

Annex B

BUDGET DEBATE CHALLENGE 2010

Through the *MOF Budget Debate Challenge 2010*, MOF hopes to engage students by promoting greater awareness of the annual Budget and public financing issues via mock parliamentary budget debates.

There will be two rounds of debates - the preliminary rounds and the finals – as follows:

- Preliminary rounds (Half-day event) – **January 2010** (Exact dates to be confirmed)
- Finals (Half-day event) – **February/March 2010** (Exact date to be confirmed)

Debate Format

The Budget Debate Challenge will be held as a mock parliamentary budget debate, in the style of the British Parliamentary debate format. Each school team will be made up of 2 speakers, and each debate will consist of 4 competing teams. 1 team will represent the ruling party (the Finance Minister and his Deputy) while the other 3 will represent various interest groups and stakeholders in society. The point of the debate is to argue convincingly for or against the motion, which will be proposed by the Finance Minister team. The sample debate format and a factsheet for last year's debate challenge can be found in Appendix.

Each speaker is expected to speak for 5 minutes. Those who speak under 4 minutes 30 seconds or over 5 minutes 30 seconds will be penalized. Speakers must accept at least 1 and not more than 2 queries (Points of Information—POIs) from opposing teams during their speech. Points of Information cannot be offered during the first and last 30 seconds of each speech (i.e. POIs can only be offered during the middle 4 minutes).

Topic

Topics for the preliminary rounds will be released in **December 2009** and topics for the finals will be released in **January 2010**. Examples of debate topics are:

- This House would allocate the bulk of GST revenue to healthcare/lower-income assistance needs
- This House believes that the Ministry of Defence should be entitled to a larger budget
- This House believes that environmental sustainability should take precedence over economic growth in the Budget
- This House believes that the needs of the elderly should take precedence over the needs of the young in the Budget

Eligibility Criteria

There will be two categories for the Debate Challenge—one for Secondary Schools and one for Pre-University Schools. Each school is entitled to send a maximum of **two** teams (each comprising two students), one team for each category.

Prizes

The winning school in each category will receive the MOF Budget Debate Challenge Shield. Remaining finalists will each receive a certificate of honorable mention.

BUDGET QUIZ CHALLENGE 2010

Budget Quiz Challenge 2010 follows a similar format to the National Economics and Finance Management Quiz (NEFMQ) conducted by NUS Economics Society annually. There are two rounds to the Budget Quiz – the Preliminary Round and the Finals – which will be held as follows:

- Preliminary Round
 - Junior College/Polytechnics – **January 2010** (Exact date to be confirmed)
 - Universities – **January 2010** (Exact date to be confirmed)

- Finals – **February 2010** (Exact date to be confirmed)

Each school is allowed to register up to **two** teams of three members (capped at 16 teams per category). All participants would go through a preliminary round. The top **four** teams from each of the Junior College/Polytechnic category and University category would then advance to the finals.

Quiz Format for preliminary round

- The first component is the “*Multiple-Choice Round*”. Here, participants for each category will sit for a **20 minute multiple-choice paper of 30 questions**. Each category will be quizzed on questions suitable for their level of expected proficiency. Each correct answer is worth 5 points.

- The second component is the “*Flash Round*”. Separate rounds will be conducted for each category. Each round will be played for **20 minutes**. There will be approximately **10 questions** for each round. Questions will be read out by the Quiz-master and simultaneously flashed on the screen. Each correct answer is worth 10 points.

Non-elimination Round (5 questions): Participants will choose the answers on an answer sheet provided, to be submitted to the invigilators.

Elimination Round (5 questions): Participants will flash answers using one of their four placards, each labelled A, B, C or D. Participants who give the correct answers will stay in the game while participants with wrong answers are eliminated. A score stick will be issued to participants for each correct answer, when they are eliminated.

- The total score will be calculated by summing up the cumulative scores from the Multiple-Choice Round and Flash Round to form the individual score for each participant. Team scores will be computed by adding the individual scores of the three members. The four teams from each category with the highest team scores will move on to the finals.

Quiz Format for finals

- The first round is the "*Speed Round*". The questions in this round will be read out by the Quiz-master. The team to press the buzzer first earns the right to answer the question. There will be **15 questions** in this round. Each question is worth 4 points, and teams have only **30 seconds** to answer. If the answer given is wrong, 2 points will be deducted from the team's total score. Following which, the question will be open to the remaining teams, and a correct answer will earn 2 points.
- The second round is the "*Step Round*". This round consists of **10 steps**. The objective of each team is to be the first to reach the end of the 10 steps. In this round, all four teams are given the same question to answer. The question will be flashed on the screen for **30 seconds**. Once the time is up, each team has to decide whether they want to answer or skip. Their answers are to be written on a drawing pad and flashed simultaneously. Teams with the correct answer will progress up a step while teams with the wrong answer will fall back one step. Teams which opt not to answer (i.e. flash a blank drawing pad) will not move. The game ends when a team reaches the end of ten steps. Each team's score will be ten times their step level at the end of the game.
- The final round is the "*Team Round*". This round consists of 3 categories with a total of **15 questions**. The questions are split into categories according to their level of difficulty. Questions are worth 10, 20 or 30 points according to their respective levels of difficulty with more difficult questions accorded higher points. The teams will take turns to choose questions from 1 to 15 to answer.

