

# Political Science



# FBLA High School Competitive Events Guidelines

2022–2023

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# Objective Test Events

## Overview

These events consist of a 60-minute test administered during the National Leadership Conference (NLC).

### ELIGIBILITY

Each state may submit four entries. Competitors must have paid FBLA national and state dues by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year. These events are for individual competitors only.

### NLC Registration

Participants must be registered for the NLC and pay the national conference registration fee to participate in competitive events.

Accounting I  
Accounting II  
Advertising  
Agribusiness  
Business Calculations  
Business Communication  
Business Law  
Computer Problem Solving  
Cyber Security  
Economics  
Health Care Administration  
Human Resource Management  
Insurance & Risk Management  
Introduction to Business Communication  
Introduction to Business Concepts  
Introduction to Business Procedures  
Introduction to FBLA  
Introduction to Financial Math  
Introduction to Information Technology  
Introduction to Marketing Concepts – **NEW**  
Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure  
Journalism  
Networking Infrastructures  
Organizational Leadership  
Personal Finance  
Political Science  
Securities & Investments  
Supply Chain Management  
UX Design

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## Political Science

### Objective Test Competencies

- Political science terms and concepts
- History and role of political science
- Civil liberties and civil rights in political science
- Forms of government and legislatures
- Electoral systems and presidential elections
- The powers and elections of Congress
- Federal judicial system
- Federal bureaucracy
- Mass media and politics
- Public opinion and culture
- Political science law
- Public and social policy
- Government fiscal policy
- Government foreign and defense policies
- International relations concepts

### Objective Test Guidelines

- No materials may be brought to the testing site.
- No calculators may be brought into the testing site; calculators will be provided.
- Electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight.
- Bring a writing instrument.

FBLA Political Science Study Guide

<b>Competency A: Political Science Terms &amp; Concepts</b>	<b>Minimum: 10</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Define political science.	
2. Explain the role and conflicts of politics in government.	
3. Define democracy, capitalism, and Constitutionalism.	
4. Define types and sources of political power.	
5. Explain shifting power from a majority to a few.	
6. Explain the relationship between political culture and public opinion.	
7. Describe the role of citizenship and civil society in a democracy.	
8. Define political justice and individual rights.	
9. Define the components of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).	
10. Explain the difference between countries, nations, states, and governments.	
<b>Competency B: History &amp; Role of Political Science</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Describe the history of political parties in the U.S.	
2. Explain the difference between the two-party and multi-party government systems.	
3. Define current political parties.	
4. Explain the role of minor political parties.	
5. Describe the relationship between political parties and special interest groups.	
6. Define special interest groups.	
7. Explain the difference between private and public special interest groups.	
8. Explain how special interest groups (example: Boston Tea Party) have influenced American politics.	
<b>Competency C: Civil Liberties &amp; Civil Rights in Political Science</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Outline the history of Civil Liberties in the United States.	
2. Explain the importance and limitations of freedom of speech, press, religion, and assembly.	
3. Define the procedural rights for the accused.	
4. Explain the right to privacy and the right to bear arms.	
5. Describe the role of courts in deciding civil liberty cases.	
6. Explain the history of civil rights.	
7. Understand the concept of basic civil rights for all.	
8. Explain equal protection under the 14th Amendment.	
9. Explain Civil Rights for Women and Americans with Disabilities.	

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<b>Competency D: Forms of Government &amp; Legislatures</b>	<b>Minimum: 10</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Define the role and functions of government.	
2. Explain the characteristics of a democracy.	
3. Describe autocracy, totalitarianism, and authoritarianism.	
4. Define transitional governments.	
5. Explain the powers and functions of legislatures.	
6. Differentiate between Congress and Parliament.	
7. Explain the purpose of legislative committees.	
<b>Competency E: Electoral Systems &amp; Presidential Elections</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Explain the U.S. Electoral College system.	
2. Differentiate direct and indirect elections.	
3. Describe individual representation and the U.S. electoral systems.	
4. Define primary elections.	
5. Explain election runoffs and recalls.	
<b>Competency F: The Powers &amp; Elections of Congress</b>	<b>Minimum: 10</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Define the role of Congress.	
2. Explain the electoral evolution of Congress.	
3. Explain the rationale for reapportionment and redistributing congressional districts.	
4. Explain party nomination.	
5. Describe national forces that influence Congress.	
6. Explain the difference between Presidential and Congressional campaigns.	
7. Describe factors that influence election outcomes.	
<b>Competency G: Federal Judicial System</b>	<b>Minimum: 10</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Describe the difference between the state and U.S. court systems.	
2. Describe the power of the federal judiciary.	
3. Define the federal court system of the U.S.	
4. Explain the judicial decision-making process.	
5. Explain the checks and balance system on the power of the U.S. Supreme Court.	
6. Explain the difference between original and appellate jurisdiction.	
7. Explain the selection of Supreme Court Justices process.	
8. Describe how special interest groups use litigation strategies to influence government policy.	

