



1. **DESCRIPTION:** Teams will complete a written test on simple, Division B, and compound, Division C, machine concepts and construct a lever-based measuring device prior to the tournament to determine the ratio between two masses.

**A TEAM OF UP TO:** 2    **EYE PROTECTION:** B    **IMPOUND:** Yes    **EVENT TIME:** 50 minutes

2. **EVENT PARAMETERS:**

- Each team may bring one three-ring binder of any size containing information in any form and from any source attached using the available rings. Sheet protectors, lamination, tabs and labels are permitted. Participants may remove information or pages for their use during **any part of** the event.
- Each team may also bring tools, supplies, writing utensils, and two stand-alone calculators of any type for use during any part of the event. These items need not be impounded.
- Each team must impound their device, a device diagram, and copies of graphs and/or tables for scoring.
- All participants must properly wear eye protection during Part II – Device Testing. Participants without proper eye protection must be immediately informed and given a chance to obtain eye protection if time allows. Participants without proper eye protection will not be allowed to compete in Part II – Device Testing.
- Event Supervisors will supply three masses labeled A, B, and C. A flexible loop, large enough to pass a standard golf ball through, must be tied to the top of each mass. The loops may be made from fishing line, zip ties, string, etc. **Each mass, including** the fully stretched out flexible loop, must be able to fit inside a 15.0 cm x 15.0 cm x 20.0 cm box. **Each mass** must be between 20.0 and 800.0 g. The ratio of the **heaviest mass** to the **lightest mass** must not exceed the following limit:

	Regionals	States	Nationals
Division B	4:1	5.5:1	7:1
Division C	8:1	10:1	12:1

- Participants must be able to answer questions regarding the design, construction, and operation of the device per the Building Policy found on [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org).
3. **CONSTRUCTION PARAMETERS:**
- The device must fit inside a box no larger than 100.0 cm x 100.0 cm x 50.0 cm (at impound).
  - The length of the beam is the overall longest dimension of the beam including any components that extend beyond the ends of the beam without regard to the location of the mass attachment points (but not including the supervisor provided masses).**  
Division B: The device must be a class 1 lever with a single beam no longer than 80.0 cm.  
Division C: The device must be a class 1 lever connected directly **via a flexible or rigid link** to a class 2 or 3 lever, each with a single beam of length less than or equal to 40.0 cm.
  - The device may be made out of any materials. Electric or electronic components are prohibited.
  - The device must be constructed to accommodate the masses, and must not include springs.
  - Participants must not bring masses or include them in devices except when fixed in place prior to impound to obtain static equilibrium. Lightweight adjustable sliding hooks used solely to accommodate the masses are allowed and need not be fixed in place.
  - Prior to competition, teams must calibrate devices by preparing graphs/tables showing the relationship between masses and device configuration parameters. A labeled device diagram should be included.
    - Any number of graphs and/or data tables may be submitted but the team must indicate up to four to be used for the Chart Score, otherwise the first four provided are scored.
    - Graphs and/or tables may be computer generated or drawn by hand on graph paper. Each data series counts as a separate graph. A template is available at [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org).
    - Teams are encouraged to have a duplicate set to use, as those submitted may not be returned.

4. **THE COMPETITION:**

**Part I: Written Test**

- Teams will be given a minimum of 20 minutes to complete a written test consisting of multiple choice, true-false, completion, or calculation questions/problems.
- Unless otherwise requested, answers must be in metric units with appropriate significant figures.
- The written test will consist of questions about simple and, in Division C only, compound machines, including at least five of the following topics: ideal and actual mechanical advantage, efficiency, load, effort, potential and kinetic energy, and coefficient of friction.**



- d. Questions are limited to the following simple machines (or, in Division C, combinations thereof) and must include at least five of the following topics: Levers (all three classes), inclined planes, wedges, wheel and axle (including gears), pulleys, and (in Division C only) screws.
- e. Questions dealing with the topics listed above may require additional knowledge from the field of classical mechanics, including Newton's laws of motion, inertia, force, impulse, action-reaction, kinematics, position, speed, velocity, acceleration, momentum, kinetic and potential energy, and conservation of energy and momentum.

