



AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION LTD

## AN INTRODUCTION TO EXHIBITING - Part 2

*“The ultimate in stamp collecting”*

### ***The Three Exhibit Categories***

Depending upon your age and/or experience, you have a number of exhibiting options available

- Multi-frame – the most common form of exhibiting, and can be from 2 to 8 frames.
- One frame – ideal for beginners to exhibiting and for subject matters for which there is limited material available.
- Youth exhibiting (under 22 years of age) – where the number of frames will vary with age.

The conditions applicable to each of these categories vary, and are explained in more detail below.

### ***The Three Exhibition Levels***

Exhibitions can be held at three ascending levels, State, National and International. The method of judging is the same for each level and the points allocated would be the same. The medal awarded will change with each level, with a high award being much more difficult to obtain at International level.

For example, to achieve a Gold Medal requires 80 points at State level, 85 at National level, and 90 points at International level.

### ***Multi-Frame Exhibits***

The various medals which can be obtained for multi-frame exhibits, in descending order, are

Large Gold  
Gold  
Large Vermeil  
Vermeil  
Large Silver  
Silver  
Silver/Bronze, and  
Bronze

There are 5 point steps between each medal level. The minimum points required to gain a medal are 50 at State level, 55 at National and 60 at International level.

The maximum point score of 100 is broken up into a number of important areas. This breakdown varies slightly for some exhibition classes, but for most is as follows –

- 5 points for presentation;
- 20 for Treatment – how you tell the story;
- 10 points for Importance – the significance of your topic in the philately;
- 35 points for Knowledge, Personal Study and Research – how you demonstrate that you have a good understanding of your topic;
- 10 points for Condition – how good is the material in terms of condition; and
- 20 points for Rarity – how difficult would it be to replace your material.

The points breakdown is very important to understand. It becomes apparent that good material alone is not sufficient to gain a high award. To be successful in this regard the good material must be skilfully presented and interwoven into the story being told.

There are two keys to scoring well, the first of which is the 35 points for knowledge, personal study and research. These aspects are demonstrated by the relevance of the items that you have included in the exhibit, your write-ups, and the references shown in the bibliography on the Title Page.

The second key is the 20 points for treatment. On the Title Page you are required to indicate the aim of your exhibit. The marks awarded for Treatment are an assessment of how well you have achieved this aim. This implies a perfect concordance between the statement of your aim and the development of the exhibit. To ensure this concordance, the Title Page is generally the last sheet of your exhibit to be finalised. When you submit your application you will be required to submit a “draft” Title Page. The fact that it is a “draft” allows it to be subsequently modified prior to the final submission.

There is a variation in the points allocation for thematic exhibits, where the breakdown is as follows –

- § 15 points for Title and Plan;
- § 15 points for the development of the exhibit;
- § 5 points for innovation;
- § 15 points for thematic knowledge;
- § 15 points for philatelic knowledge;
- § 10 points for condition; and
- § 5 points for presentation.

The plan should present a logical order allowing the study of the entire exhibit without disturbing breaks between the different chapters. Ideally the beginning of the following chapter has a logical link with that preceding. This helps to create an interesting story instead of an unconnected “list of contents”.

An effective plan covers the largest scope compatible with the title. In this respect, unless specifically stated in the title, the plan should not be limited by time or by geography, as far as the chosen theme allows it.

The construction of an innovative plan is considered a prerequisite for an innovative development.

### ***One Frame Exhibits***

One frame exhibits are generally seen as a good way of introducing new exhibitors as they can experiment with exhibiting without too much effort.

One frame exhibits also have their own award allocation and marking scale. The awards which can be obtained, in descending order, are

Gold  
Vermeil  
Silver  
Silver-Bronze, and  
Bronze.

There are 10 point steps between each award level. The minimum points required to gain an award are 40 at State level and 45 at National level.

The points breakdown is the same as for multi-frame exhibits.

The rules and awards at International level vary from those applicable within Australia.

### ***Youth Exhibits***

“Youth Philately” is shown as an FIP class to highlight the different judging and marking criteria.

This section refers to exhibits by young philatelists under 22 years old. Exhibitors will be assigned to one of the three Age Classes

Age Class “A”: 13 to 15 years old  
Age Class “B”: 16 to 18 years old  
Age Class “C” 19 to 21 years old

The age attained on January 1st of the year in which the exhibition takes place decides the relevant Class.

Each exhibit shall be allocated frames according to the Age Class:

“A” from 2 frames to 4 frames

“B” from 3 frames to 5 frames

“C” from 4 frames to 5 frames

For the evaluation of youth exhibits in Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Revenue and Maximaphily, the following points will be allocated:

	“A”	“B”	“C”
Treatment	29	33	35
Knowledge	26	32	35
Material	20	20	20
Presentation	25	15	10

For the evaluation of youth exhibits in Thematic Philately and Maximaphily Thematic Philately exhibits the following points will be allocated:

	“A”	“B”	“C”
Treatment	33	35	35
Knowledge	22	27	30
Material	20	23	25
Presentation	25	15	10

Youth exhibits can be in any of the accepted exhibition classes except Literature. However at State, National and FIP levels experimental Youth Literature classes are currently being trialled.

The maximum award in Youth Philately is a Gold medal at APF State and National levels and a Large Vermeil at the FIP level. However a Gold Medal will probably be awarded in the “C” Age Class from 2011.

### ***Title Pages and Conclusion***

The essence of a good exhibit is the telling of a story using stamps and/or covers. This story must have a start, a middle and a logical ending. It will be supported by a Title Page, the first sheet of the exhibit. This Title Page must detail what the exhibit is showing and explain how the exhibit has been developed.

When you give a club display, you have the opportunity to talk about the topic, to explain what the display is all about, some of the background history, and any special items to look out for. In an exhibit, this “talk” is replaced by the Title Page.

For security purposes, exhibits are mounted in display frames which usually hold 16 sheets of material (4 rows of 4). These sheets are usually quite different to album pages, both in size and presentation. All exhibition pages must be enclosed in a clear protector.

Should you decide to go down the exhibiting path, it is strongly suggested that you first have a discussion with an experienced exhibitor or a philatelic judge who can guide you in your initial approach. Your State Council can help you find a mentor. Not only can this person guide you in the selection of the appropriate class, but also in choosing the correct sheet material, protectors, and mounting options. This advisor should also be able to help you to understand the rules for the selected class.

### **For Further Information**

[www.apf.org.au](http://www.apf.org.au)

or

Contact your State Council

ACT: ACT Philatelic Council,  
GPO Box 980 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
NSW: Philatelic Development Council - NSW  
GPO Box 9800 SYDNEY NSW 2001  
QLD: Queensland Philatelic Council  
18 Coolcrest Street WYNNUM QLD 4178  
SA/NT: South Australian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 ADELAIDE SA 5001

TAS: Tasmanian Stamp Council  
GPO Box 9800 HOBART TAS 7001  
VIC: Victorian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
WA: Western Australian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 PERTH WA 6001

(Further contact details, including email addresses, are available on the APF website.)

Other brochures in this series are available from the Australian Philatelic Federation or your State Council:

- 1 Why Collect Stamps*
- 2 Why Join a Stamp Club?*
- 3 I have just inherited a stamp collection - where do I go from here?*
- 4 I have just rediscovered my old stamp collection – where do I go from here?*
- 5 Where do I get stamps for my collection?*
- 6 Beyond Australia!*
- 7 How can I identify and value my stamps?*

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