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<b>Competency H: Federal Bureaucracy</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Define bureaucracy	
2. Explain the history, impact, and problems associated with federal bureaucracy.	
3. Explain the relationship between the President, Cabinet, and Congress when determining legislation.	
4. Explain how elections are related to public perception of government.	
5. Define the bureaucratic accountability process.	
<b>Competency I: Mass Media &amp; Politics</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Explain how mass media and journalism have impacted the political system.	
2. Describe the difference between private- and state-controlled media.	
3. Explain media's influence on the public.	
4. Define media bias and the reason for public criticism of media.	
5. Explain the role of media in elections and other government activities.	
6. Explain rules that govern media.	
7. Define yellow media.	
<b>Competency J: Public Opinion &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Define public opinion and public culture.	
2. Explain how to measure public opinion.	
3. Explain how public opinion leaders are selected recognized.	
4. Describe the difference between random and quota sampling used to collect public opinion.	
5. Explain the bias associated with opinion polls and surveys.	
6. Explain how voter turnout is impacted by polls and surveys.	
7. List alternative forms of political participation.	
<b>Competency K: Political Science Law</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Explain the difference between laws and customs.	
2. Define American law.	
3. Define code law.	
4. Explain the difference between criminal law and civil law.	
5. Define statutory law.	
6. Describe administration, regulatory, and religious law.	
<b>Competency L: Public &amp; Social Policy</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Explain the steps of the public policy process.	
2. List types of policy.	
3. Give examples of Republican and Democrat policy beliefs.	
4. Define social insurance programs.	
5. Describe public assistance programs.	

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<b>Competency M: Government Fiscal Policy</b>	<b>Minimum: 10</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Explain the difference between market and state-controlled economies.	
2. Define and give examples of regulatory policy.	
3. Explain governmental policies to protect the U.S. economy.	
4. Describe business cycles influenced by governmental decisions.	
5. Explain how government promotes economic interests.	
6. Define fiscal policy.	
7. Explain how monetary policy is determined by the federal reserve.	
8. Describe types of U.S. foreign policy.	
<b>Competency N: Government Foreign &amp; Defense Policies</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Explain which government entities are responsible for foreign policy.	
2. Describe situations that call for U.S. military power.	
3. Explain how government protects the ideals, interests, and needs of America.	
4. Explain the economic rationale for a national security policy.	
5. List the tools of foreign policy.	
6. List important veteran organizations.	
<b>Competency O: International Relations Concepts</b>	<b>Minimum: 5</b>
<b>Tasks</b>	
1. Explain the difference between globalization and nationalism.	
2. Define sovereignty and world policy.	
3. Describe international policies.	
4. Explain inconsistency of human rights throughout the world.	

## FBLA Political Science

### References:

American Government and Politics Today, Brief (2016), Cengage, 10th Edition,  
Schmidt, Shelley, Bardes.

American Government and Politics Today Essentials (2017-2018), Cengage, 19th Edition,  
Schmidt, Shelley, Bardes.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- 1) The set of attitudes, beliefs and sentiments that give order and meaning to a political process and which provide the underlying assumptions and rules that govern behavior in the political system is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) party loyalty
  - B) political culture
  - C) societal expectations
  - D) public opinion
  
- 2) Anti-slavery activists founded the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) Federalist party
  - B) Republican party
  - C) Democrat party
  - D) Independent party
  
- 3) The U.S. Civil Rights movement occurred from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) 1970-84
  - B) 1960-74
  - C) 1946-60
  - D) 1954-68
  
- 4) Which of the following is the extremely powerful congressional committee that determines when debate on a bill will take place?
  - A) the House Government Reform Committee
  - B) the House Committee on Rules
  - C) the House Appropriations Committee
  - D) the House Administration Committee
  
- 5) Citizens who are represented by members of Congress are called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) lobbyists
  - B) party contributors
  - C) constituents
  - D) special interest groups

- 6) Ordinarily, a candidate becomes the presumptive nominee of their party when their \_\_\_\_.
- A) last serious challenger drops out
  - B) when polls indicate they are in the lead
  - C) when they announce their intention to seek office
  - D) when a straw poll indicates they are the leader
- 7) PACs are used to \_\_\_\_.
- A) donate those funds to campaign for or against candidates
  - B) encourage ballot initiatives or legislation
  - C) pool campaign contributions from members
  - D) ALL ANSWERS ARE CORRECT
- 8) Public perception \_\_\_\_.
- A) is not a concern of politicians running for office
  - B) plays no role in election results
  - C) is not influenced by cultural prejudices
  - D) plays a major role in election results
- 9) \_\_\_\_ has become an increasing popular technique used by politicians to communicate directly with constituents.
- A) Social media
  - B) Multi-culturalism
  - C) Politics
  - D) Diversity
- 10) The foundation of the federal government for the United States is the \_\_\_\_.
- A) Federal Government
  - B) Congress
  - C) Presidency
  - D) U.S. Constitution

