and simplify it for the audience. No Speaker is to bring out a different Motion/Topic.
15. Speakers are allowed to stamp their feet in support of their colleague holding the floor.

Information, Honourable Chairman", or simply: "Information, Honourable Chairperson".

6. A Speaker holding the floor shall
   a) Either; refuse the Point of Information; in which case he/she shall be allowed to do so only twice consecutively. Three consecutive refusals shall result in the Speaker being ordered.
   b) Or, accept the Point of Information; in which case he/she shall take over his/her seat or the seat provided on his/her side, while waiting to defend his/her ground.

7. A debator shall not be entitled to give points of defense in favour of his/her colleague holding the floor, for this destroys the art of self-defense.
8. Points of Information shall not be given too consecutively by the same person to the Speaker while he/she is developing his points, lest it causes disturbance and interruption.
9. A debator shall not be allowed to debate while another is given a Point of Information.

ARTICLE 7: TIME-KEEPERS AND TIMING:

1. There shall always be two (2) Time- Keepers, one for each side; either elected or appointed.
2. a) The Main Speakers shall speak for Seven (7) minutes each, while the Floor Speakers shall speak for Five (5) minutes each.
   b) The warning bell shall be rung after Five (5) minutes Three (3) minutes for the Main and Floor Speakers respectively.
3. A Speaker shall not be allowed to speak beyond the prescribed time. However, he/she shall be allowed to develop his/her points to the full if he/she is caught up by time in the process of doing so, but with due permission of the Chairperson. He/she shall not be allowed to begin any new point: neither by the Chairperson nor by the regulations of the Etiquette.
4. The Chairperson shall alert the Speaker holding the floor:
   a) at the warning bell by strongly saying: "Honourable Speaker, you are warned".
   b) at the last bell by saying: "Honourable Speaker, your time has elapsed/expired".
5. A debator summarizing his/her side's points shall be timed and not interfered with; and the time allotted is Five (5) minutes only
6. The Time- keeper shall give an alarming signal that the time is expiring.
7. He/she shall avoid favoritism, but rather be neutral.
8. He/she shall allow the one speaking his/her given time and to exclude time of Information, interruption, objection, Order but not of support of course.
9. He/she shall have a clock or a watch that neither gains nor loses.

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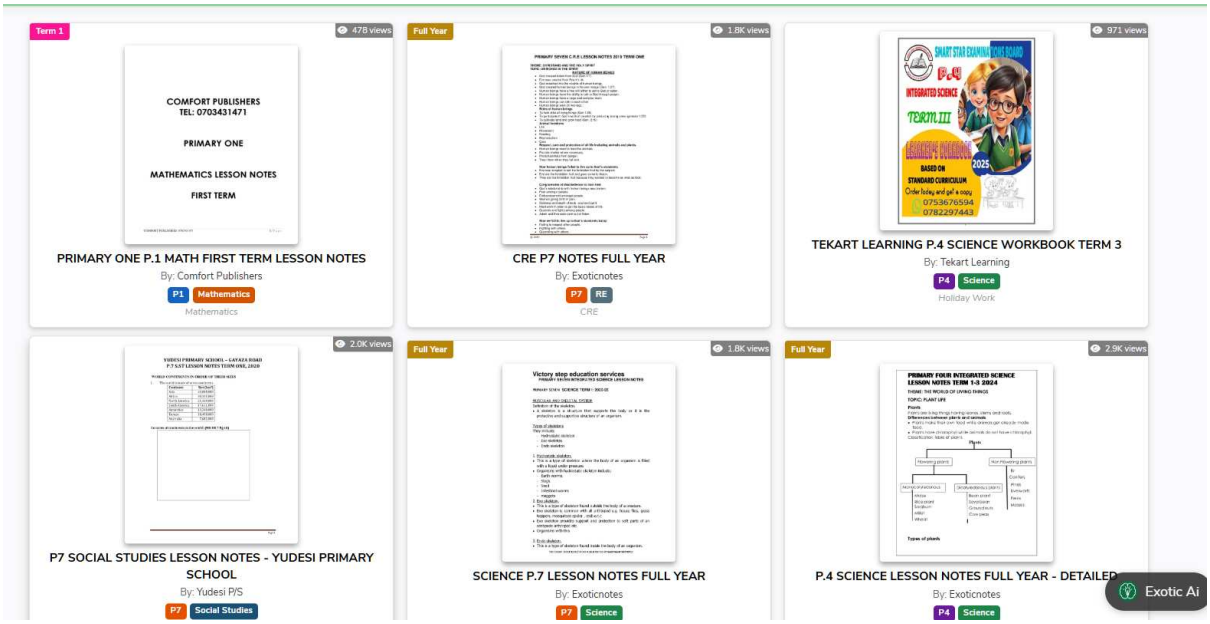
10. He/she shall not be caught up by wits of the Speakers and then forget his/her duty.

ARTICLE 8: THE AUDIENCE

1. The Audience shall participate passively in the debate.
2. They shall not be allowed to give Points of Order and/ or Points of Information.
3. There shall be no illegal or private debate among or within the audience while the debate is going on.
4. Unnecessary movements to and fro shall not be encouraged in the course of the debate.
5. The Audience is allowed to give strong and moral support to the Speaker on the stage by stamping their feet gently, and not to cause disorder.
6. The Audience shall pay due respect to the Chairperson presiding over the debate.

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