

Category 12: Home Economics

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Food and Nutrition
 - b. Clothing
 - c. Housing and Home Furnishings

Category 13: Political Science/Economics

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. General principles of political science, including the nature and historical development of the various types or forms of governments in the world
 - b. The nature and historical development of the United States government
 - c. General principles of free enterprise economic theory

Category 14: Music Theory

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Major and Minor Key Signatures
 - b. Major and Minor Scales
 - c. Harmony
 - d. Part-writing
 - e. Figured Bass
 - f. Cadences
 - g. Rhythm and Time Signatures
2. The test does not include melodic dictation or aural recognition.

Category 15: Spanish

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Grammar and Usage
 - b. Vocabulary
 - c. Conjugation and Agreement
 - d. Spanish to English translation and English to Spanish translation

Division 2: Spelling Rules

Category 16: Spelling

Spelling will be conducted in the traditional spelling bee fashion according to the rules listed below.

1. Spelling will be conducted in the traditional spelling bee format in a single elimination fashion.
 - a. Information regarding the spelling lists is available on the AACS website.
 - b. The dictionary specified in the current spelling bee information will be the final authority in determining correctness of spelling and pronunciation.
 - c. **Note:** Rules of other national spelling competitions are not necessarily the same as the AACS National Competition spelling rules.
 - d. The competition will be recorded for judges' use only.

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- e. Capitalization of a word (whether omitted or added) shall not constitute an error.
 - f. Students are not required to provide judging forms for Spelling.
2. Spelling Bee procedures:
- a. All students will form a single line facing the spelling master.
 - b. Words will be given to students from left to right.
 - c. A student will be disqualified upon one spelling error.
 - d. Words will be chosen from the current spelling bee list. If the spelling master decides that additional words are necessary, the words will be chosen from the dictionary specified in the official spelling bee rules. This will be done at the beginning of a new round.
 - e. Pronunciation will be according to the diacritical markings in the specified dictionary.
 - f. With the approval of the judges, the spelling master may give a fuller explanation of the meaning of the word to supplement the dictionary definition(s) quoted.
 - g. During competition, after the spelling master gives the student a word, the student may also choose to pronounce the word before spelling it.
 - h. The student may request the spelling master to re-pronounce the word, define it, give its part of speech, use it in a sentence, or give its language origin. The master will grant the requests until the judges agree that the word has been made clear to the student. Judges may call an error against any student who ignores a request to begin spelling.
 - i. After receiving the requested help in 2.h., the student will have fifteen seconds to spell the word. Timing will begin at the student's repeating the word or at the commencement of the spelling of the word.
 - j. Having begun to spell a word, a student may stop and begin again, retracing the spelling from the beginning; but in the retracing, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first spelled. If letters or their sequences are changed in the respelling, the speller will be declared in error.
 - k. The correct spelling of any incorrectly spelled word will always be given except when only two students remain. The next word on the master's official competition list will then be given to the next student, whether or not elimination occurs.
 - l. When the students are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes, but not before the completion of the current round. At that point, when one student misspells a word, the other student will be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second student spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second student shall be declared champion.
 - The intent of the rule is to ensure that the remaining competitors have correctly spelled the same number of words as eliminated competitors before changing the procedure, so the current round must be completed before the procedure changes. If, at the completion of a round, only one competitor remains who has not misspelled a word, that competitor is the first-place winner and the two-person elimination procedure outlined in this rule does not occur. The second- and third-place winners are awarded in the order that they were eliminated from the contest. If, at the completion of a round, only two competitors remain, the elimination procedure outlined in this rule is employed to finish the contest and third place is awarded to the last competitor eliminated in the previous round. If, at the conclusion of a round, all competitors have been eliminated, the contest must resume as things were at the beginning of that round—all competitors who were still in the contest at the beginning of that round are restored and a new round begins with those competitors spelling in the original order.

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- m. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him, then the misspelled new word will be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he will be declared champion.
- n. If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest; and the one who first misspelled the word will be given a new word to spell. The contest will then continue under rules 2.l. and 2.m.
- o. Any question relating to the spelling of a word will be referred to the judges immediately. Only a student speller may lodge a protest. The deadline for lodging a protest will be before the affected student would have received his next word had he not been eliminated. No protest will be entertained after a contested word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately, i.e., before the second speller has begun to spell the word, or, if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given.
- p. The judges have complete authority and control. Their decision will be final in any dispute.

Division 3: Composition General Rules

1. A student may enter a total of two Academic categories. However, he may enter only one category from Division 3 and one category from Division 4. (He may not enter both composition categories or both science fair categories.)
Example: He may take two academic tests; or he may take one academic test and enter a science fair project; or he may enter one writing category and one science fair project.
2. Creative Writing students must supply the appropriate judging form from this manual with the top portion completed (name, school, etc.).

Category 17: Creative Writing: Poetry

1. The prompt (topic) will not be announced until the beginning of the contest period.
2. The prompt will be available on the AACS website 15 days prior to the first day of competition.
3. The finished entry must be submitted to the AACS office as a digital file (Word document) no later than 1:00 p.m. EDT on the Thursday preceding competition week (5 days prior to the first day of competition). Late entries will not be accepted.
4. The student may create and refine his entry within the limits of the allotted contest period (from the time the prompt is announced until the entry is due in the AACS office), but the work must be strictly his own.
5. Previously written poems will not be acceptable.
6. The entry must follow the prescribed format.
 - a. Page 1 must include the student's name, school, city, state. It must include a signed Statement of Originality.
 - b. Statement of Originality: I certify that this entry is my own original and authentic work and that I received no help in completing this project other than general instruction and supervision.
 - c. The student may sign the Statement of Originality by typing his name beneath the statement or by using a digital signature.
 - d. Page 2 and following will include the student's entry.
7. The entry will be judged according to the criteria on the Creative Writing: Poetry judging form from this manual.