

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT AND COACH

• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from EACH GRADE LEVEL (grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) OR ages 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the MAPS, GRAPHS & CHARTS District Contest from each school. Each grade is judged separately in contest.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 students must compete in a grade for 2 to advance to State from that grade (See page 8 for complete rules.)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** For Grades 4/5, the Maps, Graphs, & Charts contest tests the contestant's ability to locate and interpret information in an atlas or data provided in the test itself in the form of maps, graphs, charts, tables, etc. Students are expected to be able to use the map's legend to garner information of importance, including finding distances on the map, locating specific places, structures, and boundaries, and identifying locations of significance. Students may tab their atlases with any type tabbing that does not contain writing. Absolutely no writing shall be allowed on the tabs or on the inside or out side of the atlas, except for the student's name, school and city.

Students should be able to discern data from a variety of other sources, including bar graphs, line graphs, pie charts, tables, etc. as provided both in the atlas and on the test. The atlas, a ruler, and a magnifying glass may be brought into the contest. Calculators are NOT permitted for use in the contest. For Grades 6-8, contestants will be tested on the same 50 multiple choice test items that are included on the Grades 4/5 test. In addition, grades 6-8 contestants will be tested over general geography and social studies questions on additional test items 51-75. Students will be asked general geography questions similar to questions presented in the National Geographic Bee. These questions will test the students overall knowledge of geography and, in general, will not be answerable through the use of the atlas. Questions will cover countries of the world, land structures and physical features (mountains, rivers, lake, mineral deposits, etc.), people, geography as it pertains to current events and news, climate, culture, and map terminology, etc. Study resources include the Geographic Bee website: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee>. Students will be given 30 minutes to complete the test.

• **SAMPLE QUESTIONS:**

- The Cheney Reservoir feeds into the Ninescah River near what city?
  - Des Moines, Iowa
  - North Platte, Nebraska
  - Wichita, Kansas
  - Fayetteville, Arkansas
- In which country does teff grain provide the majority of nutrition to its residents?
  - Ethiopia
  - Cuba
  - Indonesia
  - Monacco
- The parliament of what country is known as the Bundestag?
  - Germany
  - France
  - Greece
  - Slovakia



• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for verification of the scoring of tests. Tests and answer sheets will be distributed to contestants face up, and contestants will be instructed to write their grade levels, school numbers and their contestant ID numbers on the front cover in the spaces provided and their grade level and contestant ID on the answer sheets. The contest director will tell contestants their ID numbers, usually during roll call. (Alternates taking the place of absent registered contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the room to save time in roll call.) No disqualifying items should be brought into the contest room. (See p. 10 for details.)

**TIME ALOTTED.** Contestants will have 30 minutes to use their atlases to locate information for answers to test questions. Contestants must remain quietly in their seats until the time has expired.

**MARKING ANSWERS.** Contestants may write on the test paper, but only the **PRINTED CAPITAL** letter answer should be written in the answer space on the answer sheet. Any marking in the answer space will constitute an attempt. Contestants may place an X in the box provided where an erasure, mark-out, or undesired answer has occurred in order to not have points deducted for these errors. (See page 12 for Skipping X-box examples.)

• **SCORING.** Add 5 points for each correct answer. Subtract 2 points for each incorrect answer, or for each answer that was attempted, marked through or erased, and did not result in a correct answer. **No points** are added or deducted for skipped or unanswered test items, or erased, marked-out, or answered items when an X is placed in the box beside the answer blank.

• **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** Follow instructions provided on page 13 of the *Academic Handbook*.

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Student practice researching information in the adopted geographic resource, the *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2008 or newer edition)* is essential. Previous years' tests (order form in appendix and on PSIA website [www.psiacademics.org](http://www.psiacademics.org)) are also helpful in providing practice. Because previous years' editions of the atlas were used to compose previous years' tests, adaptations should be made in the answer keys to coincide with the current adopted atlas resource.

• **ADOPTED ATLAS.** Only one atlas will be the official resource for verifying answers beginning this year: *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2008 or newer edition)*. The atlas may only be purchased through Nystrom: Division of Herff Jones, Inc. Call 1-800-621-8086 <<http://www.nystromnet.com/index>> if you are unable to locate the order flier included in the membership mailing. (Answer sheets follow in the *PSIA Academic Handbook*)