



Texas Citizen Bee State Competition

Rules for the Texas Competition 2009

ELIGIBILITY

High school students in grades nine through twelve are eligible, with the exception of relatives of competition officials. For the 2009 competition, students may choose to attend the regional competition that is most convenient to them. However, **NO STUDENT MAY COMPETE IN MORE THAN ONE REGIONAL COMPETITION, AND NO STUDENT COMPETITOR MAY OBSERVE OTHER REGIONAL COMPETITIONS.**

CONTENT

Questions at the regional and state levels are derived from the following sources:

The competition guide for the Regional and State competitions is the comprehensive *The Study Guide*, an easy-to-use website (located at www.citizenbee.org), containing information on the following topics:

- The Constitution
- Documents
- People
- Landmark Supreme Court Cases
- Civic Values and Skills
- Current Events

Bill of Rights in the News Articles on *The Citizen Bee website*

National news stories related to: The Constitution and all amendments;

constitutional principles including separation of powers, federalism, republican government, limited government, popular sovereignty

Names and offices of Cabinet members

Texas Representatives and Senators in Congress

U.S. Supreme Court justices

Students prepare for all levels of competition by utilizing *The Study Guide*, www.citizenbee.org.

COMPETITIONS

School Level. Texas *Citizen Bee* school coordinators may use any activity to determine three school representatives and one alternate to the regional competition. The names must be forwarded to the regional competition coordinator.

Regional Level. The Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas will determine the regional sites.

State Level. The state Texas *Citizen Bee* involves the top contestants from the regional competitions in the state. The state organizing group determines the number of participants.

The written test and questions for the oral rounds will be provided to the Regional Coordinators by the Law-Related Education Department. All regional participants will take a multiple choice test.

Students have a total of thirty minutes to complete the exam. The proctor can admit late arrivals to the written exam but must collect their papers at the same time as the other students. Students who arrive late will not have extra time.

All students then participate in four oral rounds. One round focuses on current events questions, while the other three rounds are based on material in *The Study Guide*. Students have 60 seconds to give a substantive answer. Time starts as soon as the question has been read. Contestants may request that the moderator re-read all or part of a question or spell a word, but this is part of the 60 seconds.

Students must listen carefully to the oral questions. If the moderator only asks for the last name of a person and an incorrect first name is given, the answer is incorrect. **For “Section III: Landmark Cases & Civic Values,” if the answer to your question calls for the name of a Supreme Court case, you must include BOTH parties in your answer. For example, if your answer is *Texas v. Johnson*, Texas will not be a correct response, and neither will Johnson. You MUST answer *Texas v. Johnson* to be correct.**

Students must speak loudly and clearly into the microphone. Judges CANNOT ask students to repeat or clarify an answer. “I don’t know” is an acceptable answer.

During the oral rounds, if a student must leave the stage area for any reason, he or she must see the competition coordinator. There will be NO TALKING OTHER THAN INTO THE MICROPHONE WHEN ANSWERING A QUESTION DURING THE ORAL ROUNDS.

Appeals: See “Appeal for the Oral Round” at Regional and State Level Competitions on last page. Students wishing to appeal judgments during oral rounds must strictly adhere to this procedure.

NO REFERENCE MATERIAL OR ELECTRONIC RETREVAL SYSTEMS MAY BE USED DURING THE WRITTEN AND ORAL ROUNDS OF THE COMPETITION.

Competition Winners: The winners will receive the “State Competition Winner Information Forms” at the awards ceremony directly following the event. Winners must fill in the requested information and return it to the competition coordinator before leaving the ceremony.

Audio/Video Taping and Pictures. **No audio or video taping or still pictures will be allowed** during regional or state competitions, with the exception of taping

STATE LEVEL OF COMPETITION

All state finals participants compete on a multiple choice test. Answers will be entered on a provided answer sheet. Students will have a total of thirty minutes to complete the exam. The proctor can admit late arrivals to the written exam but must collect their papers at the same time as the other students. Students who arrive late may not make up missed time.

