

The Concept of Competition and Award in Islam	
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Question	Is competition in which participants have to pay to compete allowed in Islam?
Gambling in Islam	Referred to as maysir and qimār
Criteria for gambling	<p>1) Source of prize comes from the money deposited or bet by the participants</p> <p>2) The winner gains all that was bet by others, or loses all that he has bet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no difference between competitions that involve participants' skills and those that depend on luck
Prophet's participation in competition	<p>Sunan Abī Dāwūd: 'Ā'ishah RA said: "I was with the Prophet ﷺ on a journey. We raced and I won. Another time, when I had gained some weight, we raced and he won. He said: This is for that race"</p> <p>كَانَتْ مَعَ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ فِي سَفَرٍ قَالَتْ فَسَابَقْتُهُ فَسَبَقْتُهُ عَلَى رِجْلِي فَلَمَّا حَمَلَتُ الْحَمْرَ سَابَقْتُهُ فَسَبَقْتُهُ فَقَالَ هَذِهِ بِتَنْكِ السَّبَقَةِ</p>
Competition with awards	<p>Hanafī scholars are of the opinion that competitions involving awards are allowed only in archery, horse racing, camel racing and running</p> <p>وذهب الحنفية إلى أن السباق يكون في الأنواع الأربع: الحافر، والخف، والنصل، والقم، لقوله ﷺ : لا سباق إلا في نصل، أو خف، أو حافر، إلا أنه زيد عليه السباق في القم بحديث عائشة - المراد بالنصل: السهم ذو النصل، وبالحافر: الفرس، وبالخف: البعير</p>
Knowledge contests are allowed	<p>Hanafis allow prizes for competitions involving religious knowledge since the religion is supported by knowledge as it is supported by fighting</p> <p>(وَعَلَى هَذَا النَّفْسِ إِذَا اخْتَلَفَ فَقِيهَانٌ فِي مَسْأَلَةٍ وَأَرَا إِذَا الرُّجُوعُ إِلَى شَيْخٍ وَجَعَلَ عَلَى ذَلِكَ جُنَاحًا) لِأَنَّهُ لَمَّا جَازَ فِي الْأَفْرَادِ لِمَعْنَى يَرْجِعُ إِلَى الْجِهَادِ يَجُوزُ هُنْدَ الْحُثُّ عَلَى الْجُهُودِ فِي طَلَبِ الْعِلْمِ، لِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَوْمَ بِالْعِلْمِ كَمَا يَوْمَ بِالْجِهَادِ</p>
Author	All types of games and competitions, even if it involves awards, are permissible when certain conditions are met: the competitions do not go beyond the principles of Islamic law, do not cause a person to become negligent in their duties, and they bring some benefit
Award sponsorship Muḥallil	<p>If there are 2 participants and only one of them sponsors an award, the participant who doesn't contribute anything can take the award if he wins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants who do not contribute anything are called muḥallil - Participant(s) who change the ruling on competitions from that of prohibition to that of permissibility

Avoiding elements of gambling	<p>If all participants are sponsors of an award, then the competition is prohibited except when there is a muhāllil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When the muhāllil possesses strength that matches that of the other participants, it is not guaranteed that one of the sponsors will win - Some jurists lay the condition that if the muhāllil wins he will gain everything that was sponsored by the other participants, but if a sponsor wins, he is only entitled to take the part that he himself contributed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Without this condition, the presence of a muhāllil is only an excuse to permit gambling - This would render gambling by lottery permissible if some people were simply entered free of charge
Mufti Adam al-Kawthari	<p>Criteria for a transaction to be considered gambling: Gaining of another's wealth is contingent upon some uncertain event in the future, and the wealth one puts at stake is either lost completely without anything in return, or it brings with it some wealth of the other person without giving anything in return</p> <p>A one-way bet is not considered gambling, rather it is akin to making a vow of paying someone money if such and such thing occurs</p> <p>Insurances are a form of gambling since premiums are paid for certain, whereas the return is uncertain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A person may lose all the premium he paid, or receive in return more than he paid <p>Lotteries, raffles and sweepstakes where one has to pay to be included is also gambling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If one's name is not drawn, one will be losing one's wealth without anything in return <p>Tournaments where teams are required to pay entrance fees and then the winning team is given a prize or trophy purchased from the money accumulated is gambling</p>

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