

2019
Observation Round Brief

Summary

As per last year, The Observation Round is split into two components

- The Theory Ob Round (1530 – 1800)
 - Teams will split up and attempt a paper within the specified time limit
 - There is an additional task for you to complete over dinner
- The Practical Ob Round (Til 2215 Latest)
 - Teams will be judged on their practical handling skills and technical proficiency
 - Personal Knowledge of the skies is very important

By default, the rounds will be weighted 40/60 in favour of the Practical Ob Round

Theory Paper Summary

- The Theory round will comprise of the following sections in 2 parts
- Part 1
 - Astronomy Cloze Passage [20 pc]
 - Observation Plan [20 pc]
- Part 2
 - Constellation Identification [20 pc]
 - Findercharts [25 pc]
 - Star Party [15 pc]

Practical Paper Summary

- The Theory round will comprise of the following sections
 - Setup and Take Down [20pc]
 - All for One, One Plus One[50pc]
 - Stellar Marathon [30pc]

WARNINGS

- To prevent excessive memorization of obscure objects, this Observational Theory Paper will only accept deep sky objects/asterisms if they:
 - Have widely recognized standalone names (e.g. the Coathanger/Coma Star Cluster/Cat's Eye Nebula) **AND /OR**
 - Are listed in the Messier Catalogue (e.g. M42: the Orion Nebula) **AND/OR**
 - Are listed in the Caldwell Catalogue (e.g. C76: the False Comet)
- **NOTE:** NGC/IC/Col. Etc. Numbers quoted onto the exam script will **NOT** be accepted for this Observational Theory Paper. Participants have to write down either its Caldwell Number, Messier Number or the popular name of the object.
- **Double Penalties** may be imposed for over-excessive fillings of star-chart with NGC/IC/Col. Etc.

SAFETY WARNINGS

- Do not use any telescope/optical equipment to look at the sun
- Do not run around telescope equipment, walk quickly if in a hurry
- Do not look thru a binocular/ telescope etc while moving around
- Each team is not permitted to leave crates/containers/boxes at the observation site except for one eyepiece case (if any). The lid of this case shall be closed at all times possible.
- No extra counterweights are to be left on the ground next to the site
- Look out for tripod legs when walking
- Setup your telescope on level ground
- While silent observers are allowed to observe the session, they should not obstruct/assist in any way any participant in the obs round

Admin

Theory Ob Round

- Teams will Split into A and B at the start and moved to different locations
- Both teams will need to finish all tasks at their respective locations before being able to recombine for the final section of this segment
- Both halves will NOT communicate with each other during the duration of the paper
- No unauthorized reference materials are allowed. Possession of unauthorized materials will be taken as intent to cheat.

Transition to Practical Ob Round

- At the end of the Theory Ob Round, team A will collect the Observational Practical Papers (2x) for their schools from the QMs. You may read the paper during dinner.
- **Do not lose the script**; appropriate penalties will be imposed on teams who lose their scripts.
- You will pass the script to your assessors for them to grade at the beginning of the Practical Segment

Practical Ob Round – Setup (1830-1945)

- Please collect your equipment from the storage area
- Setup your telescope between 1815-1900 in the presence of an assessor (pass them the script).
- Collect back your graded script once the setup component is complete.
- You may not bargain with assessors for marks

Practical Ob Round (1945-2215)

- The Practical Ob Round is open-universe; however we disallow communication with external parties and digital setting circles.
- For the main bulk of the Practical Ob Round, you will be assigned to specific assessor(s).
- Your job is to convince them that you have indeed found the claimed object.
 - If successful, they will countersign on the script

Practical Observation Round Guidelines

- Objects should be visible
 - i.e. do not show me empty patches of sky and claim there are objects there
- Only ONE object in the eyepiece FOV
 - No double-counting allowed
- You MAY use filters and all other finding aids except those explicitly banned

What do we mean by “one object in FOV”?



List of Pairings

Conducting	Cliu
Safety	LKY, NPZ, Qi En
And S'goon Jnr C.	Kaiwen and Grace
Anglo Chn Sch (I)	Shuin Jian and Teng Jun
NUSHAS	Mooney and Zongran
HCAstro/C	Samuel and Ivan
Natl Jnr College	Yizhi and Kenrui
St Joseph's	Joachim and Sharadh
St Joseph's Intl	Jeanne and Camille
Raffles Inst.	Julian and Marcelina
Rvr Val High Sch	Roy and Ctan
Vic Jnr College	Brian and Kevan

Questions?