# CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS CONTESTANT ANSWER SHEET

DO NOT write your name or school on this paper. Clearly write the LETTER corresponding to the best response to each question in the space below. Each objective question is worth 1 point. Write your response to the essay on the paper provided. The essay is worth as much as 10 points. You have 60 minutes.

1	21	
2	22	
3	23	
4	24	FOR JUDGE'S USE
5	25	Points from OBJECTIVE questions (each correct
6	26	answer counts 1 point)
7	27	If in the top eight places, add the points from the
8	28	ESSAY question
9	29	TOTAL POINTS
10	30	<i>Reminder:</i> Team score is based on the cumulative score of the
11	31	multiple choice portion of the
12	32	contest only. Do not count the essay scores toward the team
13	33	championship.
14	34	
15	35	
16	36	
17	37	
18	38	
19	39	
20	40	



- 1. Distribute contests to students, who will then have 60 minutes to finish.
- 2. Grade the objective portions of the test.
- 3. Enter results of the objective portion of the contest into the UIL online entry system. Do not add essay scores to determine the overall team winner!
- 4. To determine the overall individual winner, pull the top eight papers. In the event of ties, select enough papers to fill eight slots. For example:

Slot	Place	# of correct answers
1	1	36
2	2 (tie)	35
3	2 (tie)	35
4	4	34
5	5 (tie)	32
6	5 (tie)	32
7	5 (tie)	32
8	8	30

*Tie for last slot:* If a tie for the eighth slot exists, then grade all those tied for the eighth slot, as in the example below. Then, add the scores from the essay portion of the contest to the objective scores.

Slot	Obj. only place	Objective score	Essay score	Total score	Final place
1 (Joe)	1st	36	5	41	2 (tie)
2 (Bo)	2nd (tie)	35	7	42	1
3 (Moe)	2nd (tie)	35	3	38	5
4 (Sue)	4th	34	7	41	2 (tie)
5 (Flo)	5th (tie)	32	8	40	4
6 (Bill)	5th (tie)	32	5	37	6
7 (Mary)	5th (tie)	32	4	36	did not place
8 (Lina)	8th (tie)	26	7	33	did not place
(Jim)	8th (tie)	26	6	32	did not place

*Tie for second place:* To break tie for second place, judge Joe's essay against Sue's essay. Award points accordingly. Break all ties for first through sixth place.

- 5. In a 3-person judging panel, must every judge grade each essay? Yes. If more than one person judges essays, make certain that judges reach agreement on which essay is the best. Do not rely solely on point totals. One judge may be more stringent than another. It is possible that a weaker essay, graded by a more lenient judge, can be awarded more points than a stronger essay, graded by a more strict judge.
- 6. Judges should not be excused until verification is completed and results announced as official.



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Judges may award all or no points. This is a working document for as many as three judges. Final points are a compromise among judges, NOT A RUNNING POINT TOTAL or pure point averaging. Return this form to the student with the objective portion of the contest.

## Points AWARDED:

**An 8-10 ESSAY** opens with a declarative statement that extends the prompt without re-stating it. The thesis is supported by substantial, relevant information that analyzes the prompt from a range of perspectives — for example, political, social, cultural and economic. It does not provide a mere shopping list of facts. It inteprets the facts without editorializing. The essay is well written and organized with few spelling, grammar or punctuation errors. The essay is clear, precise and succinct.

**A 5-7 ESSAY** offers a clear thesis with limited development. It either deals with one aspect in depth or with all aspects more superficially while providing limited analysis. Generally good writing and organization skills displayed. May contain errors of fact that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

A 2-4 ESSAY lacks a thesis or presents a confused or undeveloped thesis. It deals with the prompt in a superficial way and offers no analysis. Instead, it tends to editorialize. May contain major fact errors, display poor writing skills and rely on bloated, pretentious language.

**A 0-1 ESSAY** displays little or no understanding of the prompt. The response is poorly written and organized and may contain significant fact, grammar, punctuation and/or spelling errors that detract from the clarity of the response.

Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Consensus
Comments:			

## **OVERALL ESSAY SCORE**

(maximum of 10 points)

### **OBJECTIVE SCORE**

(score from the objective portion of the test)

### **OVERALL SCORE**

(add essay score to objective score)