



SPECIFICS: INITIATORY DEGREE

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- A. PRIMARY AUTHORITY: Ritual of Secret Work, Corrected 14th Edition, 1997.
- B. TIME LIMIT: 60 minutes.
- C. REQUIRED PARTS: Eight (8); Master Councilor, Senior Councilor, Junior Councilor, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, and Marshal.

The Scribe's and Preceptors' work must be included. Any Required Part or any other Qualified Personnel may fill the roles of these non-required parts. The spokesman will stipulate to the panel chairman who will be doing the non-required parts

Chapters are encouraged to fill the non-required parts (Scribe, seven Preceptors, etc.) with additional Qualified Personnel whenever possible however a person filling a non-required part will be evaluated to the same standards as those in required parts. When a chapter uses additional personnel, their spokesman must stipulate to the panel chairman exactly which positions are filled, used, and how they will be handled.

When one individual performs multiple parts, he will be evaluated separately for each part performed.

- D. REQUIRED WORK: Confer the Initiatory Degree, please note the following specifics:
- (1.) Room to be setup as on Diagram 1 except the only stations necessary, are those of the required parts.
 - (2.) The Bible is open lying near center of the Altar.
 - (3.) The School Books are on the Altar in the correct position.
 - (4.) Candles will be lit.
 - (5.) Evaluation begins when the word "BEGIN" is spoken.
 - (6.) Parts are seated in respective stations at the beginning of the ceremony.
 - (7.) Candidates (or Senior Steward) make normal response to all questions.
 - (8.) Each Preceptor says first full sentence of his part, places jewel on the Crown, then continues with part.
 - (9.) At end, Master Councilor says, "Brother Senior Deacon, you will escort the new Brothers to seats."

- (10.) After that has been completed, Senior Deacon, Senior Steward and Junior Steward return to their stations and are seated with one rap by the Master Councilor.
 - (11.) Following the Master Councilor's final gavel rap and after the Master Councilor, Sr. Deacon and Stewards are seated, the word "STOP" will be said, ending the competition.
 - (12.) The symbolic journey should be maintained if possible, however there are no mandatory direction requirements for that part of the ritual even if a full line of officers is used. The standard presentation and two options for the symbolic journey are given in the Ritual on pages 46-47. The spokesman will inform panel chairman how the symbolic journey will be handled. Performance evaluators will evaluate the effectiveness of the method of handling the journey.
- E. EVALUATORS NECESSARY FOR COMPETITION: Eight (8): Two (2) Word Error Evaluators, Two (2) Direction Evaluators, Two (2) Individual Performance Evaluators, and Two (2) Team Performance Evaluators.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions are a supplement and are made a part of the primary authority, and must be followed by all competitors.

A. DIRECTION NOTES:

- (1.) Competitors should study the entire text of the Initiatory Degree, for there are many instructions intermingled with the spoken word.
- (2.) All Paraphernalia needed will be in the room. It will be the responsibility of the competitors to setup the room prior to their performance, as well as return the paraphernalia to it's original position at the close of their competition. This must be accomplished within the Time Limit prescribed for the ceremony.
- (3.) During the formation of the Shield, the competitors should be prepared for some movement by the Direction Evaluators as they move around the room to check the position of officers in the Shield.
- (4.) The actual lights in the competitive area shall remain on and unchanged during the competition. The Junior Deacon (or any other so designated) should demonstrate a hand motion that signifies that the room lights are being dimmed, extinguished and raised (when required by the Ritual) or another method to indicate lighting changes shall be stipulated by the spokesman to the panel chairman.
- (5.) Omit instructions for handling large classes.

B. PERFORMANCE NOTES:

- (1.) The speakers should address the candidates, but also be mindful that others are watching and must be addressed also.
- (2.) The speakers' clothing should be appropriate and dignified as suggested in the Primary Authority.

C. RITUAL NOTES:

- (1.) If "live" candidates are used, some leniency will be tolerated by the Evaluators. If the candidates need to have a phrase repeated, the extra words will not be counted as word errors.
- (2.) Senior Steward (or candidates, if used) makes all verbal responses for Candidates, including "I", and speaking name, but does not repeat obligations.
- (3.) In saying Obligation (if there are no live candidates) Master Councilor omits pauses for responses.