

Scope and Format

This commentary was prepared by Lydell Wiebe for the Eastern Canadian District in September of 2004. It is intended to clarify issues that are common sources of confusion among quizzers, coaches, and officials. It is not a mandatory part of the rulebook and it is not sanctioned by the C&MA Internationals Bible Quizzing Advisory Committee.

The commentary follows the 2004 edition of the C&MA Bible Quizzing Rule Book, elaborating on rules that are commonly forgotten or misinterpreted.

Quiz Officials

II.A.8

What the rule says: “[The quizmaster must] double-check the questions for accuracy and throw out any questions that are found to be invalid.”

What the rule means: It is generally impractical to check every question, so this is not usually done. This rule does imply, however, that if a quizmaster notes an error in a question, it is the quizmaster’s responsibility to throw out and replace that question. It is not the responsibility of any quizzer to challenge such a question.

Example: A question has multiple answers but is labeled an interrogative question and announced as such. A quizzer answers the question but with only one answer. The quizmaster then notices that the question had multiple answers and was incorrectly labeled. The quizmaster should throw out the question and replace it with another multiple answer question. It is not the responsibility of the quizzer to challenge this question.

II.B.2.c

What the rule says: “On a Finish-The-Verse (FTV), Quote, or Finish This (FT) type question, once the quizzer has quoted to the end of the required verse, if the quote is not yet correct, the quizmaster will say “Again.” This will occur as often as needed until the quizzer quotes the verse perfectly or the 30 second time limit expires.”

What the rule means: Note that the rule requires the quizmaster to prompt “Again” only once the quizzer reaches the end of the verse. This means that the quizmaster should not stop the quizzer as soon as she makes a mistake, but instead should allow her to finish the verse and then prompt “Again.”

In general for these types of questions, a quizzer must complete one full cycle of the verse word-perfect in order to be ruled correct. Sometimes quizzers, when prompted “Again,” feel that they know where their mistakes are and will go immediately to that part of the verse, rather than quoting the verse again. There are four possibilities if this happens:

1. The quizzer corrects her mistake. In this case, the quizmaster can rule the quizzer correct; she need not quote the entire verse.
2. The quizzer goes to the correct part of the verse but still makes a mistake. The quizmaster should prompt, “Again.”
3. The quizzer corrects her original mistake but makes a new mistake in the process. If she corrects her first mistake before

she makes a new error, she should be called correct, but if she makes her new mistake prior to correcting the previous one, the quizmaster should prompt, "Again." In other words, she must complete one full cycle of the verse correctly.

4. The quizzer goes to the wrong part of the verse. The quizmaster should prompt "Again." Note that, if the quizzer makes a new error by returning to the wrong part of the verse, she must correct that error before she can be called correct, thus completing one full cycle of the verse correctly.

- Examples:
1. The question is: "Quote Matthew 14:33." The quizzer says, "Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'You are the Son of God.'" The quizmaster should prompt "Again" only when the quizzer reaches the end of the verse. If the quizzer responds, "Truly you are the Son of God," she can be called correct; there is no need for her to quote again the part of the verse she had previously quoted correctly. She must quote enough, however, to make it clear that she knows the answer (to simply respond "Truly" would not be enough, since it does not make it clear where the word "Truly" belongs).
 2. The same question is asked, and when the quizmaster prompts "Again," the quizzer responds, "You are really the Son of God." The quizmaster should prompt "Again."
 3. The same question is asked, and when the quizmaster prompts "Again," the quizzer responds, "saying to him, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'" Because the new error was made before the old one was corrected, the quizmaster should prompt "Again."
 4. The same question is asked, and when the quizmaster prompts "Again," the quizzer responds, "Then all those who were in the boat worshiped him." A new error has been made, so the quizmaster should prompt "Again." The quizzer must now correct both errors before she can be called correct.

II.B.2.d

What the rule says: "If a quizzer answers the question correctly, but is missing information found in the question, the quizmaster may ask the quizzer, "More."

