

Dante Poetry Competition 2026 **Guidelines and Conditions of Entry**

1. Individual student entries will be accepted for Year Levels 9, 10, 11 & 12.
2. **Students are entered into the Poetry Recitation competition according to Year Level and within ONE of the following categories:**
 - a) **First Language (Madre Lingua):** Those students recently arrived in Australia and/or born and educated (for a number of years) in Italy;
 - b) **Second Language.**
3. **An entry fee of \$10 per student/entry must be paid via EFT at the time of enrolment.**
 - a. Cancellation of student attendance/participation does not entitle students, teachers or schools to a refund.
 - b. Entry fees are due on the date specified on the Calendar of Dates. Failure to secure payment by this date will compromise students' entry in the competition.
 - c. **The entry fee is not transferable between students.**
 - d. When payment is made via EFT a copy of the Remittance Form must be sent to the Society's Administrator at dante.alighieri.melbourne@gmail.com
4. Entrants must be listed on the **forms provided** in the following manner:
 - a. Separated by **YEAR LEVEL** and **CATEGORY** (i.e. Year 9, madre lingua; Year 9, second language)

- b. Each group of students (i.e. Year 9, madre lingua) must be listed in alphabetical order by
First Name, and
Surname format (i.e. Jack Nguyen, NOT Nguyen, Jack)
 - c. Do not use CAPSLOCK
 - d. **ALL entry forms must be TYPED and EMAILED** to the Competitions Coordinator no later than the date as outlined in the Calendar of Dates information for each competition.
 - e. Please check spelling of name and surname before submitting the lists as there will be no other opportunity for corrections before certificates are distributed to schools.
 - f. If you need to change an entry form after submitting it, you must re-send the amended list in its entirety. The coordinator will not change your entry forms for you.
 - g. Email all Entry Forms to: dantepoetrycomp@gmail.com
 - h. Once submitted, lists for the Recitation Competition must not be altered. Judges will carry the original entry lists.
5. Teachers are advised that the judge's decision for the competition is final, and no communication will be entered into regarding adjudication.
6. Poems must be chosen from those prescribed by the Dante Alighieri Society according to the year level of the student.
- a. **Students in Year 11, doing Italian Units 3 & 4 must participate in the Year 12 competition and thus choose a designated Year 12 poem.**

7. In the first round, students recite their poems in front of one judge.
Students moving to the Final Round recite in front of two judges.
8. Students are not permitted to take schoolbags or any electronic device (phones, iPods, etc.) into the examination room. These must be left outside of the room.
9. Students enter the examination room and complete the recitation alone.
 - a. If you have a student/s who require alternative arrangements (i.e. the presence of a peer, teacher or aide) to be able to successfully complete the recitation, this should be asterisked on the ENTRY FORM ** in order for the judge to be aware of the student's needs.
10. Teachers are requested to ensure that students have removed 'air pods' or cue cards before entering the room. Disqualification is immediate.
11. Students waiting to be assessed outside rooms are requested to keep silent.
12. Students must **memorise** their poem. Students who read the poem will not be marked and will receive an N for No Result.
13. Students are reminded that they should announce the title of the poem and acknowledge the poet before commencing the recitation.
14. Interpretation (based on <https://poetryoutloud.org/competing/tips-on-reciting/>)
A strong recitation must rely on a powerful interpretation of the poem rather than excessive gestures or unnecessary emoting. Effective

interpretation enhances the listener's enjoyment of the poem without overshadowing the poem's language.

15. Advice for the student:

- a. Movement must not detract from the poem's voice.
- b. You are the vessel of your poem. Have confidence that your poem is strong enough to communicate its sounds and messages without unnecessary physical illustration.
- c. Let the words of the poem do the work.
- d. Depending on the poem, occasional gestures may be appropriate, but the line between appropriate and overdone is a thin one. When uncertain, leave them out.
- e. Avoid monotone delivery. However, too much enthusiasm can make your performance seem insincere.

16. Qualities of a strong recitation:

The interpretation subtly underscores the meaning of the poem without becoming the focal point of the recitation. A low score in this category will result from recitations that have affected accents and character voices, inappropriate tone and inflection, excessive gestures, or unnecessary emoting.