



Maps, Graphs, & Charts

2026-2027
Qual • Dist • State

GRADES: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 | ENTRIES: 3 PER SECTION | TIME: 30 MIN

OFFICIAL RESOURCE: NYSTROM DESK ATLAS, 2018 EDITION OR LATER

SECTIONS. Each grade competes separately.

ENTRIES. As many as THREE students from each grade levels may be entered in the Maps, Graphs, & Charts District Contest from each school.

ADVANCING TO STATE. First and second place winners from each grade will advance to State. Third place winners will be alternates.

NATURE OF THE CONTEST. For Grades 4 and 5, the Maps, Graphs, & Charts Contest tests the contestant's ability to locate and interpret information in an atlas or data provided in the test itself in the form of maps, graphs, charts, tables, etc. Students are expected to be able to use the map's legend to garner information of importance, including finding distances on the map, locating specific places, structures, and boundaries, and identifying locations of significance. Students may color tab their atlases. Absolutely no writing shall be allowed on the tabs or on the inside or outside of the atlas, except for the student's name, school and city.

Students should be able to discern data from a variety of other sources, including bar graphs, line graphs, pie charts, tables, etc. as provided both in the atlas and on the test. The atlas, a ruler, and a magnifying glass may be brought into the contest. No disqualifying items should be brought into the contest room. Calculators are NOT permitted for use in the contest. For Grades 6, 7, and 8, contestants will be tested on the same 40 multiple choice test items that are included on the Grades 4 and 5 test, plus 20 questions covering general geography and social studies questions, including Texas History and American History (through Reconstruction). In general, answers for questions 41-60 will not be found in the atlas. Resources to study for these questions include the National Geographic Bee and textbooks covering World Geography, Texas History, and American History.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST. The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for verification of the scoring of tests. (Substitutes taking the place of absent registered

contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the room to save time at roll call.) Director and one of the TWO Assistant Directors check atlases for infractions. The other Assistant serves as Hall Monitor. Answer sheets will be distributed to contestants first, followed by contestant ID-labeled tests and separate, unstapled color graphics page (inside test booklet or paper-clipped under test booklet), distributed by student name. Contestants will be instructed to write their grade levels and their contestant ID numbers in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. Contestants must not open the test until the start signal is given. No alarm watches or other devices that emit sound are allowed in the contest room. Disqualification will result if such device makes a sound while placed in any portion of the room.

TIME ALLOTTED. Contestants will have 30 minutes to answer test questions. Atlases may be used the entire time. Contestants must remain quietly in their seats until the time has expired.

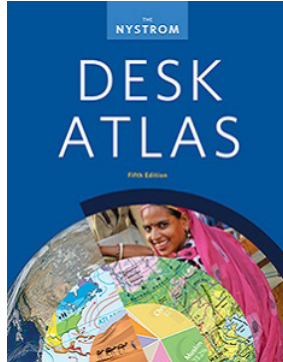
MARKING ANSWERS. Contestants may write on the test paper, but only the PRINTED CAPITAL letter answer should be written in the answer space on the answer sheet. Any marking in the answer space will constitute an attempt.

SCORING. Award 5 points for each correct answer. Deduct 2 points for each incorrect answer, or for each answer that was attempted, marked through or erased, and did not result in a correct answer. **No points** are added or deducted for skipped or unanswered test items. Mark-outs are acceptable, as long as a correct answer is written beside the mark-out. If an answer is marked out and no correct answer is written in the answer space, deduct 2 points. Erasures are permitted. **Any erased correct answer that can still be seen is counted correct.** An erased answer that is not correct and does not have a correct answer written over or beside it constitutes an incorrect answer - a 2-point deduction.

VERIFICATION PERIOD. Follow instructions provided on page 16 of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*.

PREPARATION FOR CONTEST. Students' practice researching information in the adopted geographic resource, the *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2018 or newer edition - blue cover)* is beneficial. Previous years' tests (on PSIA website www.psiaacademics.org) are also helpful in providing practice. Because previous years' editions of the atlas were used to compose previous years' tests, adaptations should be made to these answer keys to coincide with the current adopted atlas resource.

ADOPTED ATLAS. The official resource for verifying answers: *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2018 or newer edition)*. A 2018 edition is currently available. This atlas may be purchased through Social Studies School Service. <https://www.socialstudies.com>.



Shall and Must List

Contestants **shall** use PRINTED (no cursive) CAPITAL (not lowercase) LETTERS for this contest.

Result: Count the question incorrect if the wrong type of response is given.

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Contestants **shall** write their Contestant ID on the Answer Sheets and not their name or their school name.

Result: Contest director should remedy the answer sheet by erasing or covering up the identifying information.

♦ ♦ ♦

Contestants **shall** write only their contestant ID and their answers on the answer sheet.

Result: Extraneous marks in answer blanks result in incorrect response for that answer. Extraneous marks outside the answer blanks should receive a warning to the contestant, but not a disqualification.

♦ ♦ ♦

Contestants **must** not write on the tabs of the atlas.

Result: If the contest director is able to identify this infraction before testing begins, the contestant may remove the tabs or use a different atlas. If the contestant tests with tabs that have been written on, disqualification results.