

TAPPS ACADEMICS

March 30-April 1
Waco Convention Center

Speech Events

Duet Acting
Solo Acting
Poetry Interpretation
Prose Interpretation
[Original Oratory]
[Persuasive Speaking]

Academic Tests

Math
Advanced Math
Calculator Applications
Number Sense
Science
Current Events
Social Studies
Literary Criticism
Spanish
Spelling

Writing

Ready Writing (February 11th)

SIGNUPS

- Sign up by Wednesday, 1/15
- No more than 3 students from BCS may compete in the state competition. An in-school elimination round may be necessary if more than 3 people sign up for an event.

DUET ACTING

12 minute maximum

8 minute minimum

10 second grace period

Interpret cuttings from dramatic/humorous works. Introduction and all material must be memorized. Notes, manuscripts, props, or costumes are not permitted. The performer's hair, glasses, clothing, etc. must remain the same during the performance as it was in the introduction. The performer may pantomime the removal of glasses, letting hair down, etc., but must not actually do so. No permanent adjustment can be made to the appearance of the contestant (ie – removal/addition of glasses, clothes or shoes, taking hair down or permanently putting in a ponytail, etc.) but any use of the body is appropriate to communicate the message of the scene. Failure to comply will result in a disqualification.

- Two chairs may be used in duet acting to create atmosphere and environment. Chairs will be supplied. All contestants must use the same chairs provided for them.
- Contestants interpret material through characterization, blocking, and interaction with your scene partner. This is part of acting so stage blocking and movement are expected.

Selections: Selections must be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material that is not printed and published is prohibited. Adaptations may be for the purpose of continuity only. Material may be serious or humorous in nature. A selection must be from a single source. No Internet sources are allowed. The dialogue portion of a musical may be used. No more than 2 minutes of a song may be sung.

Introduction: A memorized introduction should set the scene and mood and include the title and author. Time for the introduction is included in the overall time limit.

SOLO ACTING

10 minute maximum

6-minute minimum

10 second grace period

Interpret cuttings from dramatic/humorous works. Contestants evaluate literary material through research and study and translate their interpretations into physical performances.

Notes, manuscripts, props, or costumes are not permitted. The performer's hair, glasses, clothing, etc. must remain the same during the performance as it was in the introduction. The performer may pantomime the removal of glasses, letting hair down, etc. but must not actually do so. No permanent adjustment can be made to the appearance of the contestant (ie – removal/addition of glasses, clothes or shoes, taking hair down or permanently putting in a ponytail, etc.) but any use of the body is appropriate to communicate the message of the scene.

- One chair may be used in solo acting to create atmosphere and environment. Chairs will be supplied. All contestants must use the same chairs provided for them.
- Contestants interpret material through characterization and blocking. This is part of acting so stage blocking and movement are expected.

Selections: Selections for Solo Acting may be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material that is not printed and published is prohibited. Adaptations may be for the purpose of continuity only. Monologues are acceptable. Material may be humorous or serious in nature. A selection must be from a single source. No Internet sources are allowed. The dialogue portion of a musical may be used. No more than 2 minutes of a song may be sung.

A memorized introduction should set the scene and mood and include the title and author. Time for the introduction is included in the overall time limit.

POETRY INTERPRETATION

7 minute maximum

3 minute minimum

10 second grace period

Manuscript: Student should read selection(s) from a folder or notebook. Students shall not read from books or magazines. While students have usually practiced their selections often enough to have them memorized, they must visually refer to the manuscript as though it is being read.

Introduction: Must be memorized and delivered with notebook closed; it must contain the name and author of each selection, and include commentary which prepares audience for the performance. Embedded introductions are allowed.

Selection: Cutting must be from a single poem or medley of poems from the same source (book) but not necessarily the same poet. Selections must be published. Selections from plays, screen plays, or song lyrics shall not be used in this category.

Movement: Spontaneous changes in posture and gesture are permissible, however the speaker must be careful to draw the line between “acting” and “moving.” Use of movement should

- Be appropriate to the demands of the selection;
- Be a natural outgrowth from the literature being read;
- Not call attention to itself; and
- Be limited to one step in any direction and returning to the base position before any other movement is begun. The idea is the same as a basketball pivot – the contestant can have one foot planted while the other can move but the foot must return to the base position before picking up the other foot.

