

# 2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

## Securities & Investments



Securities & Investments provides members with the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge around competencies in securities and investments. This competitive event consists of an objective test. It aims to inspire members to learn about an individual's knowledge of investing.

### Event Overview

**Division:** High School

**Event Type:** Individual

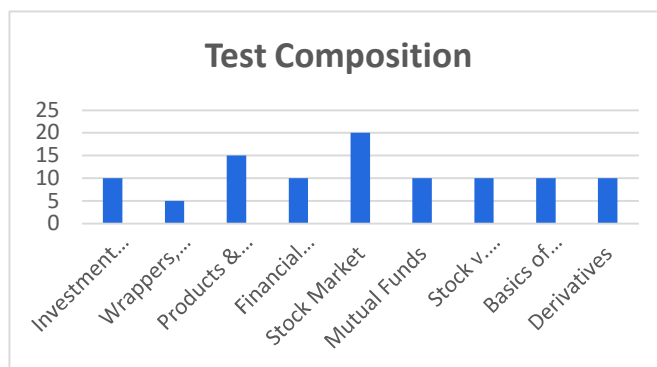
**Event Category:** Objective Test, 100-multiple choice questions (breakdown of question by competencies below)

**Objective Test Time:** 50 minutes

**NACE Connections:** Career & Self-Development

### Objective Test Competencies

- Investment Fundamentals
- Investments Wrappers, Taxation, and Trusts
- Investment Product and Funds
- Stock Market
- Stocks Versus Other Investments
- Mutual Funds
- Basics of Bonds
- Derivatives
- Financial Services Regulation



### Region

Each chapter may enter two students in this event. Testing is school-site and proctored with careful monitoring to ensure the integrity of the test.

### State

Top three (3) qualifiers of each region are eligible to compete at the State Leadership Conference.

### National

#### Required Competition Items

Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharpened pencil</li> <li>• Fully powered <a href="#">device for online testing</a></li> <li>• Conference-provided nametag</li> <li>• <a href="#">Photo identification</a></li> <li>• Attire that meets the <a href="#">FBLA Dress Code</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One piece of scratch paper per competitor</li> <li>• Internet access</li> <li>• Test login information (link &amp; password)</li> </ul>

#### Important FBLA Documents

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- Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events [Policy & Procedures Manual](#), [Honor Code](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Dress Code](#).

### *Eligibility*

- FBLA membership dues are paid by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year or prior to regional competition, whichever comes first.
- Members may compete in an event at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) more than once if they have not previously placed in the top 10 of that event at the NLC. If a member places in the top 10 of an event at the NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event.
- Members must be registered for the RLC/SLC/NLC and pay the conference registration fee to participate in competitive events.
- Members must stay in an official FBLA hotel block to compete.
- Each chapter may submit two entries; each region may submit three entries; each state may submit four entries.
- Each competitor can only compete in one individual/team event and one chapter event (American Enterprise Project, Community Service Project, Local Chapter Annual Business Report, Partnership with Business Project) at the national level. RLC/SLC competitors may compete in one objective test/one performance event/ and one chapter event.
- Picture identification (physical or digital: driver's license, passport, state-issued identification, or school-issued identification) matching the conference nametag is required when checking in for competitive events.
- If competitors are late for their assigned objective test time, they will be allowed to compete with a five-point penalty until such time that results are finalized, or the accommodation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event.
- Some competitive events start before the Opening Session of SLC/NLC. The schedules for competitive events are displayed in the local time of the NLC location. Competitive event schedules cannot be changed.

### *Recognition*

- The number of competitors will determine the number of winners. The maximum number of winners for each competitive event is 10/NLC; 5/SLC; 3/RLC.

### *Event Administration*

- This event is an objective test administered online at the RLC/SLC/NLC.
- No reference or study materials may be brought to the testing site.
- No calculators may be brought into the testing site; online calculators will be provided through the testing software.

### *Tie Breaker*

- Ties are broken by comparing the correct number of answers to 10 pre-determined questions on the test. If a tie remains, answers to 20 pre-determined questions on the test will be

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reviewed to determine the winner. If a tie remains, the competitor who completed the test in a shorter amount of time will place higher.

### *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*

- FBLA meets the criteria specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act for all competitors with accommodations submitted through the conference registration system by the registration deadline.

### *Penalty Points*

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to the testing site.

### *Electronic Devices*

- Unless a pre-approved accommodation is in place, all cell phones, smart watches, and headphones must be turned off and put away before competition begins. Any visibility of these devices will be considered a violation of the Honor Code.

## **Study Guide: Competencies and Tasks**

### A. Investment Fundamentals

1. Define terminology common to securities & investments.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of savings.
3. Identify stages of investing and the relationship between risk and return.
4. Identify sources of financial information to make investment decisions.

### B. Investment Wrappers, Taxation, and Trusts

1. Describe individual savings accounts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of Pensions.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of taxation.
4. Describe and Identify Investment bonds.

### C. Investment Product & Funds

1. Identify and explain the different types of loans.
2. Explain the purposes of mortgages.
3. Demonstrate the knowledge and purpose of life assurance.
4. Describe and explain unit trusts.
5. Describe opened ended investment companies.
6. Identify the characteristics of pricing, dealing, and settlement.
7. Identify and explain what Investment trusts are.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of how hedge funds work.

### D. Stock Market

1. Explain how stock market benefits investors and companies.
2. Analyze stock tables for investment related information.
3. Describe options for handling accumulated money/earnings.
4. Understand the types of investments.
5. Compare and differentiate between Primary vs secondary markets.
6. Distinguish between Bull, bear, and pig markets.

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### E. Stock versus Other Investments

1. Demonstrate knowledge of compounding.
2. Explain the purpose of company.
3. Describe ethical behavior in support center.
4. Understand the process of gathering relevant information.
5. Evaluate financial statements.
6. Define terminology common to stock markets and other investments.

### F. Mutual Funds

1. Understanding and explaining total return.
2. Describe mutual funds and its involvement with taxes.
3. Identify the process of purchasing mutual funds.
4. Explain benefits with investment in mutual funds.
5. Understand fund costs.

### G. Basics of Bonds

1. Demonstrate the knowledge of bond duration.
2. Describe the process of buying bonds.
3. Describe the process of issuing bonds.
4. Identify the roles of collateral.
5. Compare secured and unsecured bonds.
6. Introduction to government bonds.
7. Identify U.S. government agency bonds and savings bonds.

### H. Derivatives

1. Demonstrate the knowledge of Futures.
2. Demonstrate the knowledge of Options.
3. Demonstrate the knowledge of SWAPS.
4. Describe the different uses of Derivatives.

### I. Financial Services Regulation

1. Explain Financial Services & Markets Act.
2. Identify Financial Crime.
3. Explain insider dealing and market abuse.
4. Describe the Data Protection Act 1998.
5. Identify types of Breaches, complaints, and compensation.