Tips to winning the National Economics Challenge
as provided by the Council for Economic Education’s Webinar:
Preparing Your Students for the NEC In-Person

Tips are provided by a multi-year winning National Economics Challenge teacher. Failure to score well in the Challenge is NOT a measure of teaching; sometimes the ?s your students are most prepared for are not asked.

Best strategy to follow:
- Teach the course well
- Practice MC ?s for the on-site quiz bowl
- Practice QB ?s from the past, the style of questions asked
- Current events preparation and knowledge
  o Have students present current events in class
  o Summer readings that lead to fall presentations (national news)
  o Team readings during school year. Each member on team picks two topics to study and know inside and out (begin this once known which students advance to state event):
    - Euro Central Bank
    - Famous Economists
    - Federal Reserve Banks – online research sites
      - Dallas
      - Minnesota
      - Richmond
    - Bureau of Econ Analysis
      - CPI
      - Unemployment Rate – online research sites
- Students must own the team/take responsibility for their success. Example:
  - Students research and come up with questions to populate practice tests. Builds a question bank over the years.

Practice answering ?s in a Quiz Bowl format. Write a grant for a buzzer system for Challenge “practice” or see if the state Council on Economic Education or the local regional Center of Economic Education can apply for a grant. Set of buzzers can be found for less than $100.
- Have teams practice a mock Quiz-Bowl 1x/ week during the semester of the competition, to prep for successfully answering questions in a timed setting with the limitations of buzzing in against each other.
- Consider holding an in-school challenge for Quiz Bowl practice with an audience.

Two timelines seem to work well in preparing students to excel in the competition:
- 1st semester Econ course & 2nd semester club
- Year-long Econ course