Each team may also direct the questions to another team as part of their strategy. If the team who is directed to answer the question does so correctly, they will receive the points (depending on the level of difficulty) for that question. These points will be deducted from the team who first chose the question. There will be no penalty points if they fail to answer correctly. There is a time limit of **90 seconds** for this round.

- The scores from all three rounds will be computed to form the team's overall score. The top team from each category with the highest team score will win the Budget Quiz Challenge Shield.

Eligibility Criteria

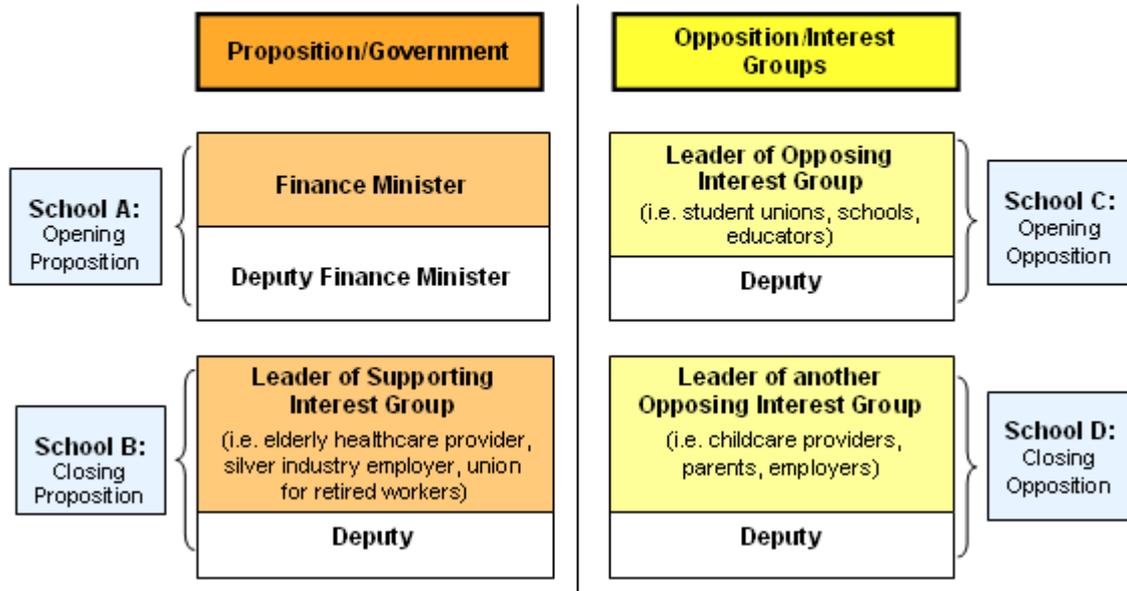
There are two categories for the quiz — Junior Colleges/Polytechnics category and Universities category.

Prizes

The winning school will receive the MOF Budget Quiz Challenge Shield 2010 and cash prizes. Participants may also be offered an internship programme with the Ministry of Finance. Remaining finalists will each receive a certificate of honourable mention.

Sample Debate Format and Layout

Topic: The needs of the elderly should take precedence over the needs of the young in the Budget



WINNERS FOR BUDGET DEBATE CHALLENGE 2009

Secondary School Division	Pre-University Division
2009 Champions	
Raffles Institution	Hwa Chong Institution
1 st Runner-Up	
Hwa Chong Institution	Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

PARTICIPANTS (FINALS) FOR BUDGET DEBATE CHALLENGE 2009

Secondary Division

<i>This House Would Distribute Cash Handouts to Households to Stimulate Growth in the Economy</i>		
	School	Roles assigned
Proposition Team 1	Hwa Chong Institution	Ministry of Finance
Opposition Team 1	Nanyang Girls' High School	Tax Payers and Businesses
Proposition Team 2	Methodist Girls' School	Low-income groups/ Unemployed; Charities, Retailers
Opposition Team 2	Raffles Institution	Ministry of Trade and Industry and Industry Promotion Agencies

Junior Colleges/ Pre-University Division

<i>This House Would Not Bail Out Banks If They Fail</i>		
	School	Roles assigned
Proposition Team 1	Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)	Ministry of Finance
Opposition Team 1	Hwa Chong Institution	Failing Local Banks and Global market observers/investors
Proposition Team 2	Innova Junior College	Free-Market economists and Proponents of targeted assistance packages
Opposition Team 2	Victoria Junior College	Local retailers, individual savers and taxpayers