



*The*  
**WSC**  
*Chow!*  
*Guide*

*Essentials and Points for your success - Made by isabelle*  
Perfect for beginners.

# The “Chowl” Guide



## 1. The Jist Of It

- The curriculum is honestly probably the most intimidating part of joining WSC, especially for the first time - just look at the amount of content you have to memorise! However, there are strategies you can use to optimise your memorisation of content and to score as highly as possible in the two events that are based around the curriculum. This guide is going to be divided into two main parts - strategies to use when studying, and strategies to use during the curriculum-based events.
- In terms of scoring, the Challenge has 120 questions which is converted to a score out of 4000 somehow (you'd think each question was worth 33.33 points; this doesn't appear to be the case though since I came second overall at KL globals by what they said was the “equivalent of 2 challenge questions” and the score difference was ~10 points? Maybe they made a mistake?) which makes up 40% of your individual score and 30% of your team score. The amount of questions in the bowl varies but it's usually around 50-60, and it's converted to a score out of 10 000 which makes up 25% of your team score and doesn't count towards your individual score.

# The “Chowl” Guide



## 1. How It Works

- Both the Challenge and the Bowl test you on content learned from the WSC curriculum, which changes every year and can be found at [scholarscup.org/subjects](https://scholarscup.org/subjects). The Challenge is a 120-question multiple choice exam where you're separated from your teammates - it's the only event where you have no contact with your team the entire time. At regional rounds the time limit is 60 minutes and at globals and ToC it's 75 minutes. There is a catch - you can shade more than one answer per question (there's still only one correct answer for every question though), and if one of the answers is correct, you receive an amount of points inversely proportional to the amount of answers you shaded:
  - 1 answer = 1 point
  - 2 answers = 0.5 points
  - 3 answers = 0.33 points
  - 4 answers = 0.25 points
  - All 5 answers = automatic 0.2 points
- In the Bowl, you get to work with your team to answer questions projected onto a screen in a theatre using a remote control clicker (the whole thing is vaguely reminiscent of a Kahoot). There's a time limit of 15 seconds per question for regular rounds, and there'll also be themed rounds (things like picking the country where something is located on a map, the letter that a group of things all start with, or an Among Us round where you have to decide which person from the curriculum is an “imposter” in a group) which might have shorter time limits.

# The “Chowl” Guide



## 1. The Study Outline

- The first thing I'd recommend is to start studying the curriculum as soon as it drops (if you have access to leaks use those - I am not that lucky and I have no clue where to find them lol. But don't trust them too much, they might not be the actual curriculum and people do make fakes). This will maximise your time to get through the entire thing in detail before your round and hopefully provide you with a little free time at the end. My general study routine is that every week I'll try to read through a section of the curriculum (or two weeks for larger sections; what qualifies as a large section varies but in the 2025 curriculum In Futurity was the only section I gave two weeks to).
- I take notes on all the articles and other content they ask you to study, and for regionals I just type all the notes up. These notes tend to be a bit less detailed since the regional challenge goes less in-depth, and for the sections where it asks you to study the content yourself I rely heavily on Wikipedia for regionals and add other websites for globals (Britannica especially is a really useful resource). My notes are primarily designed for myself first as you may be able to tell from my study guide - I link as much of the curriculum as I can to things I've experienced or just anything I have a personal connection with, and sometimes even create inside jokes with myself surrounding the curriculum. I also try to write my notes informally since it makes the process a bit more entertaining and also makes it easier for me to remember.
- Practice quizzes from study guides (some of these are in challenge style, others are not; the important part is just checking how much you know). If anything they test on in these quizzes is not mentioned in my notes I'll add it to them, even if it's really obscure. Just in case!
- Reading back through the curriculum and trying to give a summary of each piece of content, then checking to see if I missed anything important. This is a bit more time-consuming but it gives you a better overview of how much you know of the entire curriculum rather than whatever sections the people making quizzes are focusing on (we do have bias to what we're less confident in ourselves, so if the gaps in your knowledge are different to ours you might never fill them from just quiz content)

## 2. Teammates

- The last part of the study process that's important for me is going through the curriculum with teammates (if your teammates aren't motivated to do this I'm sorry!). We don't really use the “discuss with your team” parts that much; instead we go through each piece of content and just share our opinions on it, which usually covers the majority of what WSC wants you to discuss anyway plus whatever we think is important. This is super helpful for memorisation since it means you can form inside jokes and remember stuff from other people's opinions on it!
- This is pretty much the exact process I use over the course of a season to study for WSC - I should note that my regional is one of the last ones before the global season starts, so I have the luxury of more time before my regional than most people. You may have to compress this schedule slightly but I do tend to have quite a bit of free time after all my regional notes are done so it really depends on how much time you're willing to commit to study and how busy you are with other things in your life.

