

Rules and regulations

1. We shall release one set of questions per month. The set of questions have to be completed within the **stipulated duration** beginning from the time you start attempting them. The form shall automatically cease accepting submissions thereafter. Ensure that you submit your answers within the stipulated duration. **Any particular set may be attempted AT MOST ONCE.**
2. A given set can be attempted on any date after its release and shall remain open for submissions till the last date of BioBlitz, i.e. you can attempt an individual set for the stipulated duration on any date after it's released and before the last date for all submissions. The last date for the submission of all problem sets shall be notified later (Don't worry, we'll notify you at least a fortnight in advance so that you've ample time to attempt ALL the problem sets in case you haven't attempted any!)

For example, suppose the first set is released on 15th August, the second on 15th September. The last date for submission of all the sets is 28th October. You can attempt the sets on ANY date prior to 28th October. Irrespective of the date on which you're attempting the question sets, you **MUST** complete answering the questions within, say, 2 hours from the instant you've first accessed it. Hence in this case, your submissions **MUST** reach us within 2 hours of the time at which you first accessed the problem set or 23:59:59 IST on 28th October, whichever is earlier.

However, it's advisable that you attempt the sets in the same month in which they're released so as to avoid unnecessary last minute haste.

3. The sets are to be attempted **individually** (i.e. you are not allowed to discuss the questions in any kind of public or private forum) and any plagiarised content shall be highly penalised.
4. We shall maintain a leaderboard of all the participants. The top few participants on the leaderboard shall be eligible to participate in the final Pravega event to be organised at IISc. The dates for the final event shall be informed once decided. (Kindly note that there shall be a dedicated prelims to select participants for the final event. The top few contestants of the pre-Pravega BioBlitz shall be eligible for a lateral entry to the finals **WITHOUT** having to pass through the prelims,

subject to the fulfillment of other eligibility conditions, as laid down for participants taking the prelims) Also note that such lateral entry shall take into consideration, besides the points scored by the contestants, the number of problem sets attempted by them. The top 3 contestants shall also be eligible for a certificate.

5. In addition to these monthly problem sets, we shall release **HOTS questions** on a **biweekly basis**. These questions shall be worth 50% of the total number of points for BioBlitz. They'll typically be descriptive, and answers shall have to be handwritten/typed and uploaded in .docx or .pdf format via the stipulated form. Answers to HOTS questions must be submitted within **3 days** from the date on which you've first accessed them (Again, as with the weekly quizzes, these can be attempted any time after the date of release provided that the submission is made within the stipulated last date. However, whenever you attempt, you **MUST** submit the answers within 3 days from the date you've first accessed them, else your submission shall not be considered.)
6. For descriptive answers, ensure that references used by you, if any, are clearly mentioned at the end of the answer.
7. In case you're unable to complete the monthly problem set within the stipulated duration due to connectivity issues, immediately inform us through mail. The subject of the mail should be "**Inability to complete the monthly problem set within the stipulated duration**". Also indicate the reference number of the problem set which you couldn't complete in your mail. Relevant evidence (Screenshot of the connection being lost while attempting the question) must be attached (Ensure that the time at which the connection went bad is clearly visible in the screenshot). The email should be sent to the official email ID (bioblitz.pravega@gmail.com) for the event. ENSURE that you've CCed the mail to BOTH the following email addresses as well:
sukriyoc@iisc.ac.in, adityabasu@iisc.ac.in
8. The expected answers for only the monthly problem sets (NOT biweekly) shall be released within 1 week of the last date for submission of answers to ALL the problem sets. You can contest any of them if you so desire, providing evidence in support of your claim. Such communication should also be directed to bioblitz.pravega@gmail.com and CCed to the email addresses mentioned in point 7 above.

9. In case you need any other clarifications pertaining to the rules and regulations, mail your queries to bioblitz.pravega@gmail.com. Any other official communication should also be directed to this email address. In ALL communication pertaining to a particular problem set, ensure that you've mentioned clearly the reference number of the relevant problem set.
10. Instructions for individual problem sets or questions shall be provided therewith. Violation of any of the conditions mentioned in this document or in any other problem set or any further communication shall attract strict penalty.
11. In all issues relating to qualification, disqualification, the final results of the event or any other issue relating to BioBlitz, the decision of the coordinators of BioBlitz shall be final and binding.

Wishing you all a happy time ruminating about the science of life,

Team BioBlitz