

2026–2027 Competitive Events Guidelines

Advertising

Advertising challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of advertising principles and strategies through an objective test. This event explores topics such as media planning, branding, consumer behavior, and promotional techniques used to effectively reach target audiences.



Event Overview	
Division	High School
Event Type	Individual
Event Category	Objective Test
Event Elements	50-minute test, 100-multiple choice questions

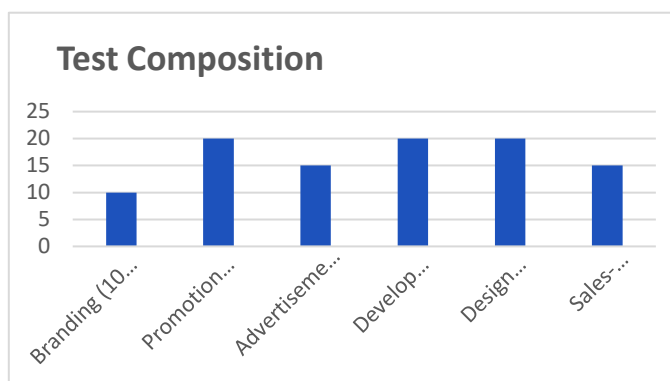
Event Information:	
National Leadership Conference: Timing Structure: Test Duration: 50 Minutes Important Notes: • Internet Access: Provided for testing time only. • Event Schedule Notes: ○ Some events may begin before the Opening Session. ○ All schedules are posted in local time for the NLC host city. ○ Schedule changes are not permitted.	District Leadership Conference: Testing will take place prior to the District Leadership Conference. Testing must occur at school under the supervision of an adult proctor. Check your DLC Call to Conference for specific instructions and deadlines. State Leadership Conference: Any event with a test will have an online testing component on-site at the State Leadership Conference. Internet is provided; competitors must provide their own device. Colorado follows the NLC model for Event Administration and Scoring. Review the SLC Call to Conference for additional information.

*** Event specifics are continued below. Review the document in its entirety.

Knowledge Areas

- Branding
- Promotion
- Advertisement
- Develop Marketing Content
- Design Principles
- Sales-Promotion Activities

Test questions are based on the knowledge areas and objectives outlined for this event. Detailed objectives can be found in the study guide included in these guidelines.



National Leadership Conference

Required Competition Items

Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides On-site
• Sharpened pencil • Fully powered device for online testing	• One piece of scratch paper per competitor • Internet access

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• Conference-provided nametag • Photo identification • Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code	• Test login information (link & password provided at test check-in)
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Eligibility Requirements

To participate in FBLA competitive events at the National Leadership Conference (NLC), the following criteria must be met:

- **Membership Deadline:** FBLA national membership dues must be paid to the specific division by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- **Repeat Competitors:** Members may only compete in an event at the NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top 10 of that event at the NLC. If a member places in the top 10 of an event at the NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event at future NLCs, unless the event has been modified beyond a name change. Chapter events are exempt from this procedure.
- **Conference Registration:** Members must be officially registered for the NLC and must pay the national conference registration fee to participate.
- **Official Hotel Requirement:** To be eligible to compete, competitors must stay within the official FBLA housing block.
- **State Entry Limits:** Each state may submit up to four entries per event.
- **Event Participation Limits:** Each member may participate in:
 - One individual or team event, and
 - One chapter event (e.g., *Community Service Project* or *Local Chapter Annual Business Report*).
- **Participation Requirement:** To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- **Identification at Check-in:** Competitors must present valid photo identification (physical or digital) that matches the name on their conference name badge. Acceptable forms include a driver's license, passport, state-issued ID, or school ID.
- **Late Arrivals:** Competitors will be allowed to compete until such time that the results are finalized, or participation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event, as determined by Competitive Events staff. Five penalty points will be assessed for late arrivals in any competitive event.

Event Administration

- **Test Duration:** 50 minutes
- **Format:** This event consists of an online objective test that is proctored and completed on-site at the National Leadership Conference (NLC).
- **Materials:** Reference or study materials are not permitted at the testing site.
- **Calculators:** Personal calculators are not allowed; an online calculator will be available within the testing platform.
- **Question Review:** Competitors may flag questions within the testing platform for review prior to the finalization of results at the NLC.

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Scoring

- Each correct answer is worth one point.
- No points are deducted for incorrect answers.
- Tiebreakers are determined as follows: (1) The number of correct responses to 10 pre-selected tiebreaker questions will be compared. (2) If a tie remains, the number of correct responses to 20 pre-selected questions will be reviewed. (3) If a tie still remains, the competitor who completed the test in the shortest amount of time will be ranked higher.
- Results announced at the National Leadership Conference are considered official and will not be changed after the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

Penalty Points

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to the testing site.

Recognition

- 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 complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing reasonable accommodations for competitors. Accommodation requests must be submitted through the conference registration system by the official registration deadline. All requests will be reviewed, and additional documentation may be required to determine eligibility and appropriate support.