# The “Chowl” Guide



## 1. Memorizing & Remembering

- So - you've made notes, you've done quizzes, you've talked to your teammates, and now you need to actually get all that content into your memory! This part is very different for everyone because we all have our own ways of memorizing stuff - personally I have a concerningly good memory for useless details (and a concerningly bad memory for important events lol) so this part is quite easy for me and I can pretty much get away with what I've listed above as my study process without having to think too hard about “how can I optimize my memorization of this?”. But there are still some strategies I tend to use to help me get more evasive details down.
- Link it to your personal life: You'll probably see me doing this everywhere in my notes; wherever possible I'll link content to something I've experienced in the past or one of my interests. It makes the curriculum a lot easier to remember when you think of a piece of content and can immediately link it to something that's happened to you in your life. For example, the only reason I remember the names of the psychologists who worked with Pinterest (in the 2025 curriculum) is because any time I got a violation notice on a pin I'd saved in that time I'd think “oh haha Nina and Sara are after me!”
- For memorizing lists of concepts - memory palace technique: This is really useful for those sections of the curriculum where they just list off a bunch of terms for you to study - basically you want to start by picking a familiar location to you like your room or your house. From here, associate each term with an object or place within that location, and then you can go through that location and remember the terms in each area. This one takes a little time to get used to but once you've got the hang of it it's really useful! Again, this is connecting the unfamiliar with the familiar - in general I think that's the easiest way to memorize unfamiliar content.
- Study right before you go to sleep: This is supposedly a scientifically proven method of memorizing stuff - not much to say here, I use it and I think it works for me!
- Handwrite your notes if you have the time: Genuinely this has been the biggest game changer in my time in WSC - I did it for the first time before KL globals in 2025 and I'd actually go so far as to attribute my Jac Khor at least in part to it. It's scientifically proven for a reason! Just make sure to have a lot of pens and paper on hand (I killed 17 pens making my notes for KL lol).

