



The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies

NATIONAL JUNIOR COMPETITION FOR THE 'ALBA SALVER' Notes for the guidance of competitors

Entries can be on any single subject, theme, country or topic.

Marking Scheme

Entries will be judged as follows:

Presentation	45%
Treatment of the subject	25%
Type and condition of material shown	20%
Philatelic knowledge	10%

1. Presentation

a) Writing up

The entry must have a title.

Writing can be by hand, typewriter, computer or stencil but should be clean and neat
Black ink is preferred. Avoid coloured inks.

Use capitals and small letters (upper and lower case) as in a book. Do not use only capital letters.

More marks will be awarded to entries where the information is written or typed direct on to the page rather than 'cut and pasted'.

b) Balance

Do not have too many or too few stamps or philatelic items on a page.

Keep a balance between stamps and writing up.

Try to maintain a balance between each page in your entry.

c) Mounting

Mount the stamps neatly with hinges or stamp mounts with regular spaces between them.

Never use glue, staples or adhesive tape.

Make sure the stamps are in line. If they are of different heights, keep the bottom line level.

d) General Impression

Set the sheets out in rows of four (as the judges will be looking at them) and decide:
Does your entry look right? Is all the spelling and grammar correct? Is the overall balance right?

2. Treatment of the subject

a) Development and knowledge

Make sure the title fits the entry.

Try to select a subject that can be shown properly within the number of sheets used.

Decide how you can best show the subject with the material you have before you start attaching anything to the paper.

b) Appropriate material

Make sure the material and information you use relate to the subject.

Display the material in a logical manner.

c) Difficulty

Entrants who choose subjects which require extra thought, additional work or who show greater effort in obtaining the right material may gain extra points.

3. Type and Condition of Material Shown

a) Condition

Condition is a relative matter and the availability of the material will be taken into account.

Never use damaged stamps unless they are very rare and are very difficult to find in good condition.

Modern mint stamps must be perfect but this does not guarantee full points.

b) Selection

If relevant, try to show items other than stamps e.g. appropriate covers; maximum cards; slogan postmarks; special handstamps on piece or cover; miniature sheets; stamp booklets

4. Philatelic knowledge

As well as marks awarded for knowledge of the topic, additional marks are given for philatelic knowledge – that is knowing something about the stamps themselves.

This can be partly gained from catalogues but more marks can be gained by extra information from other sources. This will show that the entrant understands about the material being entered. e.g.: stamps for special events; changes in postal rates; reason for special cancels; information on how stamps were printed.

General Guidance

The main thing is to enjoy what you do. If you are pleased with what you have done it is likely to please the judges. The judges find it very hard to mark entries and this sheet has been produced to let you know what can make a judge think one entry is better than another. Ask an adult if you need help you understand this sheet.

Entries may be hand written or produced by computer printers - each is equally acceptable and the difficulty in producing neat entries by either method is taken into account by the judges. Neat displays that look nice always impress. Marks are given for originality in your title and description.

Try to tell some sort of story in your display with clear links between the items on a sheet and between the sheets. Try to imagine what they will look like when they are on display.

When displayed the sheets are mounted:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

Non-postal content should enhance and explain the entry but the most prominent items on the display should be the stamps. Space taken up by large non postal items, such as pictures or picture postcards reduces the space for postal items and the potential to gain marks for having more stamp or stamp related content.

Appropriate content that gains marks is anything produced by postal organisations designed to be used for postal purposes. Stamps should form the largest part of the content but the inclusion of relevant post marks, meter marks, postal stationary or stamp booklets will gain marks. Entire Presentation Packs should not be included. The illustrations and designs on First Day Covers are not counted in the judging but relevant stamps and post marks on them are. As First Day Covers take up so much space they should be used sparingly as they prevent the inclusion of more, smaller, items. Large miniature sheets should also be used sparingly for the same reason.

The difficulty in finding relevant material is taken into account by the judges. Sets and pre-cancelled items issued by some countries for stamp collectors do not count as highly as stamps that were used on posted letters or mint material primarily issued for postal purposes. Using relevant single stamps from larger general sets helps demonstrate knowledge about stamps. Stamps should be in good condition. Torn or damaged stamps should not be used. On used stamps the postmarks should not hide the design, unless, as on some very old stamps, when the postmarks are always very heavy.

Usually only one stamp should be used from sets issued with stamps all of the same design, differing only by colour and value, unless they can be included in different parts of the display.

You should not use the same stamp more than once.

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