

HISTORY OF SCIENCE **(C Division)**

DESCRIPTION: Students will use their knowledge of the history of science, including scientists, their discoveries, and world events affecting the course of scientific thought.

EVENT PARAMETERS: Participants must provide their own pencils or pens. They will not be allowed to bring anything else to the contest.

A TEAM OF UP TO: 2

APPROXIMATE TIME: 50 minutes

THE COMPETITION: Participants will be given a test consisting of three parts in different formats: (1) a multiple-choice section, (2) a short-answer section, and (3) a question on dates that will be used as a tie-breaker.

Participants will be asked questions regarding scientists, scientific discoveries, and world events that influenced these discoveries. The multiple-choice and short-answer sections will each constitute one-half of the team's score. Short answers must be spelled correctly; a minor misspelling will result in the loss of one-third of the credit for that question. In the discretion of the judges, if a misspelling is severe enough, it will result in no credit for that question.

TIEBREAKER: Participants will be given five scientific events or discoveries, and asked to supply the dates they occurred. The sum of the absolute values of the differences between their answers and the actual dates will be their team's tiebreaker score; lowest score wins. In the case of a continued tie, lowest difference for any one date wins, then second-lowest difference, etc.

REFERENCES: Isaac Asimov's *Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*; *Concise Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, Scribner and Sons; *The Cambridge Dictionary of Scientists*, Cambridge U Press; *Dictionary of the History of Science*, Princeton U; Press; James Burke, *The Day the Universe Changed*.