What the rule means: While the rule says to use the prompt "more" only if information from the question is missing, this word is normally also used when information is missing from the answer. In cases where a quizzer gives part of the answer, but it is not quite correct, the prompt "more" is usually used first until the answer is complete, and then "again" is used. This ensures that the quizzer will have his or her full thirty seconds to answer the question. Whether the answer given was sufficiently close to correct can then be determined, if necessary, after the thirty seconds have expired. Normally, the word "more" is used to indicate that an entire phrase has been omitted; a missing word is usually signaled with the use of "again."

- Examples:
1. An interrogative question is asked, "Say to the Daughter of Zion what?" (from Matthew 21:5). The quizzer responds, "See, your Lord comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey." One phrase is missing from the end and the word "king" has been changed to "Lord." The quizmaster should prompt "more" so that the quizzer knows that part of the quote is missing.

If the quote is completed before the thirty seconds expire, the quizmaster should then prompt “again” so that the quizzer knows that something is wrong. By saying “more” first, the quizmaster ensures that the quizzer will have time to finish the quote, after which it can be corrected, or if time expires, the quizmaster can decide whether Lord and King are sufficiently close. This improves the quizzer’s ability to answer the question correctly.

2. A multiple answer question is asked: “Let your light shine before men why?” (from Matthew 5:16). The quizzer responds, “that they may see your deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” This quizzer has omitted the word “good.” The quizmaster should respond with “again” rather than “more.” This is because the prompt “more” implies that there is a third part to the answer, while the word “again” implies that the answer is generally correct but not quite right. The prompt “again” communicates the mistake to the quizzer more accurately, which makes the quizzer more likely to arrive at the correct answer.

III.A.4 & 7

What the rules say: “4. Answer judges will watch the quizmaster’s questions for accuracy of reading.... 7. All questions are checked for accuracy, construction, and distribution by the head answer judge prior to the quiz.”

What the rule means: It is not usually practical for Answer Judges to check every question. This rule does, however, mean that if an answer judge notices cause for a question to be thrown out, whether the fault of the quiz writer or the quizmaster, it is the responsibility of the answer judge to draw this to the attention of the quizmaster. A quizzer should not have to challenge such a question.

Example: A quizmaster misreads a question and the quizzer answers incorrectly. The answer judge should point this out to the quizmaster and the question should be thrown out. It is not the responsibility of the quizzer to challenge this question.

Quiz Meet Regulations and Guidelines

III.B

What the rule says: “If a quizzer’s light comes on after a question has been called and before the question has discernibly begun, a foul will be called. The quizzer is ineligible to answer that numbered question, including the toss-up or bonus question.”

What the rule means: Note that the rule says “discernibly,” not “audibly.” This means that if the quizmaster has begun to form the first letter of the first word of the question, even if he has not yet made a sound, a foul cannot be given; the quizzer is required to answer.

In cases where a foul is given (for whatever reason), the quizzer is ineligible to jump on that question. This means that, even if the question is thrown out for some reason, the quizzer will not be eligible for the replacement question. The quizzer becomes eligible to jump on the next numbered question.

- Examples:
1. A quizzer fouls question 6, which is answered incorrectly by another quizzer. She is eligible to jump on the toss-up question 7 (unless the error was made by a member of her team).
 2. A quizzer fouls question 16, which is answered incorrectly by another quizzer. She is not eligible to jump on the toss-up question 16A, or to answer a bonus question 16B.

VI.A.1

What the rule says: “[An answer is correct when] it contains the information requested. If the quizmaster did not complete the reading of the question, the quizzer’s answer must include the information in the remainder of the question as well as the answer. It is not required to be in question and answer form, except in the case of a reference question.”

What the rule means: Except on a reference question, if a quizzer jumps before the end of the question, the quizzer must not only answer the question; she must also give the information included in the remainder of the question. There is no need, however, for her to give the question written on the card, nor is she required to restate the information already given by the quizmaster.

