

All rules in Section 209 apply to this contest.

A. NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

Test Questions. The 90-minute test will consist of three (3) parts. Part I consists of a written vocabulary and a proofreading section. A total of fifteen minutes shall be allotted. There are thirty (30) questions in Part I. Part II consists of pronounced words. Part III consists of pronounced words and is the tiebreaker. Part III will begin immediately after Part II. The words in Part II and III should be pronounced at a rate of approximately five words per minute. Only Parts I and II will be graded. In the event of a tie in Parts I and II, Part III of only those involved shall be graded and used to break the tie. A contestant is required to take all three parts.

B. SOURCES. At least 80 percent of the test will come from UIL “Word Power”; however, up to 20 percent may be from other sources. Refer to the Forms Manual for the address to obtain practice material for the spelling contest.

C. CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.

1. *Reading the Contest Instructions.* The contest director will read the following directions exactly as they are printed:

- a. ***No Cell Phones or other electronic devices allowed in testing room.***
- b. **Put your name, school, and school classification in the directed place on your test and answer sheet. Failure to put your name and school will result in disqualification. (Allow time for this to be done).**
- c. **Indicate your answers using capital letters on the appropriate blank provided on the answer sheet. If a Scantron is used, mark your answers in the appropriate spaces. Only a #2 pencil may be used for Scantron cards. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Clean erasures are necessary for accurate Scantron grading.**
- d. **Keep your papers closed until told to do otherwise; this is particularly important while test papers are being distributed and before the signal to begin has been given.**
- e. **During the test, no questions may be asked or answered. The contestant talking or making distracting noises may be disqualified.**
- f. **Leaving the room with any contest materials will result in disqualification.**
- g. **Transferring information concerning this test to other contestants or coaches is a violation of the Academic Meet Code and subject to penalties up to and including disqualification.**
- h. **You have 15 minutes to complete Part I. Part II will immediately follow and consist of pronounced words. Part III is the tiebreaker section and will immediately follow Part II. A contestant must take all three parts.**

- i. **Words may be written in blue or black ink, but no pencil. A contestant may print or write in cursive. Make sure all letters are legible. On Part I-B, use capital letters to indicate your answer.**
  - j. **You will receive plus one point for each correct answer and one point shall be deducted for an incorrect answer, misspelled word, skipped problem, or omitted word.**
  - k. **If you are in the process of actually writing down an answer on the answer sheet for Part I when the signal to stop is given, you may finish writing that answer.**
  - l. **Contractions and possessive forms may be written with all letters connected or with letters separated by the apostrophe. Either way is correct.**
  - m. **A misspelling, the misuse of an apostrophe or hyphen, or a mistake in capitalization is considered an error.**
2. *Stop and Start Signals.* Exactly 15 minutes after the start signal was given, announce that time has expired and that contestants must turn in their test and answer sheet for Part I. If the contestants are in the process of writing down an answer, they may finish; they may not do additional work on a test question.
3. *Scoring.* Each contestant shall be awarded one point for each question answered correctly and one point shall be deducted for an incorrect answer, mis-spelled word, skipped problem, or omitted word.
- a. *Legibility.* Words must be spelled correctly and all letters must be legible. Printing the word is acceptable. Legibility, and not the handwriting style, is to be emphasized. To determine whether a given letter is legible, place a blank piece of paper to either side of it, thus separating it from its context, and then see whether the letter can be identified. Any letter, even though it may not be perfectly written, is considered correct if it can still be identified when separated from the remainder of the word. If two of the three graders rule a letter is legible, it should be considered correct.
  - b. *Errors.* A misspelling, the misuse of an apostrophe or hyphen, or a mistake in capitalization is considered an error.
  - c. *Contractions and Possessive Forms.* Contractions and possessive forms may be written with all letters connected or with letters separated by the apostrophe. Either way is correct.
  - d. *Misspelling on “Word Power” List.* If any word is misspelled on the UIL “Word Power” list, that word is not to be considered in grading the tests. It will be omitted from the test.
4. *Ties.* In the event of a tie in Parts I and II, Part III of only those involved shall be graded and break the tie. If the tie-breaker does not break the tie, then a tie exists.