



12th International Biology Olympiad

Belgium

July 8 – 15, 2001

Report on the preparation – 29 March 2001

1. Time schedule and Venue

The 12th IBO will take place in Brussels, capital city of Belgium and Europe, from Sunday July 8 to Sunday July 15, 2001.

2. Website

The IBO 2001 website is active at www.ibo2001.be. The site includes much of the information you read here, plus some useful facts about your stay in Belgium.

3. Invitation

The following countries are invited by an official letter sent to the Ministry of Education and to the national Co-ordinator, according to the list of addresses provided by the IBO International Co-ordinating Centre (Prague):

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kirgizhistan, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Mexico, Moldavia, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

In order to qualify for the invitation, the co-ordinators have to be officially delegated by their Government (confirmation form is supposed to have been sent to IBO Co-ordinating Centre, Prague; e-mail: tmsoukup@biomed.cas.cz); the competitors have to be the winners of the National Biology Olympiad, in their country.

Brazil, Mozambique, Portugal and USA will be invited as observers.

4. Application and declaration forms

As usual, application of a country in the 12th International Biology Olympiad has to comply with the IBO Rules.

Application forms for Jury members, observers and competitors will be sent in due time to the Co-ordinators; they will also be available from the website www.ibo2001.be.

Each competitor will have to sign a declaration form, stating he or she is a student in a secondary school in his or her country.

5. Coming to Belgium

Passport and Visa

Each delegation is responsible for passports and a possible visa, in case these are needed. When in doubt, please refer to the local Belgian Embassy (list available from the website <http://diplobel.fgov.be>)

Arriving

Belgium is very easily reached, by almost any transportation mode: air, rail, sea, road...

The delegations will be met preferably in Brussels National airport (15 km from the city centre) or Brussels South railway station ("Bruxelles Midi – Brussel Zuid") and transferred to their lodgings.

Money

The local money is the Belgian Franc (BEF).

Exchange rates: 1 EUR = 40,3399 BEF (fixed rate) – 1 USD \cong 45 BEF (by 28 March 2001).

6. IBO 2001 provisional Programme

Schedule	Competitors	Jury members Observers	Organisers
Sunday 8 July	Arrivals and setting in		Welcoming, taxiing...
	Dinner		Dinner
Monday 9 July	10:00	Visiting Brussels (1)	Introducing the Olympiad
	12:30		Lunch
	14:00	Opening Ceremony	
	16:30	Visiting Brussels (2)	Jury 1. Approval - translation practical test
	19:00	Dinner	Dinner
	20:30	Free evening (in boarding school)	Jury 1. Translation practical test
Tuesday 10 July	8:00	Practical test 4 x 1 h (+ breaks)	Visiting Brussels Coaching practical test
	13:15	Lunch (barbecue)	Marking practical test
	14:30	Trip to Antwerp	
	19:00	Dinner in Antwerp	Dinner
	20:00	Social event / culture (Antwerp)	Marking practical test
Wednesday 11 July	9:00	Trip to Flanders (Bruges, Zwin, etc.)	Jury 2. Approval and translation theoretical test
	12:30		Lunch
	14:00		Jury 2. Approval and translation theoretical test
	19:00	Dinner	Dinner
	20:30	Free evening (in boarding school)	Jury 2. Approval and translation theoretical test
Thursday 12 July	8:00	Theoretical test	Jury 3. Practical test results, approving answers theoretical test Coaching practical test
	12:30	Lunch or reception	Marking theoretical test
	14:00	Trip in 4 groups to: 2 Sciences Centres, Botanical Garden, Institute of Molecular Biology and Medicine	
	18:00	Visit to Natural Sciences Museum	
	19:00	Dinner	
	20:30	Brussels by night Rally	
Friday 13 July	9:00	Trip to Wallonia (Liège, "Hautes Fagnes", Namur)	Jury 4. Theoretical test results
	12:00		Lunch
	13:00		Trip to Wallonia: "Hautes Fagnes" & Namur
	20:00	Dinner + Cultural event (Namur)	
Saturday 14 July	8:30	Test in English language	Jury 5. Discussion prior to grading and awarding
	10:00	Go-as-you-please in Brussels	
	13:00	Lunch	Lunch
	14:30	Closing ceremony	
	17:00	Final event	
20:00	Final dinner		
Sunday 15 July	Departures		Accompanying delegations to airport / railway station

7. Weather and clothing

The normal Belgian summer is unpredictable, usually anything but dry. Temperatures are... temperate! Maximum between 15°C and 30°C, mostly 25°C. Thunderstorms are inevitable following a few days hot weather. Thus, get ready for anything (but snow).