No props or costumes may be used. Dress appropriately for a public presentation.

No podium or similar device allowed.

Accept suggestion and criticism with good grace.

PROSE INTERPRETATION

7 minute maximum

3 minute minimum

10 second grace period

Manuscript: Student should read selection from a folder or notebook. Students shall not read from books or magazines. While students have usually practiced their selections often enough to have them memorized, they must visually refer to the manuscript as though it is being read.

- **Introduction:** Must be memorized and delivered with notebook closed; it must contain the name and author of each selection, and include commentary which prepares audience for the performance. Imbibed introductions are allowed.
- **Selection:** Cutting must be from a single source (book). Selections must be published in hard copy (no Internet sources). Documentation must be provided in advance. Selections from plays, screen plays, or song lyrics shall not be used in this category.
- **Movement:** Spontaneous changes in posture and gesture are permissible, however the speaker must be careful to draw the line between “acting” and “moving.” Use of movement should be appropriate to the demands of the selection; be a natural outgrowth from the literature being read; not call attention to itself; and be limited to one (1) step in any direction and returning to the base position before any other movement is begun. The idea is the same as a basketball pivot – the contestant can have one foot planted while the other can move but the foot must return to the base position before picking up the other foot.
- No props or costumes may be used. Dress appropriately for a public presentation.
- No podium or similar device allowed.
- Accept suggestion and criticism with good grace.

ORIGINAL ORATORY

10 minute maximum

6 minute minimum

10 second grace period

Contestant should present an oration which they have composed personally and which is memorized. No props or visual aids are permitted.

- Any appropriate subject may be used.
- Speech should be persuasive in nature
- Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing. Such quotations must be identified. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
- An Original Oratory is not poetry, nor song.

Documentation: Quotations from any other speech or writing must be identified in a typewritten copy of the oration supplied to the meet director. A copy of Statement of Originality should be attached to the speech.

- Movement: No restrictions
- No podium or similar device allowed.
- Accept suggestions and criticism with good grace.

Ready Writing (February 11th)

The purpose of this 90 minute contest is for the contestant to compose and write an original expository essay on a current topic during the allotted time. The expository essay should be interesting, organized and conform to correct English writing style. Contestants are given a choice between two prompts, each an excerpt from literature, publications (past and present), or speeches. The entire essay must explicitly develop the chosen topic.

Nature. The composition is to be expository. Expository writing explains, proves, or explores a topic in a balanced way, allowing the argument and the evidence given to be the deciding factor in the paper. Descriptive or narrative passages may be used to illustrate or reinforce an idea or point that is being explained, but must be clearly subordinate or incidental to the exposition. All writing should pertain to and develop the chosen prompt.

Length. There is no minimum or maximum length. An excellent essay is noted for its well-developed ideas and use of evidence to support the main point(s) as related to the chosen prompt.

Title. Each contestant shall write a title based on the subject statement he has chosen. The penalty for omitting the title will be disqualification of the paper.

The essay should be interesting, organized and conform to correct English writing style. The composition is to be expository. Wordiness is to be avoided. There is no minimum or maximum length. The entire essay should explicitly develop the chosen prompt. Generic essays that could pertain to any topic are not allowed.

You may use a print copy of a Thesaurus and a Dictionary during the contest. Resource materials MAY NOT be shared between contestants.

Math

The 40-minute test will consist of 60 multiple choice questions designed to test knowledge and understanding in the areas of algebra I and II, and geometry.

STUDENTS MAY NOT USE CALCULATORS.

Only 9th and 10th grade students currently enrolled in algebra I, algebra II or geometry should be entered in TAPPS math contest.

- No audible time warnings will be given once the contest begins. It is the responsibility of each contestant to monitor the time remaining in the contest with a device that does not connect to the internet or make audible sounds.
- You will receive plus six points for each correct answer and two points shall be deducted for an incorrect answer. No points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions.
- If you finish the test before the allotted time, you may leave quietly. No distracting noises will be permitted. Turn in all your test materials as you leave.
- You may place as many notations as you desire anywhere on the test paper except on the answer sheet, which is reserved for answers only. You may use additional scratch paper provided by the contest director.

