Microbe Mission (B and C) 2018 Texas State Coaches Clinic

Gregory Palmer, Ph.D Texas State and National Event Supervisor gpalme@austin.utexas.edu



Exploring the World of Science

Cellular Biology Events Cycle

2017-18: Microbe Mission B/C 2019-20: Designer Genes C and Heredity B

2021-22: Cell Biology C and Bio Process Lab B 2023-24: Microbe Mission B/C

Rules Details

- Must bring goggles (eye protection C)
- Single page of notes not in sheet protector with no annotations affixed
- 2 non-programmable, non-graphing calculators
- Event should contain lab activities (collecting data, making measurements, using microscopes etc.)
- Event may be run as stations

New Topics for 2018

- Names for and recognition of bacterial shapes is now a B/C topic
- Measuring bacterial growth

- Isolation of bacteria by streaking and serial dilution (C only)
- Some cosmetic changes to the rules

Disease List Additions for 2018

- Viruses: norovirus and zika virus
- Bacteria: no changes
- Fungi: White nose syndrome

- Protozoans: Naegleria
- Prions: chronic wasting disease

Note there are no restrictions on which non-pathogenic microbes may be topics of questions

Resources to prepare for exam topics

Science Olympiad National Organization: https://www.soinc.org/microbe-mission-c

• The national life sciences committee prepares excellent resources for all biology events

Student Wiki*: https://scioly.org/wiki/index.php/Microbe_Mission

- Not a perfect resource, but a good place to start
- Student forum for asking/answering questions

Links for exams:

National test exchange: https://scioly.org/wiki/index.php/2018_Test_Exchange#Microbe_Mission UT-Austin tournaments exams: www.atxscioly.com

- Use old exams for formative assessments of your students
- Having them write their own exams is a great way to learn the material

Textbook options: Campbell Biology (Pearson), Microbe (ASM), Microbiology: an Introduction (Pearson)

Additional helpful resource links:

Bacterial cell shapes graphic: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacterial_cellular_morphologies#/media/File:Bacterial_morphology_diagram.svg
Measuring bacterial growth: https://www.wikihow.com/Measure-Bacterial-Growth
Streaking for isolation video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDMNGnxCZ1Q
Serial dilutions and plate counts video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loyeVy1D-3o
Austin Community College Microbiology course notes: http://www.austincc.edu/rohde/noteref.htm