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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Date: - 19/02/2026

**To: CHIEF DIRECTOR: DISTRICT OPERATIONS
DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM FET
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM HEADS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM CO-ORDINATOR
PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATOR: PHYSICAL SCIENCES
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
PHYSICAL SCIENCE SUBJECT ADVISORS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 2026 FOR GRADE 10-11 LEARNERS

The National Science Olympiad is an annual competition conducted by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) in partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Education.

The National Science Olympiad is in its 61st year and the project offers learners in grades 10 -11 an exciting opportunity to compete in science with fellow learners from all nine provinces as well as SADC countries such as Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Namibia. This Olympiad consists of two papers, namely Physical Sciences and Life Sciences.

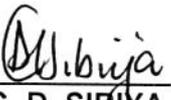
The main aim of the National Science Olympiad is to identify talent, encourage excellence in science education and to stimulate interest in the sciences. It seeks to inspire young people to consider careers in science and technology.

The registration fee is R35 and the Northern Cape Department of Education will pay for the registration of all participating learners.

Information on how to enter and rules of the competition is attached.



Kind regards


G. D. SIBUYA

CHIEF DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY





National Science Olympiad

(Life Sciences and Physical Sciences)

2026

Overview

The National Science Olympiad is in its 61st year and the project offers learners in **grades (10 -11)** an exciting opportunity to compete in science with fellow learners from all nine (9) provinces as well as SADC countries such as Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The competition comprises an annual examination in science (Physical and Life Sciences).

The top national performers stand to win prizes. The main aim of the competition is to identify talent, encourage excellence in science education and to stimulate interest in the sciences. It seeks to inspire young people to consider careers in science and technology.

How To Enter the Competition

Educators register the learners on the following online registration platform. Please click on this link: <https://olympiads.co.za/eduregister>

1. Learners may enrol for both Physical Sciences and Life Sciences
2. Only learners in **grades 10, and 11** may enter.
3. **Closing date** for entries: **30 March 2026**

Entry Fee

The entry fee for the National Science Olympiads is **R35.00** per learner per paper.
Closing date for **payment** of entry fees: **31 May 2026**

What if the learner cannot afford the entry fee?

Special arrangements can be made for schools/learners that cannot afford the entry fee. Principals or the HOD should apply via letter by 16 May 2026 and email it to:

Life Sciences: LifeSci@saasta.nrf.ac.za OR Physical Sciences: Physics@saasta.nrf.ac.za

Banking details

Account Name: SAASTA
Account Number: 4060145672
Branch Name: Pretoria
Branch Code: 323345
Reference: School name

Examination Dates

The National Science Olympiad comprises of two papers, and the Olympiad dates are as follows:

1. Life Sciences – **Tuesday, 28 July 2026**
2. Physical Sciences – **Tuesday, 4 August 2026**

Minimum 50% of the paper will be based on CAPS (Grade10 to 11).

Round: One round only

Duration: 3 hours (12:00 – 15:00)

Where: The paper will be written at school (Manual or online using any device, depending on what option the educator selected when registering the learners)

Format: Multiple choice questions (100 questions)

Language of paper: Available in English and Afrikaans

Eligibility: The Olympiads are open to **all grade 10 and 11 learners only**

Preparation: Educators are welcome to download previous papers from the SAASTA website to use in the classroom. www.saasta.ac.za Click on competitions and choose the competition you are interested in. Scroll down to “**Download Past Papers**”

Papers and answer sheets: NRF-SAASTA will courier Olympiad papers **only** to schools who selected the pen-and-paper option when registering the learners.

Note: Schools courier **answer sheets** back to SAASTA. An envelope will be provided for this purpose.

Queries

Life Sciences: LifeSci@saasta.nrf.ac.za

Physical Sciences: Physics@saasta.nrf.ac.za

Tel: 012 392 9300

Educators

1. Please motivate your learners to experience the thrill of competing with others from around the country in the National Science Olympiad.
2. Help coordinate learner participation in this event.
3. Help your learners prepare by accessing Olympiad papers from previous years on our website

Prices And Awards

Prizes/awards are given to deserving learners such as the top national and provincial winners.