Example: On an interrogative question, a quizzer jumps after the quizmaster has read, “A voice of one calling...” (from Matthew 3:3). She must answer not only, “”Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”” She must also say “...in the desert.” She is not required, though, to repeat, “A voice of one calling...” or to give the question, “A voice of one calling in the desert, what?”

VI.C

What the rule says: “Only the first answer of the quizzer will be considered correct.”

What the rule means: This rule is intended to prevent a quizzer from trying a few different answers until she finds the right one. It is not intended, however, to prevent a quizzer from modifying her answer at all; if it were, the quizmaster’s prompt “Again” would never be necessary. A quizzer can modify her answer within the time limit before arriving at the correct answer; what she cannot do is change her answer. For example, if the answer is “turquoise” and the quizzer first says “blue,” she can change her answer until she reaches the right answer; she is not incorrect on the basis of this rule. If, however, she says “red,” she will be called incorrect. The key point here is that for a quizzer to be awarded the points for her question, she must eventually reach the correct answer, and she must at no time give the wrong answer. She can, however, give an answer that is close but not quite right without being called incorrect.

A few common situations arise that deserve special attention. First, if a quizzer gives a word or phrase that is clearly taken from elsewhere (i.e., a key word or phrase), she cannot be called correct. If, however, she has the right idea but is not quite correct, she should be given her full thirty seconds to reach the correct answer. As a note to the quizzer, if you are unsure about the answer, you are most likely to be called correct if you start with a short answer, and then lengthen it if you need to. If you give too little information, you will get your full thirty seconds to reach the

correct answer, but if you give too much incorrect information, you will have to be called incorrect.

Another possibility that this rule raises, in conjunction with the context rule, is that of quoting through a passage of material. If a quizzer does not definitively state an answer, but instead quotes through a passage of material that is in context of the answer, she is correct as long as the correct answer is included in the material. This can be advantageous to quizzers in situations where questions that start in similar ways occur near each other in the material.

- Examples:
1. The interrogative question is asked: "Magi from the east came where?" (from Matthew 2:1). If the quizzer answers, "to Judea," she is not incorrect, although she is not correct either. Because Judea does not clearly come from elsewhere, and because she is not wrong (Jerusalem is indeed in Judea), her first answer is not incorrect. She must, however, say "Jerusalem" before her thirty second time limit expires in order to be awarded the points.
 2. A Chapter Reference question is asked: "According to Matthew 19, is it lawful for what?" (from Matthew 19:3) but the quizzer jumps after hearing only "According to Matthew 19." If she gives her answer as, "What region? The region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan" (from Matthew 19:1), her first answer must be taken and she must be called incorrect. If, however, she starts in verse 1 and quotes through the first three verses, she will include the correct answer and will be called correct, assuming she gives the correct question when asked. Because she has not stated anything as a definitive answer, but instead has quoted the material, her "first answer" was the first three verses of the chapter, and she can be called correct. In this way, the rule requires some discretion on the part of the quizmaster as to whether an answer was given or a passage was quoted; it is in the best interests of a quizzer to always quote the passage of material surrounding the correct answer, rather than to simply state the answer.

VI.D

What the rule says: "All material given by a quizzer must be from the context of the question. Context shall be limited to five verses before or after the verse or the paragraph, whichever is greater."

What the rule means: Because this rule has not been followed in the Eastern Canadian District in recent years, this year the rule is in effect only for Chapter Reference questions, in order to allow officials some time to get used to it. This rule must be read in conjunction with the previous first answer rule. As explained with regard to the first answer rule, all material must be close to correct, and the quizzer must give the correct answer within the thirty second time limit. She must not quote material that clearly comes from elsewhere. That is not to say, however, that every word she uses must appear within the context of the question; to check that would be impractical and unduly harsh. It does mean, though, that the material must not be clearly taken from elsewhere (i.e., she cannot quote from two separate passages of the material).

Note that the context of Quote, Finish-The-Verse, Finish This, and Chapter Verse Reference questions is always limited to the verse in question, as stated in Question Types and Content Distribution sections I.B.6, I.C.1, and I.D.4.

