

A Quiz For Fun & Learning

Perhaps the Most Popular Feature at CSAC Conferences

Tell us about the Quiz. It is a quiz, with humor, to help you learn about our state, and perhaps to win some good prizes. The California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association presents the quiz at annual CSAC conferences.

What is new this year? Naturally there are many new questions and answers. For the second year we shall allow three users to take the quiz at the same time, not working together but on 3 separate terminals.

Who can take the Quiz? Any person at the conference, including guests, may take the quiz. There is no fee for taking it. It is fun.

What kind of prizes do you have? We have two kinds of prizes. First, we have prizes we call “instant gratification” that are awarded immediately after you finish taking the quiz. The second kind is the usual cash awarded at the end of the Quiz, when we see who had the best scores and percentages.

What are “instant gratification” prizes? At the Rookie League level the FIRST **25** people who score at least 1000 points or get at least 90% right, and at the Major League level the FIRST **25** people who score at least 700 points or get at least 75% right are immediately given \$10.**25**. (The \$.25 is in recognition of the Quiz’ 25th anniversary in 2014!)

Who wins the cash prizes at the end of the contest? Cash prizes will be awarded at lunch Thursday to people with high percentages as well as to people with high scores. Thus knowledgeable people who are not fast can also win prizes.

What are the prizes? At the California Genius level, the top three scorers will win \$200, \$150, and \$100. The three quiz takers with the highest percentages will win \$175, \$125, and \$75. At the Major League level the top scorer will win \$50 and the person with the highest percentage will win

\$40. At the Rookie League level the top scorer will win \$25 and the person with the highest percentage will win \$20.

To have the highest percentage could I answer just three questions and get them all correct? No. For high scores it does not matter how many questions you answer, but high percentage winners have to answer at least 30 questions.

Where and when? The quiz is given close to the CSAC registration desk. It starts Tuesday, November 18, and is open the same hours that registration is available: On Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and on Wednesday morning from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m..

Does it take long? This will not take much of your time. Each quiz is limited to five minutes, as timed by a computer. Do not worry, you do not need to know computers, only where to find 1, 2, 3, and 4 on a keyboard.

Can I take it more than once? Yes, you can take the quiz up to ten times. You may find the more times you take the quiz, the higher your score.

Will you have three different levels again this year? Yes. We now have Rookie League, Major League, and California Genius levels.

May we choose any of the three levels? The first time you take the quiz, it is at the Rookie Level. The second time you take the quiz you may choose either the Rookie quiz or the Major League quiz. After you take the Major League quiz you can choose to take the California Genius quiz or any of the three levels.

What is the difference in levels? Rookie League questions will be relatively easy; we expect users will average about 90% right. Major League questions will be a little more difficult; we expect the average percent right will be about 75%. The California Genius questions are very tough, with an expected average of about 60% right, but the prizes are better and users say the quiz is still fun.

Can you give us an example of the difference? A Rookie League question might be “The county seat of Calaveras County is: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Andreas, or San Francisco.” At the California Genius level

the possible answers to the same question could be “Sonoma, Jackson, San Andreas, or Angels Camp.”

How many questions are there? The database has 1279 questions. But don't worry! You will not see all questions! There is a five-minute time limit for each quiz. A very fast quiz taker, taking only 4 seconds for each question, would see only 75 of the questions in the five minutes.

Can I watch others play? Yes, but under the rules, you may not speak to persons taking the quiz. The quiz is for individual learning and testing. Team playing is not permitted.

What if there is a tie? There will be no ties. Ties in score are resolved in favor of the person with the fewest wrong answers. If two people have the same score and same number of wrong answers, the person first achieving that score is placed highest. The idea is that to dethrone the champ, you have to beat the champ, not simply tie the champ.

What about ties in percentage? If two people have the same percentage, the tie is resolved in favor of the person who answered the most questions. If a tie still exists, the person first achieving that percentage is placed highest.

Can I win three cash prizes, one at each level? No. A person may win only one cash prize, the one most valuable. But you can win two immediate gratification prizes, one at the rookie league level and one at the major league level..

Can anyone win a prize? Persons using fictitious names, persons who have participated in a team and the author of the quiz are not eligible for prizes.

Who provides the prizes? The California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association provides the prizes.

Is the winner the person who answers the most questions correctly? Yes. We give 20 points for each correct answer.

Is there a penalty for a wrong answer? You don't lose points for a wrong answer, but you do lose one of your 300 seconds of quiz time because for one second you see the correct answer flash on the screen.

Does it help to remember the number of the answer to a particular question for the next time I take the Quiz? No. The order of the four answers for each question is determined randomly each time the quiz is given. You should remember the answer, not the number.

What are the questions about? All are about California. They are multiple-choice questions selected at random such as:

The county seat of Alpine County is which of these four choices?
Is the red dot on the map at Mt Whitney, Lassen, Shasta, or McKinley?
The Secretary of State is which of these four people?
This photograph is of which listed California feature or leader?
Fresno County is known for which one of these four features?
The county in red on this California map is which of these counties?
Sacramento County is adjacent to which one of these four counties?
Which of these four counties is one of the original 27 counties?
Edmund G. (Pat) Brown was known for which of these choices?

Since it is random selection, can I see same question twice? You will not see it twice during your five minutes, but if you take the quiz again, you might see the question again.

What hint can you give me to get a high score? By far the attribute that helps most in achieving a high score is speed of answers. It is better to answer in four or five seconds than to ponder for twelve seconds.

How do we know who are high scorers, who we have to beat? After each user, the computer prints a leader board and we post it.

If I take the Quiz more than once, do you keep only my latest score? No, we keep your highest score and discard others.

What else can you tell me? We cannot tell you the questions or answers, but we can say that the quiz attempts to be non-political and neutral, to treat each county equally. Supervisors and other county officials find taking the quiz to be fun, even if they do not win a prize.

To whom do we complain if we score too low? The author of the computer program, revised during each of its 25 years, and of the questions and answers, is John Taylor, retired San Francisco Clerk of the Board and a past president of the Association. Suggestions from users and complaints from low scorers may be given to him. He can be reached at misterclerk@sbcglobal.net.