Scoring. Each contestant shall be awarded six points for each question answered correctly, no points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions, and two points shall be deducted for an incorrect answer.

Ties. In the event of a tie, the formula is: percent accuracy = number of problems correct / by number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.

Students may not be entered in TAPPS Math and Advanced Math.

Advanced Math

The 40-minute test will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions designed to test knowledge and understanding in the areas of algebra I and II, geometry, trigonometry, math analysis, analytic geometry, pre-calculus, probability, and elementary calculus.

Student May Use Calculators. Contestants will be allowed to use any commercial silent hand-held calculator that does not require auxiliary electric power and as long as they are not modified. Each student may bring one spare calculator. Small, hand-held computers are not permitted. Calculator memories are not cleared.

- You have 40 minutes for this test. If you are in the process of writing down an answer, you may finish; you may not do additional work on a test question.
- You will receive plus six points for each correct answer and two points shall be deducted for an incorrect answer. No points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions.
- If you finish the test before the end of the allotted time, you may leave the room quietly. No talking or distracting noises may be made. Turn in all your testing materials as you leave.
- You may place notations anywhere on the test paper except on the answer sheet, which is reserved for answers only. You may use additional scratch paper provided by the contest director.
- No audible time warnings will be given once the contest begins. It is the responsibility of each contestant to monitor the time remaining in the contest with a device that does not connect to the internet or make audible sounds.

Scoring. Each contestant will be awarded six points for each question answered correctly, no points given or subtracted for unanswered questions, and two points will be deducted for an incorrect answer.

NO STUDENT MAY PARTICIPATE IN BOTH TAPPS MATH AND ADVANCED MATH.

Calculator Applications

The 30-minute contest shall include calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, powers, exponentiation, logarithms, trigonometric functions, and inverse trigonometric functions. In addition to straightforward calculation problems, the contest shall include geometric and problems similar to that found in high school algebra, geometry, and precalculus textbooks.

Contestants will be allowed to use any commercial silent hand-held calculator that does not require auxiliary electric power and as long as they are not modified.

You may write on the test paper, but only the answer should be written in the answer space. You may erase or mark out a previously written answer, provided you write the revised answer within the answer space and clearly indicate the answer you wish to have graded. Answers may be written in decimal or in powers of 10 notation of the form, 1.23×10^{-6} . Except in integer, dollar sign, and certain stated problems, answers should be written with three significant digits only, with plus or minus one unit error in the third significant digit permitted. Integer problems require answers written as an integer and no error is permitted. Dollar sign problems should be answered to the exact cent, but plus or minus one cent error is permitted. Stated problems using inexact numbers require use of the method of least significant digits. Problems requiring the method of least significant digits are indicated by "sd" in the answer blank. Plus or minus one unit error in the last significant digit is permitted. Answers should be given in the units specified and with the correct sign. The test cover sheet illustrates how answers should be written.

All problems through the last problem attempted will be graded. Stated problems involving inexact numbers that are correct but with incorrect number of significant digits are awarded three points, provided at least two significant digits are indicated and the more precise answer rounds exactly to the lesser precise answer.

Scoring. Each contestant shall be awarded five points for each question answered correctly; two points be subtracted for each question answered incorrectly or skipped. Stated problems involving inexact numbers and labeled 'sd' that are correct but with the incorrect number of significant digits are awarded plus three points, provided at least two significant digits are indicated and the more precise answer rounds exactly to the lesser precise answer. No points deducted for unanswered questions after the last attempted problem.

Number Sense

The 10-minute test will consist of 80 mental math problems designed to test speed and accuracy.

ALL PROBLEMS ARE TO BE SOLVED MENTALLY. Make no calculations with paper and pencil. Only the results of calculations arrived at without the use of pencil and paper should be accepted. A contestant will be disqualified for violating this rule. A blue pen is mandatory.

