

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Texas

2022 Grand Council Grading Rules

Each Council begins with 1000 points
500 for the Opening and 500 with the Closing

1. The Grading will be for either 5 Man or 9 Man Opening and Closing. The Council must decide which to use. It is advisable to use the same for both gradings (1st and 2nd rounds).
2. **There will be 2 Gradings**: 1st grading (Complimentary) will take place during the 1st official visit of the DDGM and these scores will be turned in to the GM. The 2nd grading will be the “***official grading***” and used for the final score for the Grading Program. In order to be qualified for the Prize, Council must complete BOTH Gradings.
3. A Council must have a minimum of at least ***Five (5) members*** of their Council filling the stations during the Opening and Closing to qualify for the Final Grading Program.
 - a. If an officer (Elected or Appointed) is absent, another Companion may fill the station if approved by the DDGM or DI. The penalty for absent officers will be assessed at **FIVE (5)** points each.
 - b. Substitutes must be **members** of the host Council being graded (in order for the Council to be eligible to win).
 - c. **Ten (10) Bonus Points** will be awarded to the Council if all Elected and Appointed Officers are filling their Stations.
4. **Fifteen (15) Bonus points** will be given to those Councils who open with ***nine (9)*** members. **Ten additional (10) Bonus points** will be given if the ***9 Members*** are the Elected and Appointed officers in their installed stations.
 - a. If an officer (Elected or Appointed) is absent, another Companion may fill the station if approved by the DDGM. The penalty for absent officers will be assessed at **FIVE (5)** points each.
 - b. Substitutes must be **members** of the host Council being graded in order for the Council to be eligible for the Prize.
5. Grading will be administered for wording, signs, gavels, omissions, transpositions, singulars and plurals, questions and answers out of order, and opening and closing the Bible. Only the forms, positions and movements as specified in the Monitor will be graded. **The reception of the District Deputy Grand Master will not be graded**. Any errors of these provisions will be the loss of **ONE (1)** point each. **Prayers as prescribed in the Monitor will NOT be graded unless omitted**, which will be the loss of **FIVE (5)** points.

6. *With the exception of the designated prompter (DI), there will be a **Fifty (50) Point deduction** for the use of each Ritual or Monitor by any Officer during the Opening or Closing. Only one prompter will be in the room based on **Art B-090 (81A)***
- a. The term “Ritual or Monitor” includes the current standard/sanctioned books as published by the Grand Council and approved by the COW, but also applies equally to any copies, reproductions, summaries, notes, crib sheets, etc., of the Ritual or Monitor (digital or otherwise); likewise, “Ritual or Monitor” applies to all previous editions of the Ritual or Monitor.
 - b. Officer stations such as desks, tables, columns, and so forth, shall be empty and clear of any and all items, particularly papers, binders, notepads, books, etc.; the exception to this shall be gavels and strike pads.
 - c. The use of mobile devices (phones, tablets, etc.) by any person other than the Grader(s) shall be prohibited during grading. All mobile devices within the Council room must be stored in a non-visible manner during grading - for example: in one's pocket, in a backpack or briefcase, etc.
 - d. ***There shall be only ONE (1) prompter during Opening and Closing who shall be the District Instructor.***
 - e. Prompting by any person with oral, motion or sign (other than the assigned prompter), will be the loss of **FIVE (5)** points. However, a prompt provided by the grader or prompter is the loss of only **ONE (1)** point.
7. An officer who makes a mistake on any question or answer will be given a reasonable opportunity to correct it. *If a Companion corrects himself before continuing forward, there will be NO point loss provided that another officer has not yet spoken or performed a prescribed motion.* If correction is NOT made, there will be a loss of **One (1)** point. The repeat of a question or answer for the benefit of the one due to respond will be considered a prompt for a loss of **ONE (1)** point.

It is advisable to practice Opening and Closing with Prompter. It is further advisable to have the prompter NOT be a participant in the Opening and Closing practice.

There will be an award provided in December 2022 to announce the Winners of the Grand Council Grading Sessions for 9 Man and 5 Man Opening/Closing.

2022 Grand Council Grading Sheet

Council Information	
Council Name	
Number	
Date	
Grader	

Grading Scores for Opening	
Starting Score:	500
Thrice Illustrious Master	
Right Illustrious Deputy Master	
Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work	
Treasurer	
Recorder	
Captain of the Guards	
Conductor of the Council	
Steward	
Sentinel	
Chaplain / Prayer	
Total Opening Score:	

Grading Scores for Closing	
Starting Score:	500
Thrice Illustrious Master	
Right Illustrious Deputy Master	
Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work	
Treasurer	
Recorder	
Captain of the Guards	
Conductor of the Council	
Steward	
Sentinel	
Chaplain / Prayer	
Total Closing Score:	
Total Ritual Score	

Bonus Points:

How did the Council Open and Close? ___ 9 Members (+15 pts) **or** ___ 5 Members
 Were all Officers in their stations? ___ YES (+10 pts) **or** ___ 5 Members

Deductions:

How many substitutes were used? ___ (5 pts lost per person)
 Were any of the substitutes not members of the Council? ___ YES **or** ___ NO

Final Grading Score	
----------------------------	--