

A stylized, multi-colored flame graphic composed of several overlapping, teardrop-shaped layers. The colors transition from a light yellow at the base to a light blue at the top, with a green layer on the right side and a purple layer on the left side. The layers are semi-transparent, creating a layered effect.

IJSO GUIDE CHALLENGE RULE BOOK

1. Introduction

1.1. Organizers

The IJSO Guide Challenge (which will from now on be referred to as *the competition*) is organized by the IJSO Guide team and is not in any way affiliated with the International Junior Science Olympiad Committee. The papers will be created and graded by students, former IJSO participants.

1.2. Purpose

The competition was created with the intention of promoting science learning through a competition, popularizing the IJSO, while also creating an IJSO-style competition, both for people who are not participating in the IJSO and for those who are participating and want to test themselves.

1.3. Participation

The contest is open and free of charge for all students throughout the world who meet IJSO age standards (born in 2010 or after).

2. The contest

2.1. Date of the competition

The competition will take place between 00:00 GMT Saturday 1st November 2025 and will end at 00:00 GMT Monday 3rd November 2025, lasting for a total of 48 hours throughout the weekend.

2.2. Exam format

The exam will consist of 3 different papers, all of which have to be solved in the time period mentioned in section 2.1. The papers are:

- A multiple choice (MCQ) exam, consisting of 30 questions with only one answer correct out of the 4 given. This paper is worth 30 points, given according to the IJSO format (+1 for correct answer, -0.25 for wrong answer, 0 for no answer)
- A theory exam, consisting of long-answer problems, for which full solutions will be graded, not just final answers. The theory exam will be worth 40 points.
- An experimental exam, consisting of long-answer problems, similar to theory, but focused on data analysis. The experimental exam will be worth 30 points.

All three subjects (physics, chemistry and biology) will weigh approximately the same amounts, not creating an unfair advantage to those better at one of the subjects.

For the transparency of evaluation, detailed official solutions and marking schemes will be released after the examination.

2.3. Sending answers

For the MCQ exam, answers will be sent in a Google Forms, while solutions to the theory and experimental exams will be sent in PDF format, via email. To aid with writing solutions, we'll provide both printable answer sheets and editable Microsoft Word answer sheets and solutions can also be written on blank paper sheets and then scanned into a PDF file.

The answers to the theory exam will be sent only as PDFs, named using the format **name_country_theory.pdf**, while the experimental ones will be sent as PDFs, using the naming format **name_country_exp.pdf**.

An example is:

Jicu Alexandru_Romania_theory.pdf

Answers should be submitted in English as they will be graded by an international team. The papers will not require long complex written explanations for the answers, to avoid any problem with translations.

More details about answer submission will be found on the papers.

2.4. Syllabus

The syllabus is the same as in the IJSO, while the exams are also made to mimic the difficulty of the IJSO.

2.5. Forbidden actions

Collaborating with other participants, teachers or using AI models is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.

3. Results and awards

3.1. Grading

The grading of the MCQ exam will be done automatically, while the theory and experimental exams will be graded by a team of past IJSO participants. All results are double-checked to make them as accurate as possible and they are final and non-appealable.

In case of a tie, the tie breaker will be the theory exam, followed by the experimental exam. If there still is a tie, both (or all) participants will receive the same award.

3.2. Awards

After the releasing of the results, the top scorers will receive the following titles:

- Gold Medals to the top 10% of participants
- Silver Medals to the next 20% of participants
- Bronze Medals to the next 30% of participants

Other awards may be given following a decision of the IJSO Guide Challenge organizing team.

4. Other mentions

4.1. Answering questions

For any questions regarding the competition, you can use the “Contact Us” form on the ijsoguide.com website, or text us on our official Instagram account [@ijsoguide](https://www.instagram.com/ijsoguide).

During the competition, a google forms will be available to anyone who is asking for a clarification regarding a question from the papers. If our team finds the clarification request reasonable, we will answer it in a google docs which can be read by anyone, to ensure transparency.

4.2. Changes

We reserve the right to make small changes to the set of rules for the competition, and all eventual changes will be published.

4.3. Preparation

The ijsoguide.com website, along with past IJSO papers, are the most useful preparation resources for the competition, because they are in the same style and level of difficulty.