#### Part II: Device Testing

- a. The objective is to quickly determine the ratios of three unknown masses using a simple lever in Division B or compound lever in Division C.
- b. At the start of the competition block, teams will be given 5 minutes to set up or modify their devices and use their graphs and/or tables to calibrate them. Devices that do not meet the construction specs will not be allowed to be tested until brought into specification.
- c. While all teams are working on Part I, the Event Supervisor will individually call each team to a station. Multiple identical stations may be used, but all teams will use identical masses.
- d. Part II timing (not to exceed 4 minutes) begins when the Event Supervisor provides the masses to the team. The Supervisor must ensure that the mass values are not revealed to any teams. Teams must not touch the masses until time begins.
- e. Using the basic physical principles of a lever and adjusting only the relative positions of the masses and/or fulcrum(s) along the lever beam(s), teams must calculate the ratios of the masses. Teams may work with either two or three masses at a time. Teams may use their resources, calculators, and tools to determine mass ratios. **Teams may submit mass ratios in any equivalent format (i.e., decimal, fraction). However, fractions must not be complex fractions (e.g., having a decimal or fraction in the numerator or denominator).**
- f. Teams must not mark on, attach anything to, or modify the masses.
- g. Part II timing stops when the team provides the Supervisor with the calculated mass ratios A/B and B/C or 4 minutes has elapsed. Event Supervisors must record the elapsed time in seconds to the precision of the timing device. No changes are allowed to the calculated values once timing stops.
- h. The Supervisor will review with the team the Part II data recorded on their scoresheet.
- i. Teams filing an appeal regarding Part II must leave their device in the competition area.

#### 5. SCORING:

- a. High score wins; Final Score (FS) = ES + R1 + R2 + TS + CS. The maximum possible FS score is 100 points. A scoring spreadsheet is available at [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org).
- b. Exam Score (ES) = (Part I score / Highest Part I score for all teams) x 45 points.
- c. Time Score (TS) = ((240 - team's part II time in seconds) / 240) x 15 points.
- d. Ratio Scores (R1 and R2) =  $(1 - (\text{abs}(\text{AR} - \text{MR}) / \text{AR})) \times 15$  points. The smallest possible R1 and R2 is 0. AR is the actual ratio of two of the masses (measured to the best precision of the equipment available to the Event Supervisor) and MR is the measured value of the ratio as submitted by the team. R1 uses mass ratio A/B, R2 uses mass ratio B/C.
- e. Chart Score (CS): One of the submitted graphs/tables, selected by the Event Supervisor, is scored using i., ii., and, iii., described below for a maximum of 6 points. Four (4) additional CS points are available via items iv. and v. Partial credit may be given. A device must be present to receive a CS.
  - i. 2 points for including data spanning the possible mass range
  - ii. 2 points for including at least 10 data points in each data series
  - iii. 2 points for proper labeling (e.g., title, team name, units)
  - iv. 0.5 points for each distinct graph or table turned in (up to 2 points total)
  - v. 2 points for including a labeled device diagram
- f. If a team violates a COMPETITION rule, their TS, R1, and R2 scores will be multiplied by 0.9.
- g. If any CONSTRUCTION violation(s) are corrected during the competition block, or if the team misses impound, their TS, R1, and R2 will be multiplied by 0.7.
- h. Teams with no device, no ratio estimates, or that do not make an honest attempt to utilize a device of the prescribed type to determine the mass ratios receive R1, R2, and TS of 0. Such teams will be allowed to compete in Part I (the written test).
- i. Tie Breakers: 1<sup>st</sup> - Best ES; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Best TS; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Best R1; 4<sup>th</sup> - Best R2.

**Recommended Resources:** The Science Olympiad Store ([store.soinc.org](http://store.soinc.org)) carries the classic Machines Lecture Video and the Chem/Phys Science CD; other resources are on the event page at [soinc.org](http://soinc.org).

**GENERAL RULES**

See General Rules, Eye Protection & other Policies on [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) as they apply to every event.

