

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Reference:-L4.3.5.27
Date: - 20 January 2026

**To: CHIEF DIRECTOR: DISTRICT OPERATIONS
DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM GET
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM HEADS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM CO-ORDINATOR: GET
PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATORS: MATHEMATICS GET
MATHEMATICS SUBJECT ADVISORS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE 2026

The South African Maths Foundation, in collaboration with the Northern Cape Department of Education, hereby invites all schools to participate in the Mathematics Challenge for Grade 4-7 learners.

Benefits of the Maths Challenge:

- **Strengthening Problem-Solving Skills:** Engage learners in a thrilling challenge that goes beyond conventional problem-solving. SAMC's unique approach in Round 1 encourages students to challenge themselves, making problem-solving both enjoyable and team oriented.
- **Building Confidence for Future Competitions:** Participating in SAMC allows learners to gain confidence in their problem-solving abilities. This newfound confidence becomes a catalyst, inspiring them to actively pursue and excel in future mathematics competitions.
- **Developing Essential Soft Skills:** SAMC not only focuses on mathematical prowess but also nurtures essential soft skills. Learners acquire valuable skills such as time management, effective preparation strategies, and a positive mental attitude towards competitions.



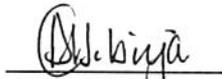
Dates for the Maths Challenge are as follows:

ROUNDS	DATES
Closing date for registration	27 February 2026
1 st Round	16 – 20 March 2026
2 nd Round	20 May 2026
3 rd Round	10 September 2026

Schools are encouraged to enter as many learners as possible as exposure to these Olympiads will result in learner improved performance in Mathematics. The Northern Cape Department of Education will pay for the registration fee of the learners. **Schools are expected to pay for the courier fees of the learners answer sheets to the South African Maths Foundation.**

Attached is the registration form.