Non-erasable blue ball point pen must be used to take the number sense test. Write only the answer in the space provided at the end of each problem. No erasures, mark-overs, and/or mark-outs are permitted. These will be counted as incorrect answers.

All problems through the last problem completed or attempted will be graded. A problem is considered attempted if any mark or erasure appears in the answer space for that problem. Scoring is plus five points for correct answers and minus four points for incorrect, skipped, changed, or illegible answers.

All fractions must be reduced to the lowest terms. Decimal answers are permitted for those un-starred problems whose answers are exactly expressible as decimals. Starred problems on test sheet require approximate integral answers, i.e. they permit 5% error; un-starred problems require exact answers. Answers require only the writing of numerals. If a symbol is omitted from the printed test, the contestant need not include it in the answer. All dollars and cents problems must have complete answers. For example: twenty-three dollars must be written as \$23.00. Sixteen cents would be written \$.16 or 16¢, depending on the answer blank format. Answers should be written in the most efficient form possible. For example: if the answer is 16, 16.000 is not acceptable. Extraneous zeros are not to be used. For example: if .16 is the answer, 0.16 is not an acceptable answer. Answers should not be left in exponential form.

Science

The 90-minute test will consist of 60 objective-type questions, 20 from each of the three subject areas of biology, chemistry and physics, designed to test the student's understanding of basic principles; the history and methods of science; recent developments in science; and ability to evaluate experimental results, rather than ability to memorize details. A periodic table and some useful mathematical relations are included at the front of the test.

Student May Use Calculators. Contestants will be allowed to use any commercial silent hand-held calculator that does not require external power. Each student may bring one spare calculator into the contest room. Handheld computers are not allowed.

Grading the Contest. Each contestant shall be awarded six points for each question answered correctly and two points shall be deducted for an incorrect answer. No points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions.

The top Biology, Chemistry, and Physics scorers will be recognized in addition to the top 8 scoring students and will receive gold medals for this achievement. No additional points will be awarded to these students.

Current Issues and Events

The 60 minute test will consist of 40 multiple choice questions and a written essay. The contest will focus on a basic knowledge of current state, national and world events and issues. "Current events" are defined as those which have occurred during the current school year. (State Test - October 1 to March 1.

Contestants who fail to write an essay will be disqualified.

No materials may be used during the exam.

Sources. National daily newspapers or Texas metropolitan newspapers, business newspapers, specialized periodicals, weekly news magazines, journals of political or social nature, and other periodicals that report, summarize or explain world events shall be considered as contest sources. "Current events" web pages available via the Internet are also excellent source of information.

Essays. The essay should be of an expository nature. The essay should be approximately 200 words in length. Contestants should attempt to substantially develop a full range of points relative to the essay prompt. All contestants are required to answer the essay question. Contestants who fail to write an essay shall be disqualified. A grading rubric will be used to judge the essay question. The essay will be used in the event of a tie score.

Scoring. Each contestant shall be awarded one point for each question answered correctly and no points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions on the objective portion of the test. Each contestant is required to write a short essay. No points will be given for the essay. One or three judges who are not coaches of the tied contestants shall rank the essay sections. The ranking of the judge(s) will break the tie. Each contestant is required to answer the essay question. Failure to answer the essay will result in disqualification.

Ties. Essays involved in the tie will be judged one against the other to break the tie.

Social Studies

The 90-minute test will consist of 45 objective questions and an essay. Students are expected to master primary reading selections, as well as specific documents, and to be familiar with general knowledge social studies concepts and terms.

2019-2020 TOPIC

East Asia: The Middle Kingdom, the Rising Sun, the Land of the Morning Calm, and Beyond

PRIMARY READING SELECTION

Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea, by Keith Pratt Reaktion Books;

SUPPLEMENTAL READING MATERIAL

Country Profiles from the CIA's The World Factbook, BBC News Country Profiles and Infoplease
China • Hong Kong • Macau • Taiwan • Tibet • Japan • South Korea • North Korea • Mongolia

ADDITIONAL LINKS

<https://www.ancient.eu> <https://www.britannica.com/> <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/asia-and-africa>
<https://www.infoplease.com/> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/profileguide.html> http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
<https://www.history.com/topics/china> <https://www.history.com/topics/china/china-timeline>
<https://www.history.com/topics/japan> <https://www.history.com/topics/korea/south-korea>
<https://www.history.com/topics/korea/north-korea-history> Check
<https://www.uilTEXAS.org/academics/academic-contests/social-studies> for updates.