All students then participate in four oral rounds. One round focuses on current events questions, while the other three rounds are based on material in *The Study Guide*. Students have 60 seconds to give a substantive answer. Time starts as soon as the question has been read. Contestants may request that the moderator re-read all or part of a question or spell a word, but this is part of the 60 seconds.

At the end of the recognition ceremony at the **State Finals**, the top four students will ascend to the final round, called the "Civic Conversation." These students will make opening statements in response to a Question, and then engage in a thirty-minute roundtable-style discussion. Opening statements and discussion will be based on four specified Conversation Documents which are posted at:
<http://www.citizenbee.org/user/TopDocs.aspx>

Tiebreakers for Both The Regional and State Competition

The judges and scorekeeper use the following procedures to resolve ties in award-winning places, or to determine who advances to the next level of the competition:

Step 1—Overall Written

The student with the higher score in the overall written component is declared the winner. If the tie remains, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2—Section 4

The student with the higher score in Section 4 of the written component, which contains more complex questions, is declared the winner. If a tie remains, the judges proceed to Step 3.

Step 3—Section 3

The student with the higher score in Section 3 of the written component, which contains more complex questions, is declared the winner. If a tie remains, the judges proceed to Step 4.

Step 4—Co-winners

In the unlikely event that a tie is unresolved, the prizes are added together and divided between the tied students. For example, in a tie between the first and second place winners where the first place winner receives \$100 and the second place winner receives \$50, each receives \$75. In a case where advancement to the next level is involved, both are declared first-place winners and both students advance.

Appeal Procedure for the Oral Round at the Regional and State Level Competitions

For an appeal based on an oral question. Only a contestant may lodge an appeal, and only on an answer he or she has given. Appeals must be filed with the appeal judge before the contestant receives his or her next question. Contestants forfeit their rights to appeal if they do not proceed directly to the designated appeal area from their seats or the stage, or if they communicate with anyone prior to filing the appeal. Contestants complete an appeal form and give it to the appeal judge. The appeal judge decides whether an oral appeal warrants review by the panel of three judges. If the appeal is denied, the form is returned to the contestant with an explanation. If the appeal warrants review, it is presented to the panel of voting judges. The contestant remains in the appeal area until the judges reach a decision. During the oral rounds, the judges call a time-out to discuss an appeal. The judges decide the outcome of an appeal before the affected contestant's next turn in the following round.

Appeals based on the written component are not allowed. Students will be allowed to review their written test to ensure that it was graded correctly at the end of the competition.

Judges

The Texas *Citizen Bee* organizing group or regional competition coordinator selects judges for the regional and state competitions.

Disqualification

If, at any point, a student is disruptive, exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct, or is coached from the audience, that student is immediately disqualified from the competition by the competition coordinator.

Late Arrivals

Students who arrive after the written component begins may take the written test, but must turn in their papers at the same time as the other students. They will not be allowed to make up the lost time.

Factual Errors

Challenges concerning the accuracy of any material in *The Study Guide* must be filed in writing with the State Bar of Texas by February 1st of the year of the competition.

APPEALS FORM FOR COMPETITION

STUDENT: *Complete the appropriate section of this form and return it to the Competition Coordinator.* It is your responsibility to clearly and concisely explain why you feel the appeal should be considered. You cannot clarify or change your answer; the judges are instructed to make a decision on your first response. Use the back of this form if needed.

Student's Name:

Question under appeal:

Basis for appeal:

APPEAL JUDGE; *Complete this section.* If the appeal warrants, hand this form to the judges. If the appeal is denied, please provide a brief explanation in the space below and return the form to the competition coordinator.

Please check the appropriate space:

_____ Appeal was given to judges. _____ Appeal was NOT given to judges.

JUDGES: If the appeal is granted, notify the moderator and scorekeeper. If the appeal is denied, please provide a brief explanation in the space below and return the form to the competition coordinator.

_____ Allowed _____ Disallowed