# The “Chowl” Guide



## 1. Content Types

- There are a few main types of content in the curriculum - below I'll break down how to study each of them to maximise the content you can memorise while ignoring details that are probably irrelevant so that you can focus on what matters.
- Articles:
  - Probably the most common form of content you'll find in the curriculum is when they just give you the information in an article. The easiest way to figure out what part of the article is important is to look at what they've described it as inside the curriculum: for example [this article](#) is referenced in the curriculum as “the academic Francis Fukuyama infamously suggested we might have reached the end of history”.
  - This means what you would want to focus on when reading this article is Francis Fukuyama's theory of the end of history - you shouldn't need to worry as much about previous “end of history” theories discussed in the article except for in the context of Fukuyama's theory (i.e. how did they influence it, significant differences, etc.).
  - In terms of specific details like names, dates, stats:
    - You will not need to remember names mentioned in the article unless it focuses on around 1-3 major figures. If it casts a wider net in terms of figures mentioned, especially if they all have similar views, you most likely don't need to know their names. You should only need to memorise the author of the article's name if it's an opinion piece or references the author personally (e.g. the author of [this article](#) or [this article](#) \*might\* be mentioned; the author of [this one](#) almost certainly won't be)
    - You should try to remember the general era something happened in (for more recent events this could be the decade; for older events it can be a bit more vague) as well as the chronological sequence of events if there are several you need to know, but you don't need to know specific dates.
    - In terms of statistics, you shouldn't need to know the actual numbers, just remember the general gist of them - for example, in the 2025 curriculum you shouldn't have to know the exact percentage of female climate scientists that are choosing not to have children, just that it's fairly large.
- Papers:
  - These are basically just extremely long scientific articles - every year there'll be 5 or so in the curriculum for some reason because WSC loves to torture us like that! In general, WSC tests extremely minimally on content from papers, and the content they do test on is quite general. Most of the time you should be able to get what you need from the paper's abstract (a section they all have at the start that will sum up the paper in a paragraph). If you're still interested in the content then keep reading ofc but know that it's almost certainly irrelevant!
- “Research | these | terms”:
  - Honestly I think this is everyone's least favourite part of the curriculum - I hate having to do my own research lol! In general I'll use Wikipedia for this because it has all of the major information on a topic, but for historical events I always use Britannica since it has really good summaries of them, and for scientific terms where the Wikipedia page is usually full of related confusing scientific terms I'll usually google “(term) explained” or go on r/explainlikeim5 on Reddit so that I can find a simpler version. If they want you to research more specific events that don't have their own Wikipedia pages (for example in 2024 we had companies that rebranded) I tend to just google them and read the first few articles that come up to make sure I have a solid base of information.
- Artworks:
  - When studying an artwork for WSC, you can pretty much divide everything you need to know into two main areas: style and context. This means you want to be focusing on the stylistic elements of the artwork such as what period or movement it comes from (e.g. Impressionism, Romanticism, etc.), its level of realism, important details in it, and the story it tells if there is one. The other important thing you should try and look for if you can (note that sometimes this is essentially impossible; WSC often includes a few really niche paintings) is information about the context of the artwork and why it was created, especially for works that depict specific historical events. Most of the time WSC will give you a series of thematically linked artworks, so looking at how each artwork depicts that theme is also important. Also, if they link you to a website with a description of the artwork, you can probably get everything you need from there :)
- Songs:
  - There are generally a few things I like to research when I'm studying a song:
  - Style: If the song has any important musical/stylistic elements (especially for classical pieces and instrumentals) I'll generally try to take notes on those, but sticking to what's notable since they're unlikely to go too niche.
  - Lyrics/themes (if applicable): This is probably the most tested-on part - what is the song actually about, and how does it depict those themes? If it's an instrumental you might need to do a bit more research to find out what it's about but it most likely links to something. Again, WSC will usually give you a list of thematically linked songs, so try to focus on how they portray that theme. Very occasionally WSC will give you questions where you need to know specific lyrics, but most likely these will be repeated lines or from the chorus, so you shouldn't need to memorise the entire song.
  - Context: This can vary from song to song, and some won't really have any, but often there might be a specific reason a piece was written, or if it's from a musical or opera it's helpful to know what the song is about in the context of the plot. Don't go out of your way looking for this though - if it's not easy to find it's probably not getting tested on.
- Poems/short stories
  - These are genuinely my favourite part of the curriculum because they're so entertaining and you barely have to know anything apart from what's already in there. If context is important for one of these WSC will almost certainly reference it in the curriculum, but it basically never is. All you really need to know is the main plot points for short stories/themes for poems, plus how they portray the themes that WSC wants you to look at (for example in the 2025 curriculum we had determinism, immortality and fortune-telling as themes). If a poem uses one main metaphor throughout it the entire time it's probably important to remember that, but memorising all the small details shouldn't be necessary.
- Things they want you to research (but more subtle)
  - These aren't particularly different to the “research | these | terms” sections in terms of what you actually have to do, just a bit harder to find (and why you should actually read the dot points thoroughly, not just skim and click on the links). Basically inside the curriculum they'll sometimes mention “be sure to research the examples of x, y, and z” or something along those lines. You should be able to find everything you need for these on Wikipedia, since they tend to be touched on less than the other forms of content.
- Random factoids
  - Sometimes WSC will mention random facts inside the curriculum (e.g. in the 2025 curriculum they mention that James Garfield's assassin Charles Guiteau believed they had a parasocial relationship). You don't need to research these in any more detail than what's been mentioned, but just be sure to memorise these facts as well since they do come up sometimes.
- “Discuss with your team”
  - You don't need to do this unless you're super dedicated lol - if you want to go through stuff with your team it's better to talk through the actual content since it's much more useful for the events, but there's no harm in doing this if you want!

# The “Chowl” Guide



## 1. WSC Question Styles

WSC tends toward more abstract questions, so specific details are less relevant than taking the broader details and thinking about applying them to other situations and considering people’s motivations and beliefs. Some examples of question styles that you might see include:

- “If you were to advise someone on (topic), which of these would you most likely tell them?”
- “Someone from (topic) would be most/least likely to have/know about/etc which of these things?”
- “Which of these would (curriculum figure) most likely agree with/oppose?”
- “(topic) would best be described as...”
- “Which of these (topics) would someone who believes in (insert belief here) most agree with/oppose?”
- “(topic)” can best be compared to which of these other topics?”
- “(topic) is to (topic) as (topic) is to...”
- “Which of these pairs of topics share a (specific shared trait)?”

This is a very small selection of question styles, but it should give you an idea as to the kinds of content you’ll need to know and the general style that all the questions are written in! There does tend to be a scattering of more straightforward questions as well, but the majority of questions in both the Challenge and Bowl will look something like the ones listed above.

# The “Chowl” Guide



## 1. Challenge Strategy

There honestly isn't that much in the way of “strategy” once you're inside the Challenge - your success will come from your study much more so than any strategies you do or don't use inside the testing room. Some scholars have done a ton of math trying to work out optimal strategies and could probably write you a proof on what the best ones are, however math is not my strongest suit and I really can't be bothered so my test-taking process hinges heavily on process of elimination and \*vibes\* (and it's won me Jac Khors over scholars I'm fairly certain have done the math so... pre-test study over in-test strategy ig).