Example: The interrogative question is: "Be as shrewd as what?" (from Matthew 10:16). If the quizzer answers, "Foxes," she is incorrect, as her first answer is both wrong and out of context, having come from Matthew 8:20. If, however, she says, "Serpents," she can be given her full thirty seconds, because her answer is close to correct and is not clearly from another passage. She will, however, need to give the key word "snakes" in order to be called correct.

VI.E

What the rule says: "1. The correct person of the deity must be given. The quizzer may not move between persons of the deity when answering. 2. If a quizzer refers to the deity as either "God" or "Lord", these must be clarified by the quizzer within 30 seconds when the text requires a more specific answer. "Jesus" and "Christ" may be interchanged. ...4. When there is a special name of the deity given in the text, which imparts specific character qualities or attributes to that person of the deity, the specific name must be given in the quizzer's answer... The quizzer may not state other such names which are not in context, even if they refer to the same person of the deity. 5. When a quizzer gives other names for the same person of the deity, used within context, these should be allowed to be clarified within 30 seconds when a more specific answer is needed."

What the rule means: Except in questions that require the answer to be word-perfect, the correct person of the deity is all that is required; the correct name is not necessarily needed. For instance, if the answer is "Jesus" and the quizzer says "Christ," that is sufficiently close to be called correct. Likewise, "the Lord" is generally close enough to "the Lord God" to be considered correct. There are many similar examples.

Note that a quizzer can move from a general name of the deity (like "God" or "Lord") to a more specific name of a person of the deity (like "Jesus" or "Father"). The quizzer cannot, however, go from a specific name to a general name.

Example: The interrogative question is asked: "See your good deeds and praise whom?" (from Matthew 5:16). The quizzer answers "God." This general name of the deity is not incorrect, and as such, the quizzer should be given her full thirty seconds to answer. She must, however, state her answer as "your Father in heaven," or something very similar (such as "your Father, who is in heaven"), to be called correct.

VII.A.1

What the rule says: "[An answer is incorrect when] incorrect information has been given that is not part of the context even though the right answer may be included in it."

What the rule means: Most of the situations that come out of this rule have already been addressed, and therefore will not be readdressed here. One specific

situation is worth mentioning, however. Sometimes a quizzer answering a Quote or Finish-The-Verse question will quote the correct verse and continue into the next verse. If the quizzer quotes the first verse perfectly, she will be called correct, even if she continues into the next verse. In this situation, she has correctly answered the question before she gives information from out of context, and is therefore correct. If she makes a mistake in quoting the verse, however, her information from out of context will make her incorrect, even if she then returns and corrects her mistake. In this case, she has given information from out of context before she correctly answers the question, and is therefore incorrect.

VII.A.3

What the rule says: “[An answer is incorrect when] the time limit has elapsed before the complete answer is given.”

What the rule means: The one point that should be mentioned with respect to this rule is that the tie does not go to the quizzer. That is, if the buzzer begins to sound before the quizzer has completed her answer, she must be called incorrect.

Question Types and Content Distribution

General

The number of each question type that should be included in each quiz is given in this section of the rules. If a quizmaster or answer judge is aware that this distribution has not been followed, he should adjust the quiz accordingly, if this is possible (refer to Quiz Officials II.A.8 and III.A.7).

I.B.2 & 3; 1.C.3 & 4

What the rules say: “2. [Finish-The-Verse Questions] must be strong enough to stand on its own without requiring additional verses to explain it. 3. [They] must be of spiritual value or be significant to the chapter.” Rules 1.C.3 & 4 are similar but apply to Quote questions.

What the rule means: These rules are intended primarily as a guideline for question writers, rather than a basis for quizzers to challenge. Thus, a quizzer’s challenge that a Finish-The-Verse or Quote question is invalid because it does not stand on its own or is of insufficient spiritual value or significance to the chapter will almost always be overruled. The argument that any verse of Scripture either is unable to stand on its own or is insignificant is generally an untenable one.