**GENERAL RULES, CODE OF ETHICS, AND SPIRIT OF THE PROBLEM**

The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship. Everyone is expected to display courtesy and respect - see Science Olympiad Pledges. Teams are expected to make an honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the problem (not interpret the rules so they have an unfair advantage). Failure by a participant, coach, or guest to abide by these codes, accepted safety procedures, or rules below, may result in an assessment of penalty points or, in rare cases, disqualification by the tournament director from the event, the tournament, or future tournaments.

1. Actions and items (e.g., tools, notes, resources, supplies, electronics, etc.) are permitted, unless they are explicitly excluded in the rules, are unsafe, or violate the spirit of the problem.
2. While competing in an event, participants may not leave without the event supervisor's approval and must not receive any external assistance. All electronic devices capable of external communication as well as calculator applications on multipurpose devices (e.g., laptop, phone, tablet) are not permitted unless expressly permitted in the event rule or by an event supervisor. Cell phones, if not permitted, must be turned off. At the discretion of the event supervisor, participants may be required to place their cell phones in a designated location.
3. Participants, coaches and other adults are responsible for ensuring that any applicable school or Science Olympiad policy, law, or regulation is not broken. All Science Olympiad content such as policies, requirements, clarifications/changes and FAQs on [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) must be treated as if it were included in the printed rules.
4. All pre-built devices presented for judging must be constructed, impounded, and operated by one or more of the 15 current team members unless stated otherwise in the rules. If a device has been removed from the event area, appeals related to that device will not be considered.
5. Officials are encouraged to apply the least restrictive penalty for rules infractions - see examples in the Scoring Guidelines. Event supervisors must provide prompt notification of any penalty, disqualification or tier ranking.
6. State and regional tournament directors must notify teams of any site-dependent rule or other rule modification with as much notice as possible, ideally at least 30 days prior to the tournament.

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC RULES MODIFICATIONS**

**The COVID-19 pandemic requires that some general modifications be made to the Event Rules listed in this manual in order to permit Science Olympiad competitions to continue in a way that reflects best public health, disease prevention, and personal safety practices. The modifications listed here will be in effect for all Science Olympiad competitions, regardless of level (e.g., Invitational, Regional, State, National), or type (e.g., In-Person, Satellite SO, mini SO). As the pandemic is evolves, these modifications may be amended or rescinded according to local conditions. If changes are made, the Tournament Director for the affected tournament will make an announcement to all participating teams as soon as possible.**

1. **If not already allowed, each individual participant can have a personal set of reference materials (e.g., binders, single sheets of paper), calculator, or other academic resource as specified in the specific event rule for use during the competition to facilitate social distancing, isolation, and to prevent resource sharing. Personal sets of resource materials must meet all the criteria established in the specific event rule. This does not apply to Recommended Lab Equipment for Division B or Division C Chemistry Events or tool kits for Build Events.**
2. **Given local conditions, participants may not be able to be in the same location as their partner during competition. Tournaments will allow designated partners to compete from separate locations and competing teams will only need one device for Build or Hybrid with Build Events.**
3. **At the discretion of the Tournament Director, portions of Hybrid Events containing hands-on activities as well as Build and Lab Events may be dropped from the tournament or be conducted as trial events.**
4. **At the discretion of the Tournament Director and Event Supervisors, completion time may be used as a tiebreaker for Core Knowledge and other events where a written or online test is used.**



# For Event Supervisors Only - Do Not Post CHEMISTRY RECOMMENDED LAB EQUIP.

See General Rules, Eye Protection & other Policies on [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) as they apply to every event.

Each team may bring any or all of the items listed below for use in Division C Chemistry Events requiring laboratory equipment. Teams not bringing these items will be at a disadvantage as Event Supervisors will not provide Recommended Lab Equipment. A penalty of up to 10% may be given if a team brings prohibited lab equipment to the event.

