



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF NORTHERN SAMAR

August 18, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 332 s. 2026

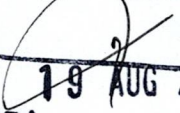
**GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF HISTOPOP (POPDEV CHALLENGE) DURING
THE DIVISION FESTIVAL OF TALENTS**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Division Chiefs, CID and SGOD
Public Schools District Supervisors/District-in-Charge
School Heads
Araling Panlipunan Coordinators and Teachers
All others concerned

1. In reference to DepEd Memorandum No.2 s. 2027 NFOT guidelines, this Office, through the Curriculum Implementation Division (CID), informs all concerned personnel on the guidelines in conducting the **HISTOPOP (POPDEV Challenge)** in the School, Municipal and Division level. The HISTOPOP (POPDEV CHALLENGE) will take place during the Division Festival of Talents this **September 6-8, 2026**.
2. Please refer to Enclosure No. 1 of this Division Memorandum, for further details.
3. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are hereby directed.


GAUDENCIO C. ALJIBE, JR. PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

DepEd Northern Samar
RELEASED

By: 
19 AUG 2026
Note: _____



Address: Mabini St., Brgy. Acacia, Cataman, 6400, Northern Samar
Telephone Nos: (055) 500 1020
Email Address: northernsamar@deped.gov.ph
Division Official Website: <https://northernsamar.deped.gov.ph>

HISTOPOP (POPDEV CHALLENGE)

KEY STAGE	Key Stage Three (3): Grade 10
NO. OF PARTICIPANT/S PER Municipality	1 learner-contestant from Key Stage Three 3 (Grade 10) 1 teacher-coach
TIME ALLOTMENT	180 mins.
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	Naipamamalas ang malalim na pag-unawa at pagpapahalaga sa mga kontemporaryong isyu at hamong pangkalikasan, pang-ekonomiya, karapatang pantao, pampolitika, pananagutang sibiko at pagkamamamayan sa kinakaharap ng mga bansa sa kasalukuyang panahon gamit ang mga kasanayan sa pagsisiyasat, pagsusuri ng datos at iba't ibang sanggunian, pagsasaliksik, mapanuring pag-iisip, mabisang komunikasyon at matalinong pagpapasiya tungo sa mapanagutang pagkamamamayan ng daigdig.
21ST CENTURY SKILL/S	Communication Skills, Learning and Innovation Skills, Life and Career Skills, Information Media and Technology Skills
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Digital Media, Creative Research and Development
CAREER PATHWAYS	Youth Advocate, Population Officer, Demographer, Public Servant, Urban Planner, Social Welfare Officer, Statistician, Researcher, and Educator
DESCRIPTION	The PopDev Challenge focuses on assessing understanding of population dynamics, development issues, trends, and their social, economic, and environmental impacts. Specifically, it covers the following Population Education Core Messages/Key Concepts: • Family Life and Responsible Parenthood • Gender and Development • Population and Reproductive Health

- Population, Environment, Resources, and Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development		
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
A. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by learner participants, if any: -school ID -certification as an official contestant of the Municipality	To be provided by the Technical Committee: - markers (black) with erasers -whiteboard (size: 9"x12") -timer -tally sheets -tabulation sheets - 2 LCD projectors/2 SMART TVs (55 inches)/2 LED Walls -sound system -tables and chairs -internet connection
B. VENUE	● Well-ventilated and well-lighted room/function hall ● 18 tables and chairs for the learner-contestants ● 3 long tables and chairs for the judges and TWG ● At least 50 chairs for the coaches and Regional AP Supervisors	
C. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING	Round Points Easy (8 items) 1 (8 points) Average (7 items) 2 (14 points) Difficult (6 items) 3 (18 points) Total 21 Items 40 points	
ATTIRE	NFOT Shirt	
MECHANICS		

Pre-Event

- A. The **PopDev Challenge** is open to all Grade 10 learners who are officially enrolled for the **School Year 2026-2027**.
- B. The formulation of test questions at the local and national levels shall be based on the following Population Education Core Messages/Key Concepts:
- Family Life and Responsible Parenthood;
 - Gender and Development;
 - Population and Reproductive Health; and
 - Population, Environment, Resources, and Sustainable Development.
- C. Questions shall be constructed using the English language.

