Description of Brain Bee Tests: Canadian Brain Bee 2021

Tests administered through Avenue to Learn

Avenue to Learn is the Learning Management System (LMS) used by McMaster University. The Multiple-choice, Short Answer, and Case Study tests will be administered through Avenue to Learn. Each of these tests will be timed. The tests start promptly at the specified time in the schedule. Avenue keeps a record of when you log in to the test and when you submit the test. If we add further clarification, we will highlight it in red font.

1. Multiple Choice

You will have 45 minutes to answer 50 multiple-choice questions. Each question will have 4-5 options and you will be required to choose the most correct answer. Questions will be presented in a randomized order so that no two students will receive questions in the same order. Questions will be presented one per page. After saving your answer and progressing to the next question, you will not be able to go back and change your answers.

2. Short Answer

You will have 45 minutes to answer 50 short answer questions. Questions may vary in format, including matching, ordering, fill-in-the-blank, or short written response. Questions will be presented in a randomized order so that no two students will receive questions in the same order. Questions will be presented one per page. After saving your answer and progressing to the next question, you will not be able to go back and change your answers.

3. Case Studies (updated May 12 2021)

You will have 45 minutes to “diagnose” 10 patients based on reading their case descriptions. Any neuropsychiatric or neurological condition discussed in Brain Facts and Neuroscience: Science of the Brain may be included. You will be asked to provide a diagnosis and answer one or two additional questions about treatment and/or etiology and/or brain areas involved in the disease, etc. Cases will be presented in a randomized order so that no two students will receive cases in the same order. Cases will be presented one per page. After saving your answer and progressing to the next case, you will not be able to go back and change your answers.

* Note that the Case Study test is part of the Canadian National Brain Bee competition only (Saturday, June 5th).

Tests administered through Hopin

1. Final Showdown

On Friday, June 4th, each Local Bee will have its own separate Final Showdown. The Final Showdowns for all the Local Brain Bees will take place as concurrent (simultaneous) sessions, and all students in all Local Bees will be asked the same set of questions. For the CIHR Canadian National Brain Bee on Saturday, June 5th, there will be a single Final Showdown in which the top 3 competitors from across Canada compete to become the 2021 Canadian Brain Bee champion!
During the Final Showdown, the top 3 contestants will be asked to turn on their microphones and cameras. A question reader and a judge will also be visible on the screen. Spectators will be able to watch the Final Showdown live, but they will not be allowed to turn on their cameras or microphones.

During the Final Showdown, the question readers will read a series of 20 short answer questions. Each short answer question will be read aloud twice. After the question is read the second time, the question reader will begin a 15-second timer. Competitors will have 15 seconds to write down their answers on a blank sheet of paper. After the 15 seconds have elapsed, an alarm will ring, and all students will be asked to simultaneously reveal their answers (see below). A judge will take a screenshot of the answers and will record the answers in a spreadsheet. Commonly used abbreviations will be accepted (e.g., NMDA) but incorrect spelling will not be accepted.

To prepare for the Final Showdown, each competitor should prepare 20 sheets of blank paper and a very thick/dark marker (or a whiteboard). You will not be permitted to use a tablet as a writing surface for the Final Showdown.

Please note that the screenshots saved on the judge’s computer will not be shared with anyone, and they will be deleted immediately after the competition has concluded. All other audience members and Brain Bee Organizers will be prohibited from taking screenshots or video during the Final Showdown.