8. Accommodation

Students will be hosted in a Brussels boarding school (capacity: 170 beds) in comfortable individual rooms. The school is located in a nice "green" environment. Sports and leisure facilities are available. A delegate of the Organisers will be present. The guides will be accommodated in a nearby hotel.

Adults accommodation: double rooms, in Hotel Astrid (single rooms require an extra fee!).

This nice and very centrally located Brussels hotel – only 400 m. from the Grand'Place – offers 100 modern styled rooms (TV, in-house movies, radio, telephone, working-desk, free private safe, bathroom with shower, bath, toilet and hairdryer).

Jury members and observers will be have the opportunity to pay a visit to the famous sightseeing "classicals" (walking distance to each of them). The jury meeting rooms are within walking distance, too (15-20 min. walk).

9. Coming earlier and staying longer

IBO 2001 Organising Committee is responsible for the expenses between July 8 and July 15, 2001. If any delegation or person wishes to come earlier or stay longer, we can help them arranging hotel booking.

10. Fees

Standard delegation members

Countries sending a "standard" delegation according to the IBO Rules (4 competitors and 2 jury members) are requested to pay the standard fee of 600 USD.

Observers and guests

For observers and guests arriving on 8 July and leaving on 15 July (normal stay), the fee is 800 USD / person. Each extra day would be charged 100 USD / person.
Single rooms for adults (jury, observers, guests) require a 300 USD extra payment (normal stay).

Bank information

Bank name Argenta
Bank address Belgiëlei 49-53, B-2018 Antwerp, Belgium
Swift code KREDBEBB (can make international money transfers easier)
Account n° 979-9463176-55
 IBO 2001 asbl / vzw
 Rue Vautier 29
 B-1000 Brussels (Belgium)

In order to speed up the check-in process upon arrival in Brussels, **prior payments are preferred!**
Please specify your Country name while sending your fee.

11. Competition

Official competition

According to the IBO Rules, there will be a practical and a theoretical test.

The theoretical test will consist of about 100 questions. They will cover different areas of Biology, in percentages specified in the Rules. Of the theoretical questions 50 % will be classical multiple choice (type A, 1 correct answer) and 50 % will be "type B": filling in the blanks, matching, etc.

Each participating country is kindly asked to send at least 6 questions (3 type A and 3 type B) before February 15, 2001.

The practical test will include 4 laboratories which will last \pm 1 hour, the students switching between them by groups (~ 40 students a group). Time for relaxing (snacks, drinks) will be provided.

The test will cover the following topics:

Laboratory 1. Plant anatomy, morphology and taxonomy

This task requires skills on:

- making sections of plant materials, staining them;
- using dissecting tools (lancet, needles, tweezers...);

and knowledge on:

- identifying plant structures and organs (leaves, stems, roots, flowers, fruits...);
- discriminating major plant groups (e.g. algae, mosses, ferns, spermatophytes);
- the characteristics, taxonomy and life cycle of vascular plants, including mosses;
- flower anatomy, characteristics of common flowering plant families.

Laboratory 2. Animal anatomy, morphology

The students must be able to:

- make a dissection of an invertebrate (Ph. Annelida, Arthropoda, or Mollusca);
- identify the main macroscopic organs.

The specific dissecting tools will be provided by the organisers.

Laboratory 3. Plant pigment analysis

This task requires knowledge on:

- thin layer chromatography
 - result interpretation
- and skills on:
- making extracts
 - sample manipulation and laying

Laboratory 4. Ethology

Students should be able to observe and interpret animal behaviour (using video sequences prepared by the organisers).

Informal theoretical test in English

On Saturday morning, a short theoretical test **in English language** will be submitted to **all** students.

This test will NOT be part of the official competition. It aims to evaluate the students' ability to cope with scientific English.

12. IBO Secretary

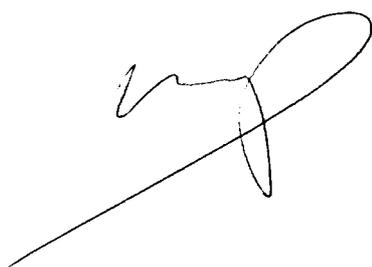
Please notice that this is a **new** contact address (the address distributed in Antalya is **not** valid any more)

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We are looking forward to meet you in (sunny?) Belgium!

On behalf of the IBO 2001 Organising Committee,



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