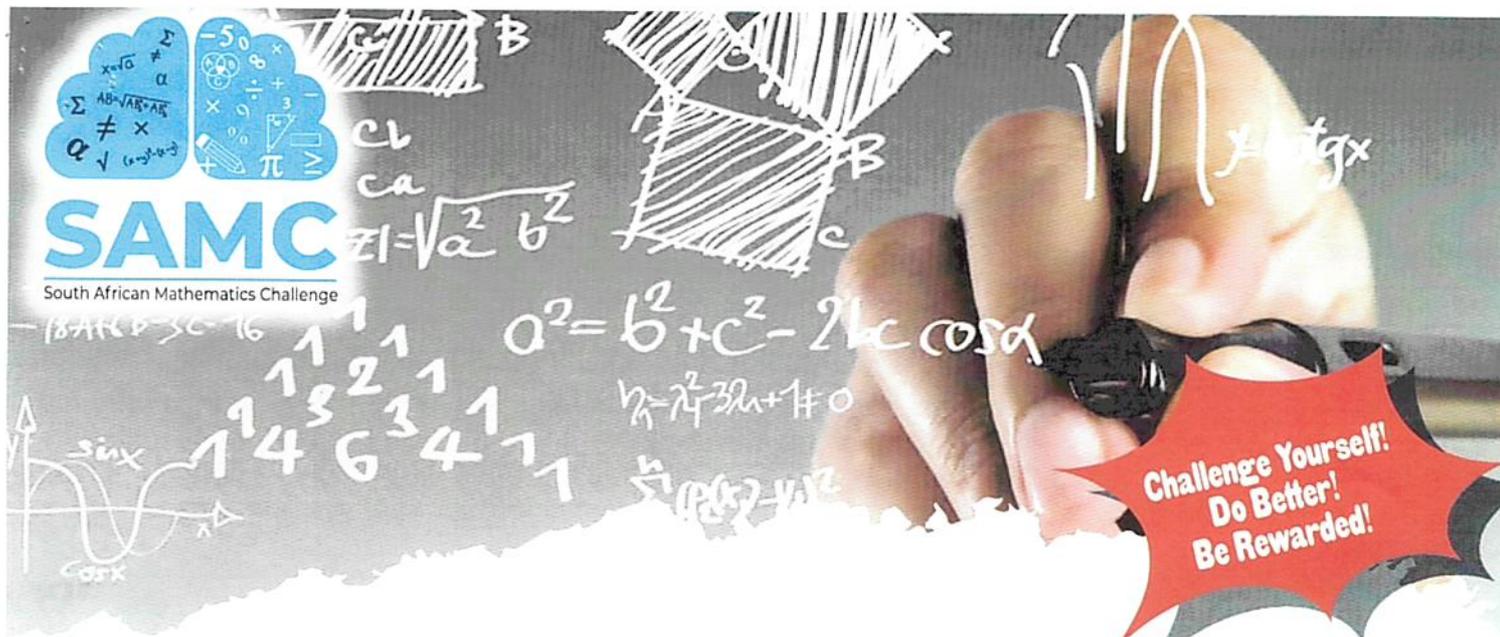
Kind Regards



G.D.SIBIYA

CHIEF DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY





SAMC
South African Mathematics Challenge

**Challenge Yourself!
Do Better!
Be Rewarded!**

South African Mathematics Challenge

Registrations open in January 2026

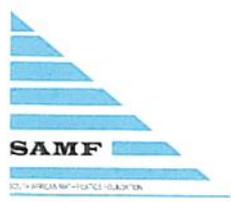
Endorsed by the
Department of
Basic Education!!

Grade 4 - 7

First Round: 16 to 20 March 2026

Closing date for entries: 27 February 2026

The South African Mathematics Challenge is organised by the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) in cooperation with the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) and South African Mathematical Society (SAMS).



REGISTRATION DETAILS

- The last day to submit your entries is 27 February 2026.
- Online entries: You can register and pay online via PayFast to ensure your entry!
- Manual entries: Email your completed entry form and proof of payment (we can only register your school if we receive both documents) to samc@samf.ac.za
- Absolutely no late entries will be accepted.

NB: Only schools that have registered for the First Round (i.e. submitted their entry form and paid the entry fee on time will be allowed to participate in the First Round. We can only register your school if we receive both documents!

ENTRY OPTIONS

(See last page for details)

ONLINE OPTION (DO NOT SUBMIT ENTRY FORM) REGISTER ONLINE ON:

<https://www.samf.ac.za/en/challenge-entry-2026>

Schools outside South Africa enter online at R70 per learner which includes online registration; online payment; online participation through SAMF Online platform. (Only ONLINE option available i.e. no hard copies will be posted OR couriered OR emailed.)

MANUAL/PEN AND PAPER OPTION:

- South African schools at R45 per learner includes final instructions, question papers, answer sheets and solution. These will be emailed as soon as we have received your entry form and proof of payment.
- Quintile 1 & 2 schools can enter unrestricted number learners free of charge provided they send confirmation letter of their Quintile status.

THE THREE ROUNDS

FIRST ROUND: 16 – 20 MARCH 2026

- The First Round is written at your school on any day in the week of the 16 – 20 March 2026. The recommended duration is one hour, but a little more time may be allowed.
- There are separate papers for grades 4, 5, 6 and 7. Each paper consists of 20 questions with multiple-choice answers.

Online Participation (OUTSIDE SA SCHOOLS ONLY):

- Register and participate online on SAMF platform.
- No marking or submission of results are required, since the papers will be marked by the system.

Manual Procedure:

- The papers will be marked by the teachers or *learners can mark and discuss it in class!* Memoranda will be emailed with the papers.
- After the First Round participating schools submit their results and names of Second Round qualifiers using the provided registration form.

SECOND ROUND: 20 MAY 2026

Learners scoring at least 50% (10 or more out of 20) in the First Round qualify to participate in the Second Round, which will be written on the 20th of May 2026.

- Learners will only participate as singles.
- There are separate papers for grades 4, 5, 6 and 7. Each paper consists of 20 questions multiple-choice answers.
- Only schools that have registered for the Second Round (i.e. submitted their Second Round Registration forms to SAMF) on time) will be allowed to participate.
- The Second Round is written at individual schools.
- The answers are marked by computer.
- The Second Round results and certificates will be posted to participating schools. Schools that submit their results after the due date will receive their results and certificates LATE and their learners will not be considered for Final Round.

THIRD ROUND: 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

Approximately 400 best performing learners from the Second Round will be selected to write the Third and Final Round on the 10th of September 2026.

- This round will be written at identified centralised venues per province (Information will be communicated as soon as the venues have been finalised).

WHY SHOULD WE ENTER?

- Mathematics competitions generate a lot of enthusiasm and curiosity for the subject.
- Learners will be exposed to problems that will test and improve their thinking, discovering and validation of problem solving methods. In short, they will become better mathematicians.
- The South African Mathematics Challenge is recognized as one of the best vehicle to identify talented learners the country.
- The participation will result in a better quality of product from schools and will put their learners in a position to reap higher achievement in secondary school and later in tertiary institutions.