D. The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) shall prepare and provide questions and review materials for the PopDev Challenge. Each answer slide deck must include reference/s.

During the Event

- A. Draw lots will be done on the actual day before the contest proper to determine seating arrangement.
- B. During the challenge, learner-contestants shall be provided with whiteboards, markers, and erasers.
- C. Learner-contestants shall be given a total of twenty-one (21) questions, divided into three categories: eight (8) "easy," seven (7) "average," and six (6) "difficult" questions.
- D. Points for every correct answer shall be given as follows: One (1) point shall be given to the correct answer for each "easy" question, two (2) points for each "average" question, and three (3) points for each "difficult" question.
- E. Learner-contestants shall be given ten (10) seconds to answer each question. For questions that require computation, participants shall be given a maximum of thirty (30) seconds.
- F. The moderator shall only read each question twice. Countdown shall start after the question has been read for the second time and the moderator says "GO". When the moderator says, "STOP or "TIME IS UP.", learner-contestants must raise their answers to the audience and to the judges until such time that the proctors have verified or confirmed the answer. A general reminder shall be given to all. However, if the learner-contestant still violates, his/her answer shall not be considered.
- G. A learner-contestant shall be allowed to change his/her answer within the allotted time.
- H. In case of a tie, a clincher question shall be asked. The first learner contestant who answered correctly shall be declared as the winner.
- I. In case of inquiry during the actual challenge proceedings, the following procedures shall be observed:
 - Only the learner-contestant or the official teacher-coach is allowed to raise an inquiry before the next question is read.
 - The inquiry shall be addressed orally to the judges, who shall recognize the inquiry.
 - The Chairperson shall announce the decision upon deliberation with the members of the board of judges.
- J. The decision of the judges is **final** and **irrevocable**.

After the Event

The members of the board of judges shall provide general feedback on the conduct of the PopDev Challenge.

HISTOPOP

(Reason and Resolve)

KEY STAGE	Key Stage Four (4): Grade 11
NO. OF PARTICIPANT/S PER REGION	1 learner-contestant from Key Stage Four 4 (Grade 11) 1 teacher-coach
TIME ALLOTMENT	180 mins.
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	Nakapagpapahayag ng paninindigan (hal. Posisyong papel o pahayag, adbokasiya) na nagsusuri sa karanasan ng mga Pilipino laban sa iba't ibang anyo ng opresyon. Nakabubuo ng angkop na panukalang proyektong pangkomunidad bilang adbokasiya sa mga kasalukuyang plano ng pag-unlad tungo sa pagtatamo ng kolektibong pangarap ng sambayanang Pilipino.
21ST CENTURY SKILL/S	Communication Skills, Learning and Innovation Skills, Life and Career Skills, Information Media and Technology Skills
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Digital Media and Artificial Intelligence, Creative Research and Development, Civic Engagement
CAREER PATHWAYS	Youth Advocate, Public Servant, Lawyer/Statesmen, Social Welfare Officer, Human Resource Officer, Researcher, Policy Development Analyst, and Educator
DESCRIPTION	The Reason and Resolve is an NFOT contest that aims to engage Senior High School (Grade 11) learners in a structured and evidence-based exchange of ideas on relevant local, national, and global issues. It seeks to strengthen learners' competencies in critical thinking, analytical reasoning, research-based argumentation, effective communication, collaboration, and responsible civic engagement. Through informed discourse, participants will demonstrate higher-order thinking skills, uphold ethical standards in presenting arguments, and promote patriotism, democratic values, and global citizenship, fully aligned with the

competencies and performance standards of the Strengthened Senior High School curriculum.

