

**2013 National Economics Challenge  
Wild Card Competition  
Frequently Asked Questions**

The Wild Card competition is reserved exclusively for teams in states where a state Economics Challenge competition is not held. One team from the David Ricardo and Adam Smith divisions in the Wild Card competition will advance to the National Semi-Final level for a chance to compete for a spot in the National Finals!

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

1. Q: What is the National Economics Challenge?  
A: Every year the Council for Economic Education hosts the National Economics Challenge in which high school students apply their economics knowledge and work in teams. Competitions are held at the State, National Semi-Final, and National Final levels. In each competition, teams of students answer rigorous questions on microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, and current events.
2. Q: What is the Wild Card competition?  
A: Previously, if a state did not hold an Economics Challenge at the state level, teams in that state could not participate in the National Economics Challenge. The Wild Card competition is an online test that gives these teams, a chance to participate in the National Economics Challenge. This competition is reserved exclusively for teams in states where a state competition is not held. One team from each division (Adam Smith and David Ricardo) in the Wild Card competition will advance to the National Semi-Final level for a chance to compete for a spot in the National Finals!
3. Q: Does it cost money to participate in the Wild Card competition?  
A: No. There is no financial cost to participate in the Wild Card competition; this competition is sponsored by the Council for Economic Education.
4. Q: What are the dates for the Wild Card competition?  
A: Testing for the Wild Card competition is available from March 1, 2013 until March 31, 2013. Coaches will choose a testing date for their team within this time frame.
5. Q: When is the deadline to register teams for the Wild Card competition?  
A: Coaches may register teams through and test from March 1 through March 31, 2013.
6. Q: My state is hosting an Economics Challenge competition. Can I compete in the Wild Card competition?  
A: No. The Wild Card competition is reserved exclusively for teams in states where a state Economics Challenge competition is not held.
7. Q: My team is unavailable on the date on which my state's Economics Challenge competition is being held. Can we compete in the Wild Card competition?  
A: No. The Wild Card competition is reserved exclusively for teams in states where a state Economics Challenge competition is not held.
8. Q: How do I register my team for the Wild Card competition?  
A: Coaches must register their teams by selecting their state at: [econchallenge.org](http://econchallenge.org). The *Teacher Registration* link will be in the column on the right. Please review the rules to place your student teams in the correct division.

9. Q: Is there a limit to the number of teams coaches can register to participate in the Wild Card competition?  
A: No. Coaches may register as many teams as they wish to participate in the Wild Card competition. Students, however, may participate on only one team.
10. Q: How many teams will compete in the Wild Card competition?  
A: It is difficult to predict how many teams will compete in the Wild Card competition, but at this time, teams from 15 states are eligible.
11. Q: Do coaches need to submit a Team Coach Registration Form?  
A: Before the top scoring team can be invited to compete in the National Semi-Final round, coaches must submit a Team Coach Registration Form within 48 hours of being notified. The Team Coach Registration Form can be found on the *Rules* tab at [econchallenge.org](http://econchallenge.org).
12. Q: Do coaches need to submit a Student Registration Form for each student taking the Wild Card competition exam?  
A: It is a good idea to have the filled out forms on hand. Before the top scoring team can be invited to compete in the National Semi-Final round, coaches must submit Student Registration Forms within 48 hours of being notified. Student Registration Forms can be found on the *Rules* tab at [econchallenge.org](http://econchallenge.org). Parent signatures are required for students under the age of 18. You may return these forms by emailing them to [economicschallenge@councilforeconed.org](mailto:economicschallenge@councilforeconed.org) or by faxing to 212.730.1793, Attn: Rosanna Castillo.

Note: The Council for Economic Education reserves the right to disqualify any student and his/her team if no Student Registration Form is submitted in the allotted time. After reviewing Student Registration Forms, the Council for Economic Education reserves the right to disqualify any student and his/her team if deemed ineligible to compete.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION

13. Q: In which division should my team compete?  
A: There are two divisions: David Ricardo and Adam Smith.

The David Ricardo division includes teams of students enrolled in one semester (or less) general economics courses or courses which include introductory economic concepts (social studies, business, personal finance, etc.). The course must be taught by a secondary school teacher. Students who have never taken an economics course are eligible to compete.