I.D.4

What the rule says: “Chapter-Only and Chapter-Verse Reference Questions: A question is required if a jump is made prior to the complete reading of the question. The question given must be a similar question to the one on the card and fulfill the requirements of the question and answer on the card. The quizzer must stay within the context on a chapter-only reference question and may not change to another verse on a chapter-verse reference question.”

What the rule means: Note that the rules require only that the question be similar, not identical. Thus, the same question given with a different interrogative is still correct.

In general, it can be said that the question given need not be the same as that on the card, but must meet the following requirements:

1. Taken together, the question given by the quizzer and its answer must include all of the information in the question and answer on the quizmaster's card.
2. The question given by the quizzer must be valid for the question style. That is, the question given must not have multiple answers when the question asked was not a multiple answer question. Likewise, a chapter-verse reference question must not be unique; the same question must be able to be asked of another verse in the chapter. Similarly, a chapter-only reference question must not occur elsewhere in the same chapter, but it must occur elsewhere in the book.
3. If the quizzer jumps after part of the question has been read, the question given by the quizzer must begin in the same way as what the quizmaster has read.

Note that the rules imply that a question and answer may be "reversed," provided the question given is a valid one. If the quote from the material said "black sheep" and the quizmaster's question was "black what?" the question "what sheep?" would also be acceptable, provided it meets the requirements of the question type.

- Examples:
1. On the Chapter-Only reference question "According to Matthew 27, the whole what?" (from Matthew 27:27), the quizzer jumps before the question is complete. After quoting the answer correctly ("the whole company of soldiers"), she gives her question as "the whole company of what?" While her question and answer together include all the necessary information, her question is invalid because it contains a key word, and therefore her question is not a chapter-only reference question. She is incorrect.
 2. The Chapter-Verse reference question is asked: "According to Matthew 19:24, what kingdom?" but the quizzer jumps before the question is begun. She correctly quotes the verse and gives her question as "the kingdom of whom?" Because this is a valid question (see Matthew 19:23) that requires the same information, and because the quizmaster had not begun to read the question, she is correct, even though her question is not the same as the quizmaster's.
 3. The Chapter-Verse reference question is asked: "According to Matthew 6:23, your whole body will be full of what?" but the quizzer jumps after the word "body." She correctly quotes the verse and gives her question as "your whole body will be what?" Because her question and answer together require the same information as the quizmaster's, because her question is also valid (it has only one answer and also appears in verse 22), and because it fits with what the quizmaster has said, she is correct.

II.A.3

What the rule says: "[Questions should be declared invalid by the quizmaster or answer judges if] a Multiple-Answer, Reference, Finish-The-Verses, Situation, or Quote Question is not preceded by a statement to that effect."

What the rule means: If a quizmaster neglects to specify the question type before these types of questions, it is not the responsibility of the quizzers to challenge the

question. Rather, if the answer judges or the quizmaster notice, they should throw out the question.

II.A.12

What the rule says: “When a question is deemed invalid and thrown out, it must be replaced with the same type of question. (i.e. Interrogative replaced with Interrogative, CVRMA replaced with CVRMA, etc.)”

What the rule means: Keeping this rule is necessary to maintain the distribution of the quiz.

Rules for Tournaments

II.A Specific Rules Pertaining to Internationals

What the rule says: “No question shall be used more than twice in the International Finals.”

What the rule means: By the omission of this rule in the section pertaining to all tournaments other than Internationals, the rule book implies that this rule does not pertain to district tournaments. Furthermore, this rule is generally intended for those generating quizzes, rather than as a basis for challenge. Because this rule does not apply at district quiz meets, and because it is difficult for a quizzer to show that an identical question has been used in two other quizzes, a challenge made based on this rule will always be overruled at the district level.

Efforts are made to ensure that an identical question is not used twice in the same quiz. While there is no basis in the rules for a challenge based on this, it is good practice for quizmasters and answer judges not to use questions that are noted to have been used previously within the same quiz.