



12th International Biology Olympiad - 2001

Belgium, July 8 – 15

Under the Honorary Chairmanship
of His Royal Highness
Prince Laurent of Belgium

Final report on the preparation

Brussels, 21 June 2001.

Dear Colleagues,

The Belgian Organising Committee is pleased to send you this last-minute information about the 12th IBO.

Please notice that this report is sent only to those countries that have announced their participation in the 12th IBO, either as a full delegation or as an observer.

The IBO 2001 website is www.ibo2001.be. General information about the 12th IBO, Belgium and your stay can be found on it. The well-known Official IBO website (Rules, etc.) is www.naturalsciences.net/ibo.

1. Participating countries

The following countries have accepted the Belgian invitation to participate in the 12th IBO:

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kirghizistan, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia (if we get acceptance from IBO CC), Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vietnam.

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan did not give any reply.

Brazil, Cyprus, Mozambique and USA are invited as observers.

Reminder: the co-ordinator of a participating country has to be officially delegated by his/her Government (confirmation is supposed to have been sent to IBO Co-ordinating Centre, tmsoukup@biomed.cas.cz); the competitors have to be the winners of the National Biology Olympiad, held in their country.

2. Declaration forms for competitors

Each competitor has to sign a declaration form, stating he or she is a student in a secondary school in his or her country. If you have sent these forms already by fax or e-mail **please bring the original documents** to Brussels! Blank forms are available from the website www.ibo2001.be ("registration").

3. 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

Send us **immediately** your "Delegation arrival form" (n° 6) **by fax** if you have not done it yet!

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").

Money

The local money is the Belgian Franc (BEF).

Exchange rates: 1 EUR = 40,3399 BEF (fixed rate) – 1 USD \cong 47 BEF (by 18 June 2001).

No smoking !

The Belgian law forbids smoking in every public building. So the students will not be allowed to smoke in the boarding school and the Jury members and observers will have to refrain from smoking in the meeting rooms and other public buildings (museums, etc.).

4. IBO 2001 Short Programme

	<i>Competitors</i>	<i>Jury members - Observers</i>
Sunday 8 July	Arrivals and setting in	
	Dinner	Dinner
Monday 9 July	Visiting Brussels (1)	Introducing the Olympiad
	Lunch	
	Opening Ceremony	
	Visiting Brussels (2)	Jury 1. Approval - translation practical test
	Dinner	Dinner
Tuesday 10 July	Free evening	Jury 1. Approval - translation practical test
	Practical test: 4 x 1 h (+ breaks)	Visiting Brussels Reception in City Hall
	Lunch (barbecue)	
	Trip to Antwerp	
	Dinner	
Wednesday 11 July	Social event	
	Trip to Flanders (Bruges, Zwin, etc.)	Jury 2 Approval - translation theoretical test
	Lunch	
	Dinner	Jury 2 Approval - translation theoretical test
	Free evening	Jury 2. Approval - translation theoretical test
Thursday 12 July	Theoretical test + Informal English test	Jury 3. Practical test results, approving answers theoretical test
	Lunch	
	Trip in 4 separate groups: 2 Sciences Centres, Botanical Garden, Institute of Molecular Biology and Medicine	
	Dinner	
	Brussels by night Rally	IBO co-ordinators meeting
Friday 13 July	Trip to Wallonia (Liège, "Hautes Fagnes", Spa)	Jury 4. Theoretical test results
	Lunch	
	Trip to Wallonia: "Hautes Fagnes", Spa	
	Dinner	
Saturday 14 July	Go-as-you-please in Brussels	Jury 5. Discussion prior to grading and awarding
	Lunch	Lunch
	Closing & awards ceremony	
	Visit to Natural Sciences Museum	
	Aperitif among Dinosaurs & Final dinner (Natural Sciences Museum)	
Sunday 15 July	Departures	

5. 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). Bring sweater(s) with you, a raincoat and an umbrella! But don't forget T-shirts either...

You will need strong shoes or boots for the Friday trip (the "Hautes Fagnes" region is a peat-bog area).

6. Accommodation

Students address:

Internat Autonome de Forest,
Rue de Bourgogne 48
B-1190 FOREST - Belgium
Phone +32 2 345.64.20 - Fax +32 2 343.60.26

Adults address:

Hotel Astrid,
Place du Samedi 11
1000 Brussels - Belgium
Phone: +32 2 219 31 19 - Fax: +32 2 219 31 70

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 are accommodated in a nearby hotel.

Adults accommodation is based on 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 modern styled rooms (TV, in-house movies, radio, telephone, working-desk, free private safe, bathroom with shower, bath, toilet and hairdryer). The jury meeting rooms are within walking distance (about 15 min.).

7. Fees

IBO 2001 Organising Committee is only responsible for the expenses between July 8 and July 15, 2001.

Please notice: if you have paid in June, **please bring the proof of payment** with you (bank transfers may be slow!). Form 7 (Registration fees) makes your payment easier to calculate (for you) and to track (for us). Fax it to us if you pay by bank transfer!

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. Each extra day will be charged at a bargain rate (100 USD per room; but no food or other service is included).

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 will be charged at a bargain rate (100 USD per room; but no food or other service is included).

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)

Now we're in a hurry. In order to speed up the check-in process upon arrival in Brussels, **prior payments are preferred!** Mention your Country name while sending your fee; take the banking costs at **your** charge.

8. Competition

Official competition

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

The practical test will include 4 laboratories which will last \pm 1 hour each, 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, as previously mentioned (nothing has changed):

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.

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).

The dissecting tools and calculators will be provided by the organisers. Students do not need to bring their own.

Informal theoretical test in English

On Thursday 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.

9. Communication devices

Every person participating in the 12th IBO is due to declare which communication devices he or she has brought with him/her (like mobile phones, walkie-talkies, computers, modems, organisers...). These devices will be handed over to the organisers on request.

Any failure to comply with this rule would be reported to the International Jury.

10. Contact address: IBO Secretary

You must know her very well by now... In case you forgot her address, here it is once again!

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We are looking forward to meet you very soon in Belgium!

On behalf of the IBO 2001 Organising Committee,

Gérard COBUT

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