2020-2021 Navy JROTC Academic Bowl

Participate in the Academic Bowl and your team may win the opportunity to compete in the Academic Championship (JLAB) in Washington, DC! Eight Academic Teams will qualify to attend JLAB!

There are many benefits of participating in the Academic Bowl:
- Improve SAT/ACT scores
- Increase interest in college admissions
- Demonstrate academic strength of the JROTC program
- Boost esprit de corps
- Earn the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital

Dates of Competition

OCT 1, 2020 – JAN 31, 2021	Practice Test (open to all cadets!)
NOV 1, 2020 – JAN 31, 2021	Level I
FEB 15 – MAR 5, 2021	Level II
JUN 18-22, 2021	The Championship in Washington, DC

IMPORTANT NOTES:
- NEW THIS YEAR! All units may assemble up to **two teams** for the Academic Bowl – there will be two different tests administered during the same window of dates. The type of material tested and number of questions will be the same between the two tests. Both teams may qualify to advance to Level II.
- Only one Academic Team per unit is allowed to attend The Championship regardless of final scores in Level II.
- Cadets may participate on **one team only** during the same school year (2020-21) - no crossover between teams.
- Teams with scores in the top 50% in Level I will advance to Level II.
- Due to the tight turn around after Levels I and II, extensions will be NOT be granted for the online competition. All tests must be completed by the final date of competition (Level I – January 31; Level II – March 5).

Competition Website

COF Contests – To Sign Up and participate in the Practice Test, Level I, and Level II, go to www.cofcontests.com.

How to Select Academic Team Members

- Each unit may have up to two Academic Teams; however, only one team is allowed to attend The Championship regardless of scores in Level II.
- Academic Team = 4 primary members and 2 alternates (alternates are optional and may participate in the online competition only – if the team qualifies to attend JLAB, only 4 team members may travel to DC).
- Cadets may NOT participate on more than one team.
- Cadets may be juniors (11th grade), sophomores (10th grade), or freshmen (9th grade); NO seniors may participate.

Each JROTC unit is allowed two Academic Teams consisting of **four cadets** – they may be freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. **Seniors may not participate on the team.** Academic Team members may NOT participate on more than one team. Two alternates may be named and may participate in the online testing; however, alternates are not required. If a team qualifies to participate in the final competition in Washington, DC, **only four team members may attend JLAB. Only one Academic Team from your school will be eligible to attend JLAB. Alternates are not allowed to attend JLAB.** We will be live streaming many of the main events during JLAB including the Championship.

Instructors may assess and select potential team members using the following criteria –
- Peer selection boards (e.g. interviews, essays)
- Teacher or school recommendations
- GPA
- Performance on the Practice Test (details below)
- Overall enthusiasm for the competition

PRACTICE TEST (October 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021)

The Practice Test is open to all cadets and is taken individually, not as a team. It consists of 25 questions (similar to those questions in Levels I and II) from a bank of 50 questions so cadets may take the test multiple times. It is a great way to evaluate your entire unit's understanding of JROTC curriculum and general subjects. We encourage all cadets to take the Practice Test at an internet-accessible computer in the classroom or other convenient location. If your cadets signed up previously, they may use the login

they created initially. Otherwise, encourage each of your cadets to **Sign Up** at www.cofcontests.com. Once their account is created, they can **Sign In** and select **Practice Test** on the dashboard. Cadets may take the Practice Test as many times as they would like. The cadet's scores will be available on their dashboard under **Recent Tests**. Practice Test scores will also be available on the instructor's dashboard. It is up to each instructor to review the scores to determine members of the team.

How to Prepare the Academic Team

In order to prepare for the competition, all team members and instructors should carefully review the rules and instructions contained in these Guidelines.

One of the main goals of the JROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT. Many JROTC instructors are understandably interested in measuring how well their cadets are learning the JROTC curriculum; we will have a mix of JROTC curriculum as well as English, math, and science questions in each level of the competition. The JROTC curriculum questions will focus primarily on leadership preparation, wellness and fitness, group/team dynamics, and communication skills. A few questions about current events are also included – focusing on national and international news, particularly international relations, politics, business, and science. All of the current events questions are taken from major media available on television, the internet, and in daily newspapers (see suggested resources below).

Level I includes 25% JROTC questions, 65% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

Level II includes 15% JROTC questions, 75% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

In both Level I and Level II, a total of 2-3 questions will come from the following USAA Educational Foundation videos:

- Opening Your First Bank Account - https://vimeo.com/257540781/becc571fb2
- Making Money Work for You - https://vimeo.com/257540735
- How Time Builds Wealth - https://vimeo.com/269913995

We encourage all cadets, whether they are on the Academic Team or not, to check out the videos from USAA and to prepare for the ACT, SAT, and ASVAB tests by reviewing English, science, and math coursework. There are several resources available, free-of-charge, to all students.