Item & Expected Use	Likely to be used in:			
	Chemistry Lab	Forensics	Environmental Chemistry	Materials Science
<b>Box</b> - Containing all of the kit materials	X	X	X	X
<b>10 ml Graduated Cylinder</b> - Measuring volumes	X		X	
<b>25 ml Graduated Cylinder</b> - Measuring volumes	X		X	
<b>100 ml Graduated Cylinder</b> - Measuring volumes	X		X	
<b>50 ml Beakers</b> - Doing reactions, developing chromatograms	X	X	X	X
<b>100 ml Beakers</b> - Doing reactions, developing chromatograms	X	X	X	X
<b>250 ml Beakers</b> - Doing reactions, developing chromatograms	X	X	X	X
<b>400 ml Beakers</b> - Doing reactions, developing chromatograms	X	X	X	X
<b>50 ml Erlenmeyer Flasks</b> - Doing reactions	X		X	
<b>125 ml Erlenmeyer Flasks</b> - Doing reactions	X		X	
<b>250 ml Erlenmeyer Flasks</b> - Doing reactions	X		X	
<b>Test Tubes</b> - Mix Chemicals, heat chemicals	X	X	X	X
<b>Test Tube Brush</b> - Clean Test Tubes	X	X	X	X
<b>Test Tube Holder</b> - Holds test tubes for heating	X	X	X	
<b>Test Tube Rack</b> - Hold Test Tubes	X	X	X	X
<b>Spot Plates</b> - For semi-micro scale reactions, testing solubility, pH	X	X	X	
<b>Petri Dishes</b> - Doing reactions, developing chromatograms	X	X	X	X
<b>Slides</b> - To put hairs, crystals, or fibers on for use with a microscope		X		
<b>Cover Slips</b> - To cover & prevent items from coming off slides		X		
<b>Droppers</b> - Add small amounts of liquids to reactions	X	X	X	X
<b>Spatulas or spoons</b> - Getting small amounts of solids out of containers	X	X	X	X
<b>Metal Tongs, Forceps, or Tweezers</b> - Holding & retrieving objects	X	X	X	X
<b>Stirring Rods</b> - Stirring mixtures	X	X	X	X
<b>Thermometer</b> - Determining the temperature of a solution	X	X	X	
<b>pH or Litmus paper</b> - Test acidity or alkalinity of solution	X	X	X	
<b>Hand Lens</b> - Magnification of small items for identification		X		
<b>Flame Loop</b> - For identification of ions in a compound		X		
<b>Cobalt Blue Glass</b> - To filter out any sodium that might contaminate flame test from hands		X		
<b>Filter Paper</b> - Filter solids from liquids	X		X	
<b>Funnel</b> - Hold Filter Paper	X		X	
<b>9V battery</b> - Electrolysis	X		X	X
<b>Alligator Clip Wires</b> - Connecting meters to metals	X		X	X
<b>Nail</b> - Electrolysis	X		X	X
<b>Piece of Cu metal</b> - Electrolysis	X		X	X
<b>Piece of Zn metal</b> - Electrolysis	X		X	X
<b>Multimeter</b> - Measuring current, voltage, and resistivity	X		X	X
<b>9V or less Battery Conductivity Tester</b> - Determining ionic strength of solution	X	X	X	X
<b>Calipers-mechanical, not digital</b> - Measuring lengths very precisely	X			X
<b>Paper Towels</b> - Cleaning	X	X	X	X
<b>Pencil</b> - Writing, Marking Chromatogram		X		
<b>Ruler</b> - Measuring lengths		X		
<b>Magnets</b> - For extraction and identification of iron filings	X	X	X	X



# For Event Supervisors Only - Do Not Post CALCULATOR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

See General Rules, Eye Protection & other Policies on [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) as they apply to every event.

The following document was prepared to offer some guidance to teams as they select calculators for use in different Science Olympiad events. By no means are the calculators listed here inclusive of all possible calculators; instead they are offered as common examples. The decisions of the event supervisors will be final.

## Class I - Stand-alone non-graphing, non-programmable, non-scientific 4-function or 5-function calculators

are the most basic type of calculators and often look like the one shown to the right. These calculators are limited to the four basic mathematics functions and sometimes square roots. These calculators can often be found at dollar stores.