Key messages: Philippine History, Asian studies, Economics, Contemporary issues, Politics and governance, Human rights, Global citizenship, Disaster risk reduction, Peace education, Sustainable Development Goals, ASEAN Integration, and international relations

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
D. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by learner participants, if any: -school ID -certification as an official contestant of the Municipality	To be provided by the Technical Committee: -timer -tabulation/tally sheets -score sheets - LCD projector/SMART TV/LED wall -sound system -tables and chairs
E. VENUE	-ventilated and well-lighted room/function hall -holding room -2 tables and chairs for the two groups of learner contestants -3 long tables and chairs for the judges and TWG -at least 50 chairs for the coaches and Regional AP Supervisors	
F. ATTIRE	Corporate/Executive attire	
MECHANICS		

Pre-Event

- A. The **Reason and Resolve** is an individual contest open to all Senior High School Grade 11 learners who are officially enrolled for the School Year 2026-2027.
- B. Topics shall be formulated by Division Office using the English language.
- C. Learner-contestants shall observe respectful language and ethical conduct.

During the Event

- D. Draw lots shall be done on the actual day to determine whether the learner-contestant belongs to the affirmative or negative side of the topic and their respective sequence. It shall be done during the elimination and final rounds.
- E. Different topics shall be given for each round.
- F. After the draw lots, the first two learner-contestants shall stay while the others will be led to the holding room.
- G. Microphones shall not be used during the delivery of their arguments.

(Enclosure No. 1 to Division Memorandum No. s. 2026)

- H. Cellphones and other electronic gadgets shall not be allowed in the holding area and contest venue. Access to the internet is strictly prohibited.
- I. After the learner-contestant's performance, he/she shall join the audience.
- J. The Board of Judges shall provide the topic.
- K. Only one topic shall be used per round.
- L. The learner-contestant shall read the topic before the opening statement. He/She shall be given one (1) minute before starting his/her delivery.
- M. Contest flow:
- Elimination and Final Round
- Opening Statement (affirmative) - 2 minutes
Opening Statement (negative) -2 minutes
(Introduces the topic, states position, and brief outline)
 - Main argument - affirmative (2 minutes)
Main argument – negative (2 minutes)
(Presents a clear debatable assertion supported by logical evidence and reasoning)
 - Rebuttal – affirmative (2 minutes)
Rebuttal- negative (2 minutes)
(Provides counter-argument to directly oppose, weaken or refute an opponent's claim)
 - Closing argument - affirmative (2 minutes)
Closing argument – negative (2 minutes)
(Synthesizes arguments and directly refutes the opposition's core claim, and leaves the audience with a final thought)
- N. Top eight (8) qualifiers for the final round shall be determined by the judges based on the scoring rubrics.
- O. The learner-contestant shall stop immediately when the buzzer signals that the allotted time is up.
- P. The decision of the Board of Judges is **final** and

irrevocable. After the Event

The members of the board of judges shall provide general feedback on the conduct of the Reason and Resolve contest.

Scoring Rubrics for Reason and Resolve

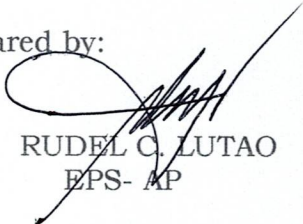
Exhibit Rubrics	Presentation
Content accuracy and mastery	35%
<i>Focus on the depth of knowledge regarding local, national, or global issues</i>	15 %
<i>Integration of key messages (e.g., Economics, Politics, Human Rights)</i>	10%

<i>Use of precise and updated data/facts</i>	10%
Quality of arguments and perspective	25%

(Enclosure No. 1 to Division Memorandum No. s. 2026)

<i>Focus on presenting a clear, debatable assertion supported by logical reasoning, civic awareness, and democratic/global citizenship values.</i>	15%
<i>Relevance, sufficiency, logical validity, freedom from fallacies, and use of credible evidence</i>	10%
Critical Thinking and Rebuttal	20%
<i>Presents logical, well-reasoned, and evidence-based arguments</i>	10%
<i>Responds confidently and promptly to opposing arguments, communicates ideas clearly and persuasively</i>	10%
Organization and clarity <i>Focuses on structural flow: an engaging introduction/ position statement, a clear body of arguments, an effective synthesis/rebuttal, and a decisive final thought within the allotted time.</i>	10 %
Delivery, confidence, and persuasion <i>Focus on vocal projection, presence, stage command, and persuasive impact.</i>	10%
Total	100%

Prepared by:


RUDEL C. LUTAO
EPS- AP