



# *LUMS RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL*

## OFFICIAL GUIDE



### **SAREER-E-KHAMA** (PUBLICATIONS/RESEARCH)



# WELCOME TO LUMS RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL!

*This study guide has been prepared to help students and institutions understand what to expect in each competition category to ensure a smooth and overall amazing experience.*

## WHAT IS SAREER E KHAMA?

This category does not just revolve around literature but also the use of the pen and words. The rounds aren't just about writing but also focus on research, discussions and the ability to "sell" ones idea as key parts of the process. We wish to instil creativity, problem-solving and communication skills, not just through writing but also spoken expression. Our primary goal is not to produce high-quality submissions but to create an enjoyable and engaging experience that combines hard work with critical thinking.

This category will have two rounds and a workshop.

## ROUND I: WRITING

### AIMS AND EXPECTATIONS:

This writing round will be an **elimination round**. Participants will select a topic from a list provided and receive research papers related to their choice. They will research the topic and present an essay detailing their findings along with their proposed solution(s).

### RESEARCH TOPICS

Participants will be provided with **four research topics**. After selecting a topic, they will receive **five research papers** related to it. While participants are not required to use all five papers, these resources will serve as a valuable knowledge base. Please note that the topics will be announced in the participants' chat groups prior to the round.

### PURPOSE AND REASON

The topics will center on contemporary issues faced by Pakistani society, addressing subjects that are both controversial and deeply relevant to the everyday lives of Muslims in Pakistan. These may include ideological clashes, challenges related to law and order, marriage, and the suppression of religious minorities.



These topics are designed to spark engaging discussions on issues that are often overlooked or unresolved. Our goal is to encourage meaningful conversations and provide participants with an opportunity to voice their opinions and perspectives.

## TWO PARTS TO A WHOLE

### PART 1: DISCOURSE AND RESEARCH

- Participants will be provided with 4 essay topics and asked to select one.
- Those who choose the same topic will have the option to pair up, as assigned by the event heads, and will be given five research essays to enhance their understanding of the subject.
- Alternatively, participants may opt to work individually, with no impact on grading.
- The internet will be turned off, and participants will have one hour to review the research essays and take notes if desired.

### PART 2: WRITING

- After the one-hour mark, participants will be required to write an essay on the topic they selected earlier.
- Those who formed pairs may choose to continue writing collaboratively or work individually, while individual participants will naturally write on their own.
- The research papers provided during the first phase will not be accessible during this part.
- Participants will have **1.5 hours** to complete their essays.

### TO PAIR OR NOT TO PAIR:

To further clarify the process:

- Initially in Round 1, they may pair up to discuss the topic and the research papers they have been given.
- In Round II, those who paired up in Round I can choose to break off and write individually. However, if two participants decide to remain paired for both Round I and Round II, they will be considered a pair for the entire event. This means:
  - The pair will share awards and placements.
  - They will continue as a pair in Round II, and their performance will be judged and graded as a pair.
- Participants who choose not to pair up will not face any detriment in terms of grading or judging. Their individual performance will be assessed independently.



## JUDGING CRITERIA:

- Introduction and historical context.
- Relevance and depth of issues.
- Articulation and writing strength.
- Proposed solution and conclusion.

# LITERATURE WORKSHOP

## TOPIC: THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE

The workshop will be led by Mr. Billal Hosseini, a storyteller, speaker, and influencer. Mr. Hosseini, the author of three books, will focus on the themes of his latest work, *"Not the Eyes but the Hearts that are Blind."* The session will emphasize how diverse perspectives can be effectively channeled into writing and expression.

**Shortlisted participants advancing to Round 2 will be required to attend this workshop.**

# ROUND II: PRESENTATIONS

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

After the elimination round, the remaining participants will be judged based on the nature of their solutions in Round 1 and then randomly assigned to either of two "camps": a liberal camp and a conservative camp. The pairings and camp assignments will be announced after Round 1. Participants will have one day to prepare their presentations.

## WHAT ARE "CAMPS"?

Many ideological debates and contentions in contemporary Pakistani society arise from people holding radically different perspectives on societal issues. These differing perspectives are rooted in contrasting worldviews and experiences, which often lead to outcomes such as violence and heated disagreements. Two such opposing worldviews that are prevalent today can be identified as Liberal and Conservative.



Building on Round 1 and the workshop, delegates will present their solutions to the issues they addressed earlier to an audience that includes people from both liberal and conservative camps. Regardless of whether their solution leans towards a conservative or liberal perspective, the challenge will be to effectively engage and appeal to both sides. This will require eloquent presentation, careful word choice, and well-crafted arguments, while avoiding confrontation. The exact time duration for presentations will be disclosed after Round 1.

## YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- Think critically and out-of-the-box for solutions.
- Come to a reasonable conclusion and solution that is satisfactory to both you and your partner.
- Present your issue, along with the conclusions, to an audience that includes panelists with both liberal and conservative perspectives.

## PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Each participant will present their solutions to a wide audience and a panel of judges, who will evaluate based on:

- The content and strength of the argument.
- The participants' body language and confidence.
- The clarity and efficiency of communication.

## FINAL GRADING

- There will be one winner and one runner up. In case of tied scores or grades, participants may share the same position.
- Grading will be cumulative, with both rounds contributing to the overall score and determining the winners.
- Participants eliminated in Round I will not be considered for subsequent rounds or awards.

## GENERAL RULES:

- Any form of AI assistance or cheating is strictly prohibited and will result in the immediate rejection of the participant's application. We value original thought and encourage a constructive, learning-focused atmosphere for all discussions and presentations. Thus, there will be severe penalties for any misbehavior.
- All participants will be given an equal amount of time—no exceptions. The use of the internet will not be allowed during the competition.
- For the first round, submissions can be either typed or handwritten, depending on the applicant's preference.