RESOURCES

- Working through old question papers is one of the best ways to prepare for the Challenge.
- Past question papers and solutions are available on our website- <https://www.samf.ac.za/en/sa-maths-challenge-past-question-papers-solutions>. Register as a user and log in to gain access to these resources.

DISQUALIFICATION

Kindly note all answer sheets will be analysed to identify any irregularity before Third Round qualifiers are announce We appeal for professionalism to uphold the integrity of the competition. Should any irregularities regarding the writing of the papers be detected, the answer sheets of those involved will not be taken into consideration. Schools w be disqualified and reported to the school's authority!

AWARDS

Awards for learners in the Second Round

- A "Gold" Certificate of Achievement: Score > 80%.
- A "Silver" Certificate of Achievement: $60% < \text{Score} \leq 80\%$.
- A "Bronze" Certificate of Achievement: $50\% \leq \text{Score} \leq 60\%$.

Awards for learners in the Final Round

- Personalised Certificate of achievement.

National Awards for learners: (South African Entrants Only!!):

- Personalised Certificate of achievement.
- National winners per division (Senior Division AND Junior Division) will receive GOLD medals.
- National runners-up per division (Senior Division AND Junior Division) will receive SILVER medals.
- Top performing Learners per Quintile (Quintile 1 – 5), will receive Trophies.

Best performing learner (s): (Outside South Africa!!):

- Personalised Certificate(s) of achievement for Top learner(s) per division (Senior Division AND Junior Division).
- Personalised Certificate(s) of achievement for Runners-up(s) per division (Senior Division AND Junior Division).

National Awards for schools: (South African Entrants Only!!):

Best Performing Schools are presented with awards at the SAMF annual award function and the categories are:

- Overall Best Performing School.
- Best Performing Schools per Quintile.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

South African Mathematics Foundation

Tel: +27(0)12 392 9362/48

E-mail: ramaboeat@samf.ac.za / rasehwetep@samf.ac.za Website: www.samf.ac.za

2026 ENTRY FORM

PUBLIC SCHOOL: Please tick the appropriate boxes (✓)

Quintile:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
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INDEPENDENT AND HOME SCHOOL:

Please tick the appropriate boxes (✓)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Home School
1. Total number of learners in the school:			
2. Choose 1 of the three options:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent School
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Home School
3. Indicate your school's location:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Township
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban
4. Is your school part of the MST Grant project:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
5. Has the school entered before?:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure

FOR SAMF OFFICE USE ONLY:

School ID	<input type="text"/>
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NB: this information is important for purpose of sending question papers and continued communication.

Name of School:		
Postal Address:		
		Postal Code:
Physical Street Address:		
		Street Code:
School Email:		
Tel:	Cell:	Fax:
Province:		
Nearest Town:		
Name of the District Municipality:		
Contact name of the Teacher:		
Cell phone of the Teacher:		
Email of the Teacher:		

STATISTICS: FIRST ROUND PARTICIPANTS

The following information is required for reporting purposes.

RACE	GRADES			
	4	5	6	7
Black				
White				
Coloured				
Indian				
Foreign National				
Other				
TOTALS				
Male				
Female				

PAYMENT DETAILS:

THE ENTRY FORM SERVES AS A TAX INVOICE

VAT no: 452 026 3569

Please complete the section below:

Entry Option	No. of learners	Fee (Incl. 15% VAT)	Total amount	Method of payment
ONLINE OPTION Outside South African Schools: i.e. online registration; online payment; write 1st round online.	DO NOT SUBMIT ENTRY FORM ENTER ONLINE	@R70 per learner	R	Visit: https://www.samf.ac.za/en/challenge-entry-2026 OR  Direct payments or electronic transfers can be made to: SAMF ABSA Bank Branch: Hatfield Account No: 4061037913 Branch code: 632005 NB: submit your school's name as reference.
		@R45 per learner	R	
PEN & PAPER OPTION				
South African Schools: i.e. email entry form and proof of payment. 1st Round question papers will be emailed. or enter online on https://www.samf.ac.za/en/challenge-entry-2026				
MST schools		Paid by Provincial Department		
Sponsorship (Not more than 100)		Submit written request		
Quintile 1 and 2		Free of charge		
TOTAL NO. OF LEARNERS		TOTAL AMOUNT		

NB: Entries without the correct entry fee or without proof of payment will be rejected. No refunds will be given for rejected, late or cancelled entries. It is each teacher's responsibility to ensure that entry forms are AND payments are submitted on time. No postal orders or cheques will be accepted. Schools from outside South Africa, must exchange their currency to South African Rand.