

KNOWLEDGE BOWL HANDBOOK

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

A Knowledge Bowl typically includes a series of three oral rounds plus one written round. Teams will complete a written round test and be ranked for the first oral round according to their written score. Subsequent grouping is based upon cumulative totals for the day. Once all scores are in and posted for each round, the scores are arranged to indicate in which room the teams will then compete.

The top teams from each division will meet for a playoff tournament from which the top teams (based on division spreads) advance to the state tournament. The official score is kept by the judge or scorekeeper on the score sheets. For each oral round, the same questions are used simultaneously in all rooms.

TEAM COMPOSITION

Any high school student is eligible to be on the six person team representing each school. Four members are chosen for each oral round. Team members may participate by switching between rounds. Since speed is very important in the contest, schools have found it beneficial for students to be aggressive, and not too concerned about making mistakes from time to time. Each school selects team members using whatever criteria they think are significant. Although team members may change, **TEAM NAMES MUST REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE YEAR.**

JUDGING

Schools are asked to furnish at least one reader/judge. This person can act as a reader/judge or scorekeeper and can be a teacher, principal, parent or anyone qualified to conduct a round of competition. Electronic judging devices are used to determine which team has the answer first. They are accurate to approximately 1/6,000th of a second. In the event of a disputed question, the decision of the reader/judge is final.

ELECTRONIC SCORING DEVICES

It is to the advantage of the students to have an electronic scoring device for practice before and after the tournament. Timing devices can be purchased from the following supplier:

V&V

Systems.....Current \$495.00

Prices:

Aubrey Verstegen	\$ 39.00 tax
134 Sunset Place	\$ 10.00
	s&h
Sequim WA 98382	\$544.11*

(360) 683-4821

*Prices are subject to change.

SCORING

In each round, all teams respond to 50 questions. The right to answer is shown by the electronic judging device to show which of the three teams pressed the indicator first. The team gets one point for each correct answer. Teams accumulate points throughout the four rounds in the day. There are three oral rounds and one written round. The team with the highest number of points wins the competition.

QUESTIONS

Questions to be used in Knowledge Bowl are all new and have never been used in previous local and/or state tournaments. The questions are related to practically every discipline typically addressed by secondary school curricula. Some of the areas from which questions are derived are as follows:

logic	current events	psychology	grammar
geography	quotations	poetry	botany
literature	oceanography	folklore	zoology
sociology	business	government	mythology
art	music	crafts	proverbs
journalism	astronomy	physics	sports
speech	geology	chemistry	probability
health	meteorology	first aid	basis other than ten
drama	auto mechanics	library science	home economics
construction	outdoor education	typing	

ORAL ROUNDS

There are three oral rounds in a day of competition. These rounds are the real basis of the contest. Each round consists of 50 questions, read orally. Team members may discuss among themselves before answering. Only one team member may give the answer to each question for the team. The designation of a team captain is necessary. A team may attempt to answer a question before it is completed. In the event of incorrect answers, no penalty points are assessed. The remaining teams have a chance to answer, or if they have not buzzed in, they may request that a question be reread or read in its entirety. Once a team signals, they have 15 seconds to begin their response. Once a question is completed, teams have 15 seconds to signal. If no one answers, the question still counts as one of the 50 in the round.

Here are samples of the oral questions:

1. This battle occurred in 42 B.C. in Macedonia; as a result, both Cassius and Brutus committed suicide, and Octavius and Mark Antony became masters of Rome. Where was the battle?

Answer: Battle of Phillippi

2. Inside the sun, four hydrogen atoms interact to form a helium atom. However, the four hydrogen atoms together weigh 5×10^{-26} more than the helium atom. What happened to the rest of the mass?

Answer: It was converted into energy

3. In logic, an argument with two premises and a conclusion is termed what?

Answer: Syllogism

WRITTEN ROUND

Each Knowledge Bowl tournament includes one written round taken by all team members (maximum of 6 members to a team). It consists of 50 questions, and the time limit is 45 minutes. This round is held as ROUND 1. One point per question is awarded. The total score at the end of this round is used in order to place teams in rooms for the first oral round. Here are some sample written questions:

1. What is the name given to the bending of a ray of light as it crosses the boundary separating two transparent media having different densities?

- A. reflection
- B. vibration
- C. divergence
- D. refraction
- E. relegation

Answer: (D) refraction

2. Solve this equation for m.

$$m^2 + 7m - 60 = 0$$

- A. 12, 6
- B. 15, 4
- C. -15, 2
- D. -12, 5

Answer: (E) -12, 5

3. Under the Judiciary Act of 1789, the federal courts were only able to deal with interpretations of federal laws and with cases involving...

- A. civil suits
- B. organized crime
- C. the Constitution
- D. serious felonies
- E. foreign ambassadors

Answer: (C) the Constitution

PRACTICE

Since questions are new and from many different sources, it is not really possible to actually study for the contest. However, it is beneficial to provide your students with practice sessions in which they get used to responding to questions quickly and to the format used in competition. Sets of sample questions are available by calling and requesting them.