

Section 1430: LISTENING

(a) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) *Contestants.* Students in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.
- (2) *Divisions.* This contest will consist of two divisions (fifth and sixth; seventh and eighth) unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.
- (3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.
- (4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team must have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(b) NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Summary.* This contest is designed to help students recognize the importance of effective listening skills and to identify problems they may have in listening effectively. It also provides a challenging format to test the improvement of their listening abilities. Through preparation for the contest, participants will listen to a variety of material and learn to evaluate and critically analyze a speaker's message. Tests will include, but are not limited to, language arts, fine arts, natural sciences and social studies. The objective tests will measure skills such as identifying the main idea and supporting ideas, listening for details, drawing conclusions, and distinguishing fact from opinion.
- (2) *Contest Format.* Contestants will listen to a script ranging from approximately seven to 10 minutes in length, take notes as needed, and use their notes to answer 25 multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks and true/false test questions. A variety of subject matter will be used for the listening tests.
- (3) *Tests.* The League will make available one test for each division for invitational meets, one test for each division for fall/winter district meets, and one test for each division for spring district meets.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students except the script reader. The reader may not be a coach of any contestant entered in the contest.
 - (A) *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director.
 - (B) *Script Reader.* The contest director may serve as the script reader or may appoint a qualified person to act in this capacity. The script reader should be given the test script well in advance of the contest. Contest directors may choose to administer the test by using a recording of test material, but contest directors are responsible for creating tapes or CDs before the contest. The UIL does not provide recorded contest scripts.
 - (C) *Timekeeper.* An official timekeeper will give only start and stop signals. The contest director may serve as the official timekeeper.
 - (D) *Graders.* At least three graders should be familiar with the instructions for grading and the contest rules. The contest director may recruit more than three graders.
- (2) *Time.* Time must be scheduled to read the script and distribute tests. Then, students will have 10 minutes to answer test questions.
- (3) *Materials.*
 - (A) *Provided by UIL.* The following materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) for the dates when invitational materials will be available. See Section 1408 (e) for the dates when district materials will be available.
 - (i) Tests and answer blanks for 30 contestants in each packet.
 - (ii) One test script.

- (iii) Five copies of the answer key.
 - (iv) Two contest rosters.
 - (B) *Provided by the Host School.* Blank paper for note taking.
 - (C) *Provided by the School or Student.* Pens, pencils and/or erasers.
 - (D) *Other.* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest.
- (d) CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Number Contestants.* Distribute answer sheets. As roll is called, instruct students to write their assigned contestant number in the space provided on the answer sheets.
 - (2) *Clear the Room.* Contestants and coaches should be informed of the time and place of the verification period. Spectators and coaches who are not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the contest room before the contest begins.
 - (3) *Read Script.* The script reader should read the script clearly and distinctly, following the script's time markings, or play the recorded script. The students may take notes on the blank sheets of paper.
 - (4) *Distribute Tests.* When the script reader has finished reading the script or playing the recording, the contest director should place a copy of the test questions in front of contestants, and direct them not to open the tests until instructed to do so. Inform the contestants that all answers must be recorded on the answer sheet, not on the copy of the test. Contestants may use their notes during the test.
 - (5) *Time.* The contestants will be given 10 minutes to answer the test questions.
 - (6) *Test Collection.* When the stop signal has been given, the contest director shall have all contestants place their pencils on their desks and then collect all tests, answer sheets and notes. The contest director is responsible for destroying all copies of the script.
- (e) JUDGING.
- (1) *Briefing Graders.* Brief graders on the procedure to be used for grading and explain the scoring process.
 - (2) *Criteria.* The 25-question test is graded objectively. A perfect score is 75.
 - (3) *Scoring.* Each test shall be independently scored twice, and papers contending to place should be scored a third time. Award three points for every correct answer. Deduct two points for every incorrect answer. There shall be no deduction of points for unanswered questions.
 - (4) *Ties.* No ties are to be broken in either the individual or the team component of this contest. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc.
 - (5) *Points.* Individual points are to be awarded through sixth place. Team points shall be awarded through third place. See Section 1408 (i). Tied contestants or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists.
- (f) VERIFICATION PERIOD. The contest director should designate a time and place for a 15-minute verification period at which time contestants and/or coaches are given the opportunity to view their test papers with official keys. Unofficial results should not be posted. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision will be final.
- (g) OFFICIAL RESULTS. After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (h) RETURNING MATERIALS. No materials from the fall/winter district contest may be returned to contestants before January 31. No materials from the spring district contest may be returned to contestants before May 15.