- 11) \_\_\_\_\_ is a law of precedent.
- A) International law
  - B) Common law
  - C) Code law
  - D) NO ANSWERS ARE CORRECT
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ represent the political party with a reputation of being liberal.
- A) Democrats
  - B) Libertarians
  - C) Republicans
  - D) Independents
- 13) The United States has a \_\_\_\_\_ economy.
- A) state-controlled
  - B) market-controlled
  - C) mixed
  - D) demand-side
- 14) The President \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) can have their military action stopped by the Congress
  - B) cannot take military action
  - C) can take military action only with Congressional approval
  - D) can take military action without Congressional approval
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_ is the idea or practice of dividing a country into smaller units for political, economic, social, and cultural purposes.
- A) Regionalism
  - B) Capitalism
  - C) Globalism
  - D) Nationalism

- 1) B
- 2) B
- 3) D
- 4) B
- 5) C
- 6) A
- 7) D
- 8) D
- 9) A
- 10) D
- 11) B
- 12) A
- 13) B
- 14) D
- 15) A

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# General Competitive Events Guidelines

The general event guidelines below are applicable to all FBLA High School national competitive events. Please review and follow these guidelines when competing at the national level. When competing at the state level, check the state guidelines since they may differ.

**All members and advisers are responsible for reading and following competitive event guidelines.**

## Eligibility

- **Dues:** Competitors must have paid FBLA national and state dues by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- **NLC Registration:** Participants must be registered for the NLC and pay the national conference registration fee in order to participate in competitive events.
- **Deadlines:** The state chair, or designee, must register each state competitor on the official online entry forms by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.
- Each state may submit four entries in all events.
- Each competitor can only compete in one individual/team event and one chapter event.
- Each competitor must compete in all parts of an event for award eligibility.
- A team shall consist of two or three members. The exception is Parliamentary Procedure, which must be a team of four or five members.
- All members of a team must consist of individuals from the same chapter.
- If competitors are late for a competitive event, there are no guarantees they will get to compete. Competitive event schedules cannot be changed. **PLEASE NOTE** that competitive events start in the morning before the opening session of NLC.
- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate competitive event guidelines.
- Picture identification (drivers' license, passport, state-issued identification, or school-issued identification) is required when checking in for competitive events.

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# General Competitive Events Guidelines

## Repeat Competitors

- **Members** may compete in an event at NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top ten of that event at NLC. If a member places in the top ten of an event at NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event. This eliminates the exceptions for team events that were previously in place, as this change will now affect all events.
- **Modified Events:** A competitor may compete in the same event when the event is modified, regardless of placement at a National Leadership Conference. Note, if the only modification is a name change, competitors may not compete in the renamed event if they have previously placed in the top ten at the National Leadership Conference.
- **Chapter Events:** Competitors may compete in a chapter event as many times as they wish, regardless of placement at a previous National Leadership Conference (American Enterprise Project, Community Service Project, Local Chapter Annual Business Report, and Partnership with Business Project).
- **Pilot Event:** Competition in a pilot event does not disqualify a competitor from competing in the same event if it becomes an official competitive event. The participant may compete in another event as well as a pilot event.

## Breaking Ties

- **Objective Tests:** Ties are broken by comparing the correct number of answers to the last 10 questions on the exam. If a tie remains, the competitor who completed the test in a shorter amount of time will place higher. If this does not break the tie, answers to the last 20 questions will be reviewed to determine the winner.
- **Objective and Production Tests:** The production test scores will be used to break a tie.
- **Objective Tests and Performances:** The objective test score will be used to break a tie based on the tie-breaking criteria of objective tests.
- **Reports/Projects and Performances:** The report/project scores will be used to break a tie.
- **Performances:** Judges must break ties and all judges' decisions are final.

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# General Competitive Events Guidelines

## National Deadlines

- State chair/adviser must register all competitors for NLC competitive events online by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.
- All prejudged components (reports and projects) must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.
- All prejudged projects and reports must be submitted electronically.
- All production tests must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the third Tuesday in May.
- All production tests must be uploaded online on the required platform.
- State chair/adviser may make name changes only (no additional entries) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the first Tuesday in June. Competitor drops are the only changes allowed after this date and onsite.

## National Awards

- The number of competitors will determine the number of winners. The maximum number of winners for each competitive event is 10.

## Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA-PBL meets the criteria specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act for all participants who [submit an accommodation form](#).
- The form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.

## Recording of Presentations

- No unauthorized audio or video recording devices will be allowed in any competitive event. Participants in the performance events should be aware the national association reserves the right to record any performance for use in study or training materials.