



2027 Ethics Olympiad

JUNIOR SCHOOL COACHES KIT

Welcome, Coach!

Thank you for entering a team in the 2027 Junior School Ethics Olympiad. In conducting the Ethics Olympiad, we hope to raise the profile of Philosophy and Ethics in Junior schools and raise the quality of discourse around contested issues. This is an important initiative and we thank you for being a part of it.

This kit contains everything you need to prepare your team for the day.

Key Information

Team Composition

- › 4–5 students per team
- › Maximum 2 teams per school
- › Students from Years 5–6 (ages 9–12)
- › Ethics Olympiad is based on the US Ethics Bowl format

Awards

- › Gold, Silver & Bronze medals
- › Certificate awarded to every participant
- › Results are announced within 24 hours

How to Prepare

Before the competition day, students should be familiar with all six ethical cases provided in this kit. On the day, they will be asked to respond to one of the questions associated with each case.

- › Meet with your team in the lead-up and build team cohesion.
- › Ensure your registration fee is paid to secure your school's place.
- › Make sure students understand the format, rules, and scoring criteria.
- › Students should review all six cases and practise structured ethical reasoning.
- › Set aside dedicated practice sessions as you would for any elite sporting event.
- › Note: No notes are permitted to be used on the day.

2027 Competition Cases

Topics for the 2026 Junior School Ethics Olympiad:

- ❖ **Case 1** – Lunch Box Choices
- ❖ **Case 2** – Mr Indifferent
- ❖ **Case 3** – Keeping a Secret
- ❖ **Case 4** – Fictional Harms
- ❖ **Case 5** – The Present
- ❖ **Case 6** – Buzz out the Window

Program for the Day (Note some regions have different start and finish times)

8:00am	START - WA, Singapore & Hong Kong
9:30am	START - SA
10:00am	START - ACT, NSW, QLD, TAS & VIC
12:00pm	START - New Zealand
12:30pm	FINISH - WA, Singapore & Hong Kong
2:00pm	FINISH - SA
2:30pm	FINISH - ACT, NSW, QLD, TAS & VIC
4:30pm	FINISH - New Zealand

Important Reminders

- All six cases will be covered over the course of the day.
- No notes are permitted at any time.
- Please encourage your students to thank the judge/moderators at the end of each heat.
- Ensure your team has a quiet place in your school to meet in on the day.
- Each team will need a device with a camera and good microphone.
- Make sure your students have scrap paper and water bottles.
- Students should be dressed in school uniform on the day.
- Coaches will be able to use a separate device to supervise students.
- When results are posted we will send a certificate for each student to be presented at school assembly.



Heat Format & Rules

Each breakout room has two teams and a moderator/judge. After brief introductions, a coin toss determines Team A and Team B. The following sequence then applies for each case:

2 min	Team meeting — microphones off — both teams plan their response
5 min	Team A presents their case (one speaker at a time)
1 min	Team B private conference
3 min	Team B provides commentary on Team A's presentation
1 min	Team A meeting — prepare response to critique
3 min	Team A responds to the critique
7 min	Judge Q&A with Team A (30-second private conference allowed before responding)
—	Teams swap roles; Team B now presents the next case using the same process

MATCH FORMAT

PART 1



ETHICS OLYMPIAD JUDGES SCORE SHEET

TEAM A _____	TEAM B _____
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CASE 1

Team A Presentation (First case)

- A. Was Team A's presentation clear and systematic? (1-5) ____
- B. Did the team's presentation identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions of the case? (1-5) ____
- C. Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position? (1-5) ____

1. Team A presentation score (Total A-C above)

of 15

2. Team B commentary

of 10

3. Team A response to commentary

of 15

4. Team A response to Judges' questions

of 15

— end of case 1 —

— end of case 1 —

CASE 2

Team B Presentation (Second case)

- A. Was Team B's presentation clear and systematic? (1-5) ____
- B. Did the team's presentation identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions of the case? (1-5) ____
- C. Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position? (1-5) ____