Electronic Devices

- Unless approved as part of a documented accommodation, all cell phones, smartwatches, electronic devices, and headphones must be turned off and stored away before the competition begins. Visible devices during the event will be considered a violation of the FBLA Honor Code.

Sample Preparation Resources

- Official sample test items can be found in [CONNECT](#). These sample items showcase the types of questions that may be asked on the test and familiarize competitors with the multiple-choice item options.

Important FBLA Documents

- Competitors should be familiar with the [Competitive Events Operations Manual](#), [Honor Code](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Dress Code](#).

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Study Guide: Knowledge Areas and Objectives

*This study guide outlines the skills and knowledge assessed for this event. Objectives followed by a two-letter, three-digit code in parentheses are aligned to the National Business Administration Standards from MBA Research and Curriculum Center. Some objectives reference MBA Research's Learning Activity Packages (LAPs), which are instructional resources with readings, activities, and assessments available **exclusively to teacher advisers**. For more information, visit MBAResearch.org/FBLA.*

Important Notice Regarding Test Preparation

*MBA Research materials are **not required** to study for or prepare for FBLA competitive event tests. MBA Research provides curriculum and instructional resources directly to teachers and does not administer or manage individual student testing or competition participation.*

Note for members and parents: *All questions related to tests, study materials, scores, or competition guidelines should be directed to the local FBLA adviser. Only teacher advisers should contact MBA Research directly.*

Branding (10 test items)

1. Explain the nature of corporate branding (PM:206, LAP-PM-206) (SP)
2. Describe factors used by businesses to position corporate brands (PM:207) (SP)
3. Describe factors used by marketers to position products/services (PM:042, LAP-PM-042) (SP)
4. Explain the nature of product/service branding (PM:021, LAP-PM-021) (SP)

Promotion (20 test items)

1. Explain the role of promotion as a marketing function (PR:001, LAP-PR-901) (CS)
2. Explain the types of promotion (i.e., institutional, product) (PR:002, LAP-PR-902) (CS)
3. Identify the elements of the promotional mix (PR:003, LAP-PR-903) (SP)
4. Describe the use of business ethics in promotion (PR:099, LAP-PR-099) (SP)
5. Describe the use of technology in the promotion function (PR:100) (SP)
6. Describe the regulation of promotion (PR:101) (SP)
7. Explain the nature of a promotional plan (PR:073) (SP)
8. Coordinate activities in the promotional mix (PR:076) (SP)

Advertisement (15 test items)

1. Explain types of advertising media (PR:007, LAP-PR-007) (SP)
2. Explain the components of advertisements (PR:014) (SP)
3. Explain the importance of coordinating elements in advertisements (PR:251) (SP)
4. Determine advertising reach of media (PR:225) (SP)
5. Read media schedule (PR:348) (SP)
6. Calculate media costs (PR:009) (SP)

Develop Marketing Content (20 test items)

1. Identify effective advertising headlines (PR:330) (SP)
2. Explain the use of storytelling in marketing (PR:388) (SP)
3. Describe the nature of copy strategies (PR:126) (SP)

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4. Write copy for advertisements (PR:368) (SP)
5. Write email marketing copy (PR:362) (SP)
6. Write content for use in social media (PR:371) (SP)
7. Maintain a consistent brand voice in social content (PR:389) (SP)
8. Repurpose content for use in multiple platforms (PR:373) (SP)

Design Principles (20 test items)

1. Describe the use of color in advertisements (PR:123) (SP)
2. Describe the elements of design (PR:222) (SP)
3. Explain the use of illustrations in advertisements (PR:322) (SP)
4. Discuss the nature of typography (PR:295) (SP)
5. Explain type styles used in advertisements (PR:326) (SP)
6. Describe effective advertising layouts (PR:275) (SP)
7. Identify types of drawing media (PR:334) (SP)
8. Explain the impact of color harmonies on composition (PR:314) (SP)
9. Describe digital color concepts (PR:274) (SP)

Sales-Promotion Activities (15 test items)

1. Explain the nature of direct marketing channels (PR:089) (SP)
2. Identify communications channels used in sales promotion (PR:249) (SP)
3. Create promotional signage (PR:391) (SP)
4. Collaborate in the design of slogans/taglines (PR:266) (SP)
5. Collaborate in the design of collateral materials to promote frequency/loyalty marketing program (PR:233) (SP)
6. Participate in the design of collateral materials to promote special events (PR:234) (SP)
7. Set up cross-promotions (PR:235) (SP)

References

- MBA Research and Curriculum Center. *National Business Administration Standards*. <https://www.mbaresearch.org/local-educators/teaching-resources/standards/>
- Twin, A. *Understanding marketing in business: Key strategies and types*. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/marketing.asp>
- American Marketing Association. *Marketing vs. advertising*. <https://www.ama.org/marketing-vs-advertising/>
- American Public University. *What is marketing? An introduction to marketing*. <https://www.apu.apus.edu/area-of-study/business-and-management/resources/what-is-marketing/>