Scoring. You will receive plus one point for each correct answer in Part I General Knowledge, two points for Part II Primary Reading, and 3 points for Part III Supporting Documents. The essay is required but will only be judged in the event of a tie. Failure to complete the essay will result in disqualification.

Literary Criticism

The 90-minute 65 multiple choice and essay test requires knowledge of literary history and of critical terms, and ability in literary criticism. Students are tested over material on the reading list. Students must also analyze literary passages not on the reading list. A tie breaker is required in which the student must write a short essay dealing with a specified topic about a short literary passage.

READING LIST

- TEXT: A Handbook to Literature by William Harmon and C. Hugh Holman
- FICTION: Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s Player Piano
- POETRY: The Selected Poems and Prose of Percy Bysshe Shelley or Percy Bysshe Shelley: The Major Works
 - "To Wordsworth"
 - "Mutability"
 - "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" version A
 - "Ozymandias"
 - "Stanzas Written in Dejection—
December 1818"
 - "[Lift not painted veil]"
 - "To S[idmouth] and C[astlereagh]"
 - "Song: To the Men of England"
 - "[Sonnet:] England in 1819"
 - "Ode to the West Wind"
 - "To a Sky-lark"
 - "[Ye hasten to the grave!]"
 - "[The flower that smiles today]"
 - "To Jane. The Invitation"
 - "[When the lamp is shattered]"
 - "[One word is too often prophaned]"
- DRAMA: William Shakespeare's Othello

Essays. Although the essay will only be used if a tie exists, all contestants are required to write an essay.

Scoring. Each contestant shall be awarded one point for each correct answer covering the Handbook for Literature, 2 points for questions application to literature and 3 points for questions covering the reading list selections. The essays will only be read if a tie exists. Failure to complete the essay will result in disqualification.

Spanish

The 90-minute test will consist of 60 multiple choice questions and an essay. There are three (3) parts to the test that include: 1) listening 2) reading and answering questions 3) writing the essay.

- The audio portion of the test will be completed prior to the written portion.
- After the listening portion of the test is complete, you have 60 minutes for the reading and writing portion of the test. When time is called, if you are in the process of writing down an answer, you may finish; you may not do additional work on a test question.
- You will receive one point for each correct answer. There is no penalty for skipped or incorrect answers. The essay is required but will only be judged in the event of a tie. Failure to complete the essay will result in disqualification.

Grading the Contest. Each contestant shall be awarded one point for each question answered correctly. No points shall be deducted for an incorrect answer. No points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions. Each contestant is required to write a short essay. No points will be given for the essay. Failure to answer the essay will result in disqualification.

Ties. In the event of a tie, those essays involved in the tie will be judged one against the other to break the tie. One or three judges who are not coaches of the tied contestants shall rank the essay sections. The ranking of the judge(s) will break the tie.

Spelling

The 90-minute test will consist of three (3) parts. Part I consists of a written vocabulary and a proofreading section. A total of fifteen minutes shall be allotted. There are thirty (30) questions in Part I. Part II consists of pronounced words. Part III consists of pronounced words and is the tiebreaker. Part III will begin immediately after Part II. The words in Part II and III should be pronounced at a rate of approximately four words per minute and will include the definition. Only Parts I and II will be graded. In the event of a tie in Parts I and II, Part III of only those involved shall be graded and used to break the tie. A contestant is required to take all three parts.

At least 80 percent of the test will come from ASW "Word Power"; however, up to 20 percent may be from other sources.

- You have 15 minutes to complete Part I. Part II will immediately follow and consist of pronounced words. Part III is the tiebreaker section and will immediately follow Part II. A contestant must take all three parts.
- Words may be written in blue or black ink, but no pencil. A contestant may print or write in cursive. Make sure all letters are legible. On Part I, use capital letters to indicate your answer.
- You will receive plus one point for each correct answer.