6. Team A commentary

of 10

1. Team B presentation score (Total A-C above)

of 15

3. Team B response to commentary

of 15

4. Team B response to Judges' questions

of 15

— end of case 2 —

— end of case 2 —

9. Team A respectful dialogue

of 5

9. Team B respectful dialogue

of 5

10. TOTAL

of 60

10. TOTAL

of 60

ETHICS OLYMPIAD SCORING CRITERIA

The Ethics Olympiad scoring criteria should be used in conjunction with the score sheet. Please remember, teams are strongly encouraged to think of themselves as being on the same side rather than as opponents. That is, both teams are working together to solve a difficult problem, while impressing the judges with thoughtful analysis and support. Listening to the other team with an aim to affirm, supplement, or build on their argument is a prudent approach.

PART 1: PRESENTING TEAM'S INITIAL PRESENTATION (15 POINTS TOTAL)

A Did the presentation clearly and systematically address the moderator's question? (5 points)

- 5 Extremely clear presentation that systematically addressed the key dimensions of the question.
- 4 Reasonably clear presentation that systematically addressed most key dimensions of the question.
- 3 Hard to follow the argument. Significant dimensions of the question missed (passable).
- 2 Serious logical problems or underdeveloped argument (poor).
- 1 Incoherent presentation.

B Did the team clearly identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions of the case? (5 points)

- 5 Clearly and precisely identified central moral dimensions, and discussed these dimensions thoroughly.
- 4 Mostly identified central moral dimensions and discussed major issues.
- 3 Adequately identified and discussed some central moral dimensions (passable).
- 2 Misidentified some moral dimensions of the case and inadequately discussed (poor).
- 1 Misidentified the central moral dimensions.

C Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including especially those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position? (5 points)

- 5 Insightful analysis and discussion of the most significant viewpoints, including full and careful attention to opposing points of view.
- 4 Solid analysis and discussion of several significant viewpoints.
- 3 Underdeveloped discussion of different viewpoints (passable).
- 2 Minimal consideration of different viewpoints (poor).
- 1 Minimal awareness of different viewpoints.

PART 2: RESPONDING TEAM'S COMMENTARY ON OPPOSING TEAM'S INITIAL PRESENTATION (10 POINTS)

To what extent has the team effectively and directly responded to and engaged the presenting team's argument?

- 10** Especially insightful, complete, and composed commentary.
- 9** Key points excellently addressed.
- 8-7** Solid response to presenting team's points.
- 6-5** Some points made, but few insights or constructive ideas (passable).
- 4-3** Weak or irrelevant response or merely asking a series of questions (poor).
- 2-1** Failure to respond to presenting team or resorting to personal attacks.

PART 3: PRESENTING TEAM'S RESPONSE TO OPPOSING TEAM'S COMMENTARY (15 POINTS)

How did the team respond to the opposing team's commentary?

- 15** Especially insightful, complete, and composed response.
- 12-14** Key points are excellently addressed.
- 9-11** Solid response to commenting team.
- 6-8** Some relevant points are made (passable).
- 3-5** Weak or irrelevant response (poor).
- 1-2** Failure to respond to commentary.

PART 4: PRESENTING TEAM'S RESPONSE TO JUDGES' QUESTIONS (15 POINTS)

How did the team respond to the judges' questions?

- 15** Especially insightful, complete, and composed response.
- 14** The most pressing points are identified and discussed.
- 13-12** Several of the most important points are identified and discussed.
- 11-10** Some relevant points are made (passable).
- 9-4** Weak or irrelevant response (poor).
- 1-2** Failure to respond to commentary and judges.

OVERALL: POINTS FOR ENGAGING IN RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE, AS OPPOSED TO COMBATIVE DEBATE (5 POINTS)

Did the team demonstrate their awareness that an ethics bowl is about participating in a collaborative discussion aimed at earnestly thinking through difficult ethical issues?

- 5** Respectfully engaged all parties in exceptionally productive and collaborative discussion.
- 4** Respectfully engaged other team's arguments and points.
- 3** Respectful of other team's argument but only marginal engagement and pursuit.
- 2** Unengaged with other team's arguments.
- 1** Combative or dismissive of other team's arguments.