

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (530)

—Post-secondary—

REGIONAL – 2016

TOTAL POINTS

_____ (160)

Failure to adhere to any of the following rules will result in disqualification:

- 1. Contestant must hand in this test booklet and all printouts. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**
- 2. No equipment, supplies, or materials other than those specified for this event are allowed in the testing area. No previous BPA tests and/or sample tests or facsimile (handwritten, photocopied, or keyed) are allowed in the testing area.**
- 3. Electronic devices will be monitored according to ACT standards.**

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Workplace Skills Assessment Program competition.

TOPICS:

1. The cost of obtaining an education today keeps increasing and increasing. What are some alternatives for you to obtaining college funding so that when you graduate, you will not have enormous amounts of student loans?
2. Today's dress code in business has become very lax. Do you recommend a dress code for business/office employees, or do you prefer they have the freedom to use their creativity in dressing for the workplace?
3. Studies show that employees spend a great deal of time at work on company time using the Internet and social media for personal use. What are your thoughts on this? If necessary, how would you implement a plan of action to deal with this situation?
4. Distinguish between soft skills and hard skills needed for today's business professionals, giving examples of how each plays an important part in the overall success as an employee.
5. "Nomophobia" is the new word given to those who are constantly connected to their cell phones and have the fear of being without their cell phones. Share some etiquette practices concerning cell phone usage in the workplace and in the public.
6. "Cyberbullying" is a word you will hear as you watch the news concerning today's children and technology. Identify this practice, and share suggestions on ways to deal with this situation.
7. With today's technology, all materials, newsletters, catalogs, etc. are being sent electronically to be downloaded. What are your thoughts on receiving electronic copies versus hard copies of documents, giving the advantages and disadvantages?
8. Give your own definition of "ethics"; then explain why it is an important value in today's business world.
9. Studies have shown that the average worker uses up to two hours a day doing personal work while on company time. What are some of your views on this practice? What are your recommendations?
10. "Plagiarism" is on the rise due to the ease of using technology to cheat. How widespread do you think this issue is at your college? What should be the punishment for someone caught cheating in college classes? Cite examples.
11. Technology has provided students with quick access to posting private information about others. What issues are you aware of that have been associated with the improper use of social media?