



LUMS
RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL STUDY GUIDE



TAJALLI-E-KHAT-O-RANG

INTRODUCTION

Tajalli-e-Khat-o-Rang has always been one of the most meaningful and visually captivating categories of the LUMS Religious Festival (LRF). It celebrates the sacred art of calligraphy not only as a creative skill but as a language of faith, emotion, and strength.

This year, the category takes on a deeper and more purposeful direction by focusing on **Palestine** and the spirit of *resistance through art*. In times when voices are silenced, calligraphy becomes a form of remembrance, a quiet act of solidarity, and a prayer for freedom. Every stroke of ink and every verse written will stand as a symbol of endurance and divine light. The vision this year is to remind everyone that art, when rooted in faith, has the power to resist, to heal, and to inspire. The competition emphasizes originality, artistic technique, and meaningful storytelling through calligraphy.

OVERVIEW

Tajalli-e-Khat-o-Rang for LRF'26 will include two main competitive segments along with workshops and interactive spaces that bring together creativity, reflection, and cultural appreciation.

It will include the following:

1. **Calligraphy Competition:** a platform that allows participants to explore themes of resistance, perseverance, and light through sacred art.
2. **Live Sketching Competition:** a spontaneous and expressive art challenge where participants create visual interpretations of emotion and belief.
3. **Workshop and Interactive Corners:** activities that connect the audience with Islamic art while spreading awareness about the strength and resilience reflected in Palestinian culture.

THEMES

The central theme for this year is “**art as resistance.**”
It represents the belief that faith, courage, and
creativity can stand as powerful tools of endurance.

Sub themes:

- Sabr (patience)
- Noor (divine light)
- Azadi (freedom)

Calligraphy is more than decorative writing; it is the art of giving language a visual soul. Through careful strokes, rhythm, and balance, calligraphy transforms words into expressions of beauty, discipline, and meaning. Across cultures, from Islamic and East Asian traditions to Western manuscripts, it has been used to preserve sacred texts, record history, and communicate values with reverence and care. Its importance lies not only in aesthetics but in mindfulness: calligraphy demands patience, focus, and intentionality, encouraging the writer to slow down and connect deeply with each letter. In an age of speed and digital text, calligraphy reminds us that words can be felt as well as read, and that beauty can emerge from precision, devotion, and human touch.

CATEGORIES

Beginners: This category is for participants who are new to calligraphy or are still learning the basic strokes, letterforms, and techniques. Those with little to no formal training or limited experience should register under this category.

Advanced: This category is for experienced calligraphers who are confident in their skills and have practiced calligraphy extensively, including complex compositions, refined techniques, or multiple styles.

MANDATORY ELEMENTS

Canvas Medium: All submissions must be on canvas to ensure consistency.

Texture: Incorporate techniques that add a tactile quality to the artwork.

Pattern & Design: Include distinct patterns or design elements.

Theme Alignment: The submission must be connected to the central theme.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Checkpoint 1: Initial Progress Video

- Submit a 20-second *unedited* video showing the artwork's current progress from different angles.
- The video must include a clip demonstrating the writing of a specific code provided by the LRF team.

Email format:

Subject: LRF - Calligraphy Competition - [Your Full Name] - Checkpoint 1

Checkpoint 2: Final Progress Video

- Submit another 20-second unedited video showing advanced progress.
- Provide a brief explanation of the artwork, including any inspiration and proper attribution if applicable.

Email format:

Subject: LRF - Calligraphy Competition - [Your Full Name] - Checkpoint 2

Final Submission::

- Participants must physically submit their completed artwork at LUMS on the event day.
- Each participant will have 3 minutes to present their piece to the judges, explaining their inspiration and creative process.
- Bring your own easel for display purposes.
- Only one piece should be submitted by each participant for a smooth process.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Live Sketching Competition

Participants will create sketches live during the competition, reflecting religious stories, lessons, or comparisons between faith and life. This category focuses on artistic technique, storytelling, and audience engagement. Live sketching tests participants' talent and skill during the limited time they will be expected to sketch, while simultaneously weaving themes of spirituality and freedom into a creative product that will be tested on how well it answers the prompt. While under a time limit artists will express their emotions, exploring their artistic talent and producing work that inspires and educates.

Themes:

Themes will be announced 2 hours prior to each round to encourage creativity and adaptability.

Categories:

- *Beginner*: This category is for beginners, those who have a basic understanding of sketching and art. Participants will be divided into this category based on their proficiency of visual art and judged based on their proficiency.
- *Advanced*: This category is for those who are proficient sketchers, who are confident in their skill and have more than a basic understanding of art. Those who have honed their skill over the years will be graded based on their mastery over this art form

Structure:

Round 1:

- Duration: 3.5 hours
- Themes provided 2 hours in advance
- Top 10 participants advance to Round 2

Round 2:

- Duration: 3.5 hours
- Themes provided 2 hours prior

Judging Criteria:

- Artistic Technique
- Storytelling and Concept
- Creativity and Originality
- Engagement with Judges and Audience
- Audience Vote (20% weightage in the final score)

Presentation Guidelines:

Each participant will present their completed sketches to the judges and explain the story or lesson behind their work.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Originality:

All submissions must be original. Plagiarism or lack of proper attribution will result in disqualification.

2. Punctuality:

Adhere strictly to submission deadlines and competition schedules.

3. Preparedness:

Bring all necessary materials and supplies. They will not be provided.

4. Professionalism:

Maintain respect and decorum throughout the event.

5. Engagement:

Be prepared to discuss and explain your artwork with judges and audience members.

Resources for Preparation:

- Research the themes and practice aligning your artistic style with the required topics.
- Practice storytelling and presentation to confidently explain your work to the judges.
- Gather and test your materials beforehand to avoid any last-minute issues.

BEST OF LUCK!