Websites to review include:

www.cofcontests.com – online SAT/ACT guides (contest information tab)
www.number2.com – a free test prep website
www.march2success.com – a free test prep website
www.khanacademy.org – a free website with math, history, and science lessons
www.foxnews.com/index.html - FOX News
www.cnn.com/cnn10 - CNN Student News
www.npr.org/ - National Public Radio
www.reuters.com/ - Reuters
www.usatoday.com/ - USA Today Newspaper

How to Sign Up

- Beginning October 1, the instructor should go to www.cofcontests.com. If you signed up last year, click on **Sign In** and use the login you created. If you did not create an account previously, you may **Sign Up** on your school account. If your school is not in our system, you will need to add your school information. Please be prepared to answer the following questions when adding a new school:
  High School Name, Address, Phone Number
  Instructor Name, Email Address, Phone Number (office and cell)
  High School Demographics – Number of students, Number in Free Lunch Program, type of school (suburban, rural, private, public)
- After creating your instructor account, return to the homepage and **Sign In**.
- After October 25, you will have the option to **Add Students to Team** on the instructor dashboard.
- To add a student to your team, you will use the student's email address.
- If the cadet signed up for the Practice Test, they will have an account associated with their email address.
- If the student did not sign up for the Practice Test or you prefer not to use the student's email address, you may use their first and last name to add them to your team. However, keep in mind that students without an email address in the system will not have access to the free college prep software.
- If the student does not have an account, they may **Sign Up** at cofcontests.com to create an account.
- **The team must be formed and in our system prior to competing in Level I.**

All teams will be competing against similar teams. Each team will be automatically placed into a Division based on demographics including socio-economic and geographic factors.

How to Participate in Levels I and II (online)

1. We ask that each instructor and cadet review the **Guidelines** document in its entirety prior to participating in Level I
2. The instructor or team captain should logon to [www.cofcontests.com.](www.cofcontests.com)
3. The instructor will **Sign In** using his/her username and password.
4. Once on the Dashboard, click on **Tests.**
5. Follow directions on that page and begin the competition.
6. Both Levels I and II consist of approximately 80 questions and take about 1 hour to complete. **This is a TEAM event** – all cadets on the team (including alternates) should sit at one computer and answer the questions as a team.
7. **Once a team has begun the test, there is no ability to stop and start over. The competition must be completed in one sitting.**

If your team(s) advances to **Level II**, you will follow the same procedure, **using the Instructor's username and password**.

Level III - The Championship (JLAB)

The top eight teams advancing to the Academic Championship in Washington, DC will be notified by email as soon as the results of Level II are verified. If there is a tie in Level II for one of the 8 spots, the tiebreaker will be the Level I – Section 2 score (SAT/ACT portion).

Teams are authorized to bring four cadets and one instructor to the Championship. Additional male and female chaperones are on staff at JLAB; however, a female chaperone from the high school may also attend if required by the school administration. Alternates are NOT allowed to attend JLAB 2021.

If your team qualifies to attend JLAB, you will be contacted regarding travel to the event.

Official Rules of the Online Competition

1. The designated point of contact should be a JROTC instructor with access to email. Most correspondence with teams is through email; therefore, it is essential that instructors check their email and respond as soon as possible. Foundation staff is also available by phone for questions or concerns. (1-888-576-8287 or admin@collegeoptions.net)

2. Each JROTC unit is allowed up to two Academic Teams consisting of four cadets on each team. The teams may include juniors, sophomores and/or freshmen. Two alternates may be named to each team and may participate in the online portion of the competition but are not allowed to attend JLAB in Washington with the team. No seniors may

participate on the team. Cadets may not participate on more than one team during the same school year.

3. Only one Academic Team per unit will be eligible to attend The Championship (regardless of the scores in Level II).

4. If there is a tie in Level II for one of the 8 spots in the Championship, the tiebreaker will be the Level I score. If there is a tie in the Level I score, the tiebreaker will be the combined scores from Sections 2-6 (SAT/ACT questions) in the Level II test.

5. Level I and Level II each require approximately one hour to complete using one computer with a good internet connection. **Once a team has begun the test, there is no ability to stop and start over. The competition must be completed in one sitting**.

6. No one is allowed in the room during the competition except for the four members of the team, the two alternates (optional), and one instructor, who will act as proctor for the test. Instructors may not assist the team with questions or answers during the test.

7. No outside sources or other electronic devices (cell phone, additional computer, dictionary, thesaurus, text book, newspaper, etc.) are allowed. Calculators, pens/pencils and scratch paper are permitted. Do not take screenshots of the questions during the test. Duplication of the questions during the test is NOT permitted and may be cause for disqualification.

8. No communication about the competition with other JROTC teams or schools is allowed. Teams are not permitted to discuss the questions or design of the competition with anyone outside of the team members and instructors.

9. All scores are sent to the Foundation's server automatically. If a team believes there has been an error in scoring, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of completion of the test. A written explanation of the problem is required and should be sent via email (admin@collegeoptions.net).

10. If your school is prone to winter storms and/or school closings, please DO NOT wait until the last day to participate. Extensions will NOT be granted.

11. If there is an electrical outage or other technical difficulty during the competition, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of the difficulty. A written explanation of the problem is required and should be sent via email (admin@collegeoptions.net).

12. The JROTC Academic Bowl relies on the adherence of all teams to the JROTC Code of Honor/Core Values. The Foundation expects that all team members and instructors will abide by all rules.

13. Finally, we believe the **Number 1 rule in this competition is to… Have Fun!** We hope you enjoy this challenge.