

Welcome to the Mitosisphere competition series!

This document outlines the rules, guidelines, and expectations for all participants. Please review these carefully to ensure a smooth and fair competition.

1. General Rules

1.1 Eligibility:

- Participants must register by January 22nd, 2025 to compete. Late registrations will NOT be accepted. Participants from any region are welcome to compete, although international competitors should be aware of time zone differences.

1.2 Code of Conduct:

- Participants are expected to uphold principles of fairness, respect, and professionalism. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in disqualification.
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2. Competition Structure

2.1 Rounds:

- The competition consists of the following stages: the $p + q = 1$ (“Opens”) and the $(p + q)^2 = 1$ (“Semifinals”).
- The $p + q = 1$ will consist of **50** multi choice questions. There will be **45** single-select questions and **5** multi-select questions.
- The $(p + q)^2 = 1$ will consist of **120** multiple-choice questions divided across two sections (A and B) and an additional **10** free-response questions constituting the section C.
 - Section A will consist of **60** single-select questions each worth **1** point.
 - Section B will consist of **60** questions, each worth **2** points, divided across:
 - **30** single-select questions
 - **20** multi-select questions
 - **10** multiple true/false questions.
 - Section C: **10** short free-response questions, with point values designated in the question.

2.2 Schedule:

- The $p + q = 1$ will take place on January 25th, 2025 from 12:00 AM to 11:59 PM EST. Participants will be able to take the exam any time during this time frame through our proctoring software, **Quilgo**. The date for the $(p + q)^2 = 1$ has not yet been decided.

2.3 Categories:

- The competition is divided into the following categories:
 - Anatomy & Physiology: **25%**
 - Molecular Biology: **20%**
 - Genetics: **20%**
 - Plants: **15%**
 - Ecology: **10%**
 - Biosystematics: **5%**
 - Ethology: **5%**
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3. Rules for Participants

3.1 Equipment and Materials:

- The exam will be administered on a proctoring software called **Quilgo**. Participants will need at least one camera (although two cameras are highly recommended) and a working microphone. Cameras must be placed so that the entire workspace **AND** the participant's screen are visible. Scratch paper and a non-programmable calculator are allowed. Textbooks, notes, and unauthorized Internet access are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

3.2 Time Limits:

- Strict time limits will be enforced for each stage of the competition. Competitors will be given a 30 second warning before the time is up. Late submissions **will not be accepted**.

3.3 Prohibited Actions:

- Cheating, plagiarism, distracting behavior, and any aforementioned prohibited action are strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification.
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4. Awards and Recognition

4.1 Prizes:

- $p + q = 1$
 - 1st place: \$20 Amazon gift card
 - 2nd place: \$10 Amazon gift card
 - 3rd place: \$5 Amazon gift card
 - Top 15%: Semifinalist (Advancement to the next round)
 - Top 30%: Highly commended
 - Top 50%: Honorable mention
 - All competitors: Certificate of participation
- $(p + q)^2 = 1$
 - 1st place: TBD
 - 2nd place: TBD
 - 3rd place: TBD
 - Top 5: Gold
 - Top 10: Silver
 - Top 15: Bronze

4.2 Announcements:

- Winners will be announced during the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the competition. All scores will be promptly returned after the competition.
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5. Disputes and Appeals

5.1 Dispute Resolution:

- Any disputes must be submitted in writing to the organizers within 24 hours of the incident.

5.2 Appeals:

- Appeals will be reviewed by the competition committee. The committee's decision is final.
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6. Additional Information

6.1 Contact Information:

- For questions or concerns, contact us at mitosisphere@gmail.com or through the contact form on <https://mitosisphere.netlify.app/contact/>.

6.2 Amendments:

- The organizers reserve the right to amend the rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes.
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Thank you for participating in the Mitosisphere competition series! We wish you the best of luck!