The Adam Smith division includes teams of students, currently or previously, enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP Micro, AP Macro, or AP Micro and Macro), International Baccalaureate (pre-IB and IB), honors, two-semester, or any other advanced courses in economics (including courses taught by a secondary teacher where students earn college credit). The course must be taught by a secondary teacher. Any student who has previously participated in the Economics Challenge must compete in the Adam Smith division. Note, if one or more members of a team qualify for Adam Smith, the entire team must compete in the Adam Smith division.

14. Q: Do students need to be enrolled in, or have taken, an economics course to be eligible to participate?  
A: No. Current or previous enrollment in an economics course is not a requirement.

15. Q: All of the members on my team except for one qualify for the David Ricardo division. Can my team participate in the David Ricardo division?  
A: No. If a team consists of one or more students that qualify for the Adam Smith division, then the entire team must participate in the Adam Smith division.
16. Q: How many students are allowed on one team?  
A: Teams must consist of 3 or 4 students.
17. Q: Can students participate in the challenge more than one year?  
A: Yes. Students may participate more than one year, but no student is permitted to compete in the David Ricardo division more than one year. Any returning student who has already participated in the National Economics Challenge (at the state-level or higher) must compete in the Adam Smith division in subsequent years, regardless of previous or current coursework.
18. Q: Can home-schooled students participate in the David Ricardo division?  
A: Yes. Home-schooled students must compete in the Adam Smith division.
19. Q: Can students be members of more than one registered team?  
A: No. Each student is permitted to participate as a member of only one team.
20. Q: Are students enrolled in an economics course taught by a college professor eligible to participate in the Wild Card competition?  
A: No. Students enrolled, previously or currently, in an economics course taught by a college professor are not eligible to compete in the Wild Card competition.
21. Q: Can middle school students compete in this competition?  
A: No. Students must be enrolled in a public high school, private high school, or home-based high school during the 2012-2013 academic school year.
22. Q: Do all the members of my team have to be from the same high school?  
A: No. All members of a team must be from the same public school, private school, community organization or club, or afterschool program. This means that students from different schools are eligible to be on the same team, if they are all part of one of the aforementioned groups. Home-based high school students may join teams of any of the groups mentioned in this section or may start a team with other home-based high school students in their county. Home-based high school students must compete in the Adam Smith division.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EXAM

23. Q: How does the exam work?  
A: Each student will be allowed a maximum of 30 minutes to answer the questions, but all team members must complete the exam within 3 hours. Students may take the test on one computer, provided each student tests one after the other; or they may use multiple computers (one per student), whichever your resources allow. However, each student must test on an individual basis.
24. Q: How much time does each student have to complete the online test?  
A: Each student will be given 30 minutes to complete the exam.

25. Q: Can teams take the Wild Card competition tests collectively?

A: No. Although all team members must take the online test in the time frame allotted (3 consecutive hours) teams members are prohibited from working collectively on any part of the exam. Team members must test on an individual basis in order to be eligible to participate in advanced competitions. Team members may test one after the other or on one computer or at the same time on separate computers. Participating coaches and/or teachers are on their honor to ensure that the rules of the competition are followed.

26. Q: What will the exam look like?

A: For both divisions (Adam Smith and David Ricardo) the exam is online and will consist of 30 questions that are five-option, multiple choice in the area of macro, micro, and international and current events. Each student will be given 30 minutes to complete the exam; the entire team must complete the exam within 3 hours.

27. Q: How are exams scored?

A: The sum of the top three individual scores on each team makes up the team score. Scoring on individual tests is as follows: +10 points for each correct response, -5 points for each incorrect response, and 0 points for no response.

28. Q: How can my team prepare for the Wild Card competition?

A: An online practice exam can be taken at [econchallenge.org](http://econchallenge.org) by selecting the Practice link in the right-hand column. Teams might also find previous Semi-Final and Final exams useful. They can be found [here](#).

29. Q: Can students receive their individual scores?

A: No. It is not possible for teams to receive their individual scores. Team scores will be given to coaches.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RULES

30. Q: What are the major rule changes that will go into effect for the 2013 National Economics Challenge that impact the Wild Card competition?

A: High school students may form teams with individuals from their school, community organization or club, or before/afterschool program. All team members, and the coach, must be from the same group. (See section A.2. of the [2013 National Economics Challenge Rules and Eligibility](#))

If you have questions after reading this document, please contact us at [economicschallenge@councilforeconed.org](mailto:economicschallenge@councilforeconed.org)