
April 14–16, 2026

New Competition Manual and Rules

NEW MANUAL!! The AACS Competition Manual (2025 edition) governs National Competition 2026–2030. Purchase the **NEW** manual for your school and carefully review it and the Significant Changes document. State competitions often operate under different rules. Competitors must follow current Nationals rules and use the current AACS judging forms.

Refer to the AACS website and the 2025 National Competition Manual for information regarding purchasing competition Bibles, instruments available at the host site, Extemporaneous Speaking references, Spelling study lists, online academic testing, restrictions on the use of AI, and other important information.

Bible 2026

Old Testament Testing—Nehemiah, Daniel, Jonah

New Testament Testing—1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation

Bible Quizzing—Romans, James

If staying on campus, Bible quiz **teams must arrive by 9:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026**. Registration for on-campus guests will be on Monday evening, April 13. Contact BJU directly to arrange for early arrival housing. Bible quiz team coaches will have a meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14.

Bible Memory—God’s Promises (See AACS National Competition Manual, 2025 Edition, Appendix.)

Classical Guitar Solo Clarifications

1. Are performers allowed to use picks? The use of picks/plectrums is not allowed. All classical guitar repertoire is played without a pick. This was not stated in the rules because it is the assumed norm for classical guitar. Because it was not stated, judges will not penalize a competitor for a violation, but he/she would not score well.
2. Are guitars that have a plug-in option but are still decidedly acoustic guitars allowed as long as they do not require an amp? The plug-in feature is not a problem as long as the instrument is acoustic. The instrument cannot be plugged in for performance.
3. Are there any requirements for the type of music? Lead sheets? Tablature? General music rules 9–12 apply. Music must have traditional notation. It could have tablature in addition to notation, but tablature is not sufficient on its own. Lead sheets are not adequate. Digital devices are addressed in rule 10.
4. Because they are not forbidden in the rules, 12-string guitars will be allowed as long as the stylistic and technique requirements are met; however, they are almost always played with a pick.

Debate 2026

Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.