In general this is pretty similar to regular exam strategy, but some tips I do have are:

- Use a pencil! WSC will try to scare you into using a pen because the computer supposedly can't read it as easily, but provided you press down somewhat hard with the pencil you'll be fine - and it means you can erase your mistakes when you go back and check them.
- Process of elimination: Some study guides will tell you there is an optimal strategy for how many bubbles to choose. I don't think that such a strategy exists. If you're confident in the correct answer then choose that one, but if you're not, just try to eliminate as many answers as possible that you think are \*not\* correct - whether that gets it down to 2 or 4 options left, it's still an improvement from colouring in all 5.

However, sometimes even if you don't actually know the answer, the answer choices will have certain... vibes? to them. This is probably more common if you know the curriculum as a whole quite well but are drawing a blank on the detail you need. If you feel that an answer is wrong because of what you know about it from the curriculum but you can't prove that it's wrong for certain, still eliminate it since there's still a higher chance that it's the wrong answer than that it's correct (especially if there's an answer that feels more correct).

- If you don't know it, skip it (and mark it): This is pretty regular exam advice - if you're completely lost on a question, skip it and then come back to it. But the Challenge sheet is a massive multi-choice bubble sheet and very easy to lose your place on, so if you skip a question, draw a line next to that question. This ensures that you don't accidentally start answering the wrong questions which would be a massive and unnecessary detriment for your score (I have heard horror stories where someone was doing an entrance exam for a school with the same format as the Challenge, skipped question 1, and then put their question 2 answer in question 1 and offset their \*entire\* exam which meant they didn't get in even though they otherwise would've. So yes this does actually happen).
- Aim to finish with some time at the end. It's okay if you rush through the questions a bit when you're going through it for the first time, because it'll give you a chance to read through at least some of the exam a second time and check over your answers. Often when you read a question again you'll pick up on something you might have missed, or remember a detail which lets you eliminate another answer.

# The "Chowl" Guide



## 1. Bowl Strategy

There is a certain amount of strategy to the Bowl since you're in a team in a massive loud theatre - which can lead to disagreement, distractions, and potentially people cheating since the environment isn't super well managed. Below are some of my tips to use this to your advantage:

**Select a clicker holder (and don't let anyone else touch it):** There's often going to be disagreements in your team as to what the correct answer is, and people may try to steal the clicker off each other to pick what they believe to be correct. In order to avoid this (although I'm lucky in that I've never been in a team that would have done this anyway), your team should nominate one person to be the clicker holder for the entire Bowl and let that person have the final say if there are disputes.

**Occam's razor:** The simplest answer in the Bowl is usually the correct answer. Sometimes the questions can seem like there's more than one answer, but they're intended to be more straightforward than the Challenge questions, so if you're stuck, pick the answer that makes the most logical sense. Occasionally Bowl questions will also test on ridiculously easy general knowledge (see: my 2023 globals bowl where one question could be answered just by knowing that the Titanic sank because of an iceberg), and these are \*not\* trick questions - again, the simplest possible solution is usually the correct one.

**Bluffing:** This is kind of malicious since it'll improve your placing by lowering other people's scores, but it's incredibly fun so I'm including it here anyway. If you're fairly certain of the correct answer to a question, or at least fairly certain that one of the answers is wrong, have your clicker holder select the correct answer quietly while your other two team members discuss loudly why one of the incorrect answers is actually the right answer. Then cheer obnoxiously after every question, irrespective of whether you actually got it right. Certain people will be picking up on which teams appear to be doing well based on how often they're cheering, which will then make them more likely to try to copy those teams, and then get the questions wrong when they trust your bluffing. I know it's evil - but it's a lot of fun!

**Hide your clicker:** Because the Bowl is so crowded and noisy, teams who try to cheat off the teams in front of them by looking at their clickers usually won't get in trouble. To avoid people benefiting results-wise from your study without having to do anything themselves, I'd recommend you hide your clicker from them by shielding it with some sort of object (anything roughly clicker-shaped will do - I've used pencil cases, chocolate boxes, even just sticking it under the seat handle if you have to). There's Braille on the clicker next to each answer choice, so if you just learn the letters A-E, you can do the entire Bowl with your clicker hidden and without having to look at it.

And that's all for this guide! Best of luck for your rounds :)

MONTH: FEB

# Teammates WSC

HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOUR TEAMMATES? (0 IF YOUR VERY UNCONFIDENT - 6 IF YOUR REALLY CONFIDENT)

ONLY CHOOSE 7-8 IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE EXTREMELY CONFIDENT

Insert your teammates names here!

CHECKLIST	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>								
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>								
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>								

MY TEAM IS OKAY

MY TEAM IS VERY CONFIDENT

"MY TEAM WILL BE #1" CONFIDENT

You must print this page every week.

remember, consistency over perfection. (im playin perfection is peak)

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