

Background Information for the US National Chemistry Olympiad

Hosted by the MSU Section of the American Chemical Society

Time and place for the local competition

The exam will be given in room 138 in the Chemistry Building on the MSU Campus at 10:00 AM on March 6. The exam will last no more than 2 hours, but afterwards we will provide a box lunch, a brief show, and an awards ceremony. Maps to MSU are available at <http://www.msu.edu/dig/msumap/>. March 6 is during the MSU spring break, so problems associated with traffic and parking should be minimal. Convenient parking is available in the Shaw Lane parking ramp, just across from the entrance to the Chemistry Building. Room 138 is in the center of the building.

,Format for the exam.

The local qualifying competition parallels that used for the National competition. The National exam consists of three sections, a multiple choice exam, followed by a problem solving/short answer section, and a laboratory practical exam. In the local qualifying exam, the second section is shortened and the laboratory practical exam is omitted. Links to examples of the National exam are available at the American Chemical Society website at:

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=528&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1

These exams could be very helpful in both teaching and preparing for the local exam. The rules for the March 6 exam will follow those used for the National exam.

- To ensure sufficient space and materials for the exam, **students must be registered for the exam** by the morning of March 3. However, I hope to hear from you well before then. For simplicity, I encourage teachers to e-mail a list of their participating students to me at bruening@chemistry.msu.edu. I will reply to your message to confirm your registration.
- Each student should bring a picture ID (drivers license, school ID, ...) to the exam.
- Programmable calculators are **not** permitted in the exam. Less sophisticated calculators are welcome.

What's next?

After the exams are graded, the ten nominees from the MSU area will be selected. While all high schools students are welcome to participate in the local exam, there are USNCO restrictions on how the ten nominees for the national competition are selected. The nominees must be US citizens, have a date of birth after July 31 1988, be currently enrolled in high school, and have taken no more than two semesters of college level chemistry courses. Finally, no more than two students per high school may be nominated.

If you have any question about the exam, contact me at bruening@chemistry.msu.edu or by phone at 517-355-9715 ext. 237. My web site is

<http://www.chemistry.msu.edu/faculty/bruening>.

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