

Criteria for evaluation of participants’ chanting performance in individual centers (Regionals)

### Definition of terms

**Pronunciation** is the ability to chant the verses correctly according to the pronunciation rules of Sanskrit.

**Memory** is the ability to chant the assigned/specified verses fluently without any break, long pause or hesitation. *Note:* If a participant is unable to recollect the next quarter or word, he or she can request a prompt from the judge panel, in the preliminary or regionals event. This shall be considered as a memory lapse. Repeating a word or phrase during chanting shall be considered as a **fluency** lapse. Pronunciation of the first attempt will be used for evaluation in cases of such repetitions.

**Correctness of text** is to evaluate if the text of the verses being chanted matches the reference hand-out provided by Chinmaya Mission for this event. Secondly, in cases where a prompt or clue is given, this is to evaluate if the participant can recall and chant the required verses correctly.

*Note:* The hand-out published in [Chinmaya Mission West webpage](#) shall be used as the baseline for validating text and pronunciation. Common pronunciation challenges and guidelines for correct pronunciation of Sanskrit Text can be found in the Chanting Guide provided in the Reference Documents section of this webpage.

**Presentation** refers to the clarity and loudness of chanting, and consistency in speed, during chanting. Adhering to the respective meter (chandas/vṛttam), and chanting fluently following sandhi rules, shall also be evaluated in Presentation. The handout provided for the chapter has the verses split in to four quarters, based on the meter.

**Overall effect** refers to the devotional attitude (bhāva), confidence in chanting and conduct of the participant during chanting.

*Note:* Tune shall not be a criterion for judgment.

Every participant is required to chant the assigned number of verses as specified in the [verse assignment table](#), in order to be evaluated. Please refer to the [Appendix](#) for expected opening and closing.

Scoring criteria (rubric) for Preliminary Round, also referred to as Regionals are as follows:

### Rubric for groups chanting from memory in Regionals

Breakdown of points for all groups chanting from memory is listed in the table below.

Memory & Correctness of text	Pronunciation	Presentation & Overall effect	Total
50 Points	45 Points	5 Points	100 Points

### Rubric for groups reading from hand-out in the Regionals (optionally conducted by few Centers)

1. **Kaunteya** - participants from grades 10-12 reading the verses:

Pronunciation	Fluency	Presentation	Total
70 Points	20 points	10 Points	100 Points

2. **Mahābāho** - the adult group reading the verses:

Pronunciation	Fluency	Presentation	Total
70 Points	20 points	10 Points	100 Points

**Participants in the above two reading groups are required to explain the meaning of one of the proposed set of verses in 3-5 minutes.** Please refer to the footer section of the [verse assignment table](#), for the verses proposed for Talks, this year. Recommended reference books are: 1) “The Holy Geeta,” and 2) Bhagavad-gītā Chapter 5 commentary, by Swami Chinmayānanda. This is in addition to the chanting.

Each participant in the Regionals shall be awarded a final score out of 100 points by the panel of judges, solely based on their performance. The score awarded by the Judge Panel shall be final. The actual score will not be shared with the participants. Centers may report a Grade: Excellent Performance, Very Good Performance, Good Performance, etc., based on the score.

**LEARN GITA INITIATIVE (NEW)**

All students from Grades 1 – 12 are encouraged to take a vocabulary quiz, either as part of the Regionals, or after the Regionals, based on the vocabulary list provided to the respective grade-group. Please refer to the vocabulary list for Grades 1 - 2, Grades 3 - 6, Grades 7 - 12 published in [Chinmaya Mission West webpage](#).

**Chapter 5 – Chanting Verse Assignments for Grades/Groups**

Please note the number of verses assigned for every Group and Grade, to participate in this annual event conducted by Chinmaya Mission Centers.

GROUP	GRADE	VERSES ASSIGNED
Kirīṭi ❖	Toddlers, Pre-K	1 - 6
Anagha	KG	1 - 11
Arjuna	Grades 1 - 2	1 - 16
Bhārata	Grades 3 - 4	1 - 21
Pārtha	Grades 5 - 6	1 - 26
Guḍākeśa	Grades 7 - 9	1 - 29
Dhanañjaya	Grades 10 - 12	1 - 29
Medhāvi ❖	Grades 1 - 6	1 - 29
Kaunteya ★	Grades 10 - 12	1 - 29 (READING)
Parantapa	-- (Adults)	1 - 29 (MEMORY)
Mahābāho ★	-- (Adults)	1 - 29 (READING)
<p>★ Groups reading the verses, all other groups are required to memorize the verses. Reading Groups are optional groups offered by certain centers. High school Reading Group (Kaunteya) and Adult Reading Group (Mahābāho) participants shall be required to speak for 5 minutes on any one of the following set of verses: 5.8-5.10, or, 5.21-5.23.</p>		
<p>❖ Medhāvi participants will be evaluated as a separate group within their Grade-group.</p>		
<p>❖ Kirīṭi group participants shall chant as a group. They will not be evaluated individually. This is an optional group offered by certain centers.</p>		

**Appendix:**

- Every participant is required to chant the following **opening**:

ॐ श्रीपरमात्मने नमः। अथ पञ्चमोऽध्यायः। कर्मसन्न्यासयोगः।

om śrīparamātmāne namaḥ. atha pañcamo'dhyāyaḥ. karmasannyāsayogaḥ

- All participants not chanting until the full chapter, must conclude with the partial **closing**:

ॐ तत् सत्। श्रीकृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥

om tat sat. śrī kṛṣṇārpaṇamastu

- All participants chanting the full chapter (Verse 5.1-5.29), must conclude with the full **closing**:

ॐ तत् सत्। इति श्रीमद्भगवद्गीतासु उपनिषत्सु ब्रह्मविद्यायां योगशास्त्रे श्रीकृष्णार्जुनसंवादे कर्मसन्न्यासयोगो नाम

पञ्चमोऽध्यायः ॥ श्रीकृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥

om tat sat. iti śrīmadbhagavadgītāsu upaniṣatsu brahmavidyāyāṁ yogasāstre

śrīkṛṣṇārjunasaṁvāde karmasannyāsayogo nāma pañcamo'dhyāyaḥ.

śrī kṛṣṇārpaṇamastu