

StellarXplorers IV Academics and Quizzes Summary

StellarXplorers is an engaging competition designed to excite young people about space and the many opportunities that are available in the space operations field. One of the goals of StellarXplorers is for students to learn some of the academic information about space operations. Therefore, teams will be given access to an online space textbook, *Understanding Space*. *Understanding Space* is used for the Introduction to Space course at the Air Force Academy. While *Understanding Space* is a college textbook, we will only be using the sections which are appropriate for high school students.

One of our sponsors, the Colorado Educational Institute (CEI), is providing the *Understanding Space* textbook to all Team Directors, free of charge. Team Directors from last year were already given access to *Understanding Space*, which means you actually “own” the textbook. To access, go to <https://www.inkling.com/read/> and login with your email address. If you have forgotten your password, you can request a password reset. For new Team Directors, once you have been registered and verified, I will send you an email explaining how to obtain the textbook.

For students, if they had access last year, they still have access this year. To access, go to <https://www.inkling.com/read/> and login with your email address. If you have forgotten your password, you can request a password reset. For new students, StellarXplorers must purchase the textbooks and as yet we have not found a sponsor to purchase enough for every student. Instead, StellarXplorers will provide at least one additional textbook per team, which students will have access through May 2018. Our hope is that Team Directors will encourage students to look through the textbooks and learn more about space. To encourage this, StellarXplorers will incorporate scored quizzes during the Qualifying Rounds.

For each Qualifying Round of the competition, 20% of the total score will be based on an online Quiz. The Quizzes will be timed (30 minutes) and taken as a team (not individually). The Quizzes will be Open Book, taken from various Chapters of *Understanding Space* and consist of Multiple Choice and Matching questions. In addition, there will be a Practice Quiz during Practice Round 1. We will also provide a Study Guide for each Quiz. Teams will not be very successful if they wait to look at the textbook for the first time when they are given the Quiz. In order to be successful, we highly recommend teams find the answers to the Study Guide Questions before the Quiz.

Here are the planned Chapters from *Understanding Space* for each Quiz:

Practice Round 1		Chapters 1, 2, 3
Qualifying Round 1		Chapters 4 and 5
Qualifying Round 2		Chapters 12 and 13
Quarterfinal/Prestige Round		Chapters 9 and 14
Semifinal Round		All Previous Chapters