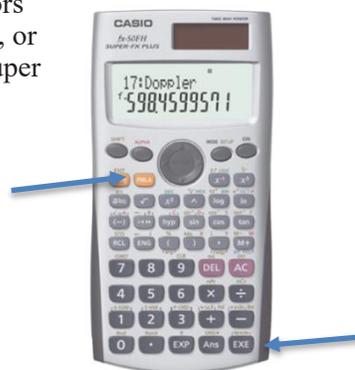
**Class II - Stand-alone non-programmable, non-graphing calculators** look like the calculator to the right or simpler. There are hundreds of calculators in this category but some common examples include: CASIO FX-260, Sharp EL-501, and TI-30X.



**Class III- Stand-alone, programmable, graphing calculators and stand-alone non-graphing, programmable calculators**, often look like the calculator shown on the right. Some examples are: Casio 975 0/9850/9860, HP 40/50/PRIME, and TI 83/84/89/NSPIRE/VOYAGE.

To identify a stand-alone non-graphing, programmable calculators are look for the presence of the 'EXE' button, the 'Prog' button, or a 'file' button. Examples include but are not limited to: Casio Super FXs, numerous older Casio models, and HP 35S. A calculator of this type with the buttons labeled is shown to the right.

PROG Button



EXE Button



**Class IV - Calculator applications on multipurpose devices** (e.g., laptop, phone, tablet, watch) are not allowed unless expressly permitted in the event rule.



**EYE PROTECTION GUIDE**

See General Rules, Eye Protection & other Policies on [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) as they apply to every event.

This resource was created to help teams comply with the Science Olympiad Policy on Eye Protection adopted on July 29, 2015 and posted on the Science Olympiad Website ([soinc.org](http://soinc.org)).

**Participant/Coach Responsibilities:** Participants are responsible for providing their own protective eyewear. Science Olympiad is unable to determine the degree of hazard presented by equipment, materials and devices brought by the teams. Coaches must ensure the eye protection participants bring is adequate for the hazard. All protective eyewear must bear the manufacturer's mark Z87. At a tournament, teams without adequate eye protection will be given a chance to obtain eye protection if their assigned time permits. If required by the event, participants will not be allowed to compete without adequate eye protection. This is **non-negotiable**.

**Corresponding Standards:** Protective eyewear used in Science Olympiad must be manufactured to meet the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard applicable at its time of manufacture. The current standard is ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2015. Competitors, coaches and event supervisors are not required to acquire a copy of the standard. The information in this document is sufficient to comply with current standards. Water is not a hazardous liquid and its use does not require protective eyewear unless it is under pressure or substances that create a hazard are added.

**Compliant Eyewear Categories:** If an event requires eye protection, the rules will identify one of these three categories. Compliance is simple as ABC:

**CATEGORY A**

- Description: Non-impact protection. They provide basic particle protection only
- Corresponding ANSI designation/required marking: Z87
- Examples: Safety glasses; Safety spectacles with side shields; and Particle protection goggles (these seal tightly to the face completely around the eyes and have direct vents around the sides, consisting of several small holes or a screen that can be seen through in a straight line)

**CATEGORY B**

- Description: Impact protection. They provide protection from a high inertia particle hazard (high mass or velocity)
- Corresponding ANSI designation/required marking: Z87+
- Example: High impact safety goggles

**CATEGORY C**

- Description: Indirect vent chemical/splash protection goggles. These seal tightly to the face completely around the eyes and have indirect vents constructed so that liquids do not have a direct path into the eye (or no vents at all). If you are able to see through the vent holes from one side to the other, they are NOT indirect vents
- Corresponding ANSI designation/required marking: Z87 (followed by D3 is the most modern designation but, it is not a requirement)
- Example: Indirect vent chemical/splash protection goggles

**Examples of Non-Compliant Eyewear:**

- Face shields/visors are secondary protective devices and are not approved in lieu of the primary eye protection devices below regardless of the type of vents they have.
- Prescription Glasses containing safety glass should not be confused with safety spectacles. "Safety glass" indicates the glass is made to minimize shattering when it breaks. Unless these glasses bear the Z87 mark they are not approved for use.

**Notes:**

1. A goggle that bears the Z87+ mark and is an indirect vent chemical/splash protection goggle will qualify for all three Categories A, B & C
2. VisorGogs do not seal completely to the face, but are acceptable as indirect vent chemical/splash protection goggles