



National Science Olympiad (Life & Physical Sciences) 2025

Overview

The National Science Olympiad is in its 60th 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

1. Educators register learners on the following online registration platform. Please click on this link: <https://olympiads.co.za/eduregister>
2. Learners can enrol for both Physical Sciences and Life Sciences
3. Only learners in **grade 10, and 11** may enter.
4. Closing date for **entries: 30 March 2025**

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 2025**

What if the learner cannot afford the entry fee?

Special arrangements can be made for schools/learners that cannot afford the entry fee. Principals of the HOD should apply via letter by 16 May 2025 and email it to scienceolympiad@saasta.nrf.ac.za.

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

Examination Dates

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

1. Life Sciences – **Tuesday, 29 July 2025**
2. Physical Sciences – **Thursday, 31 July 2025**

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)

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**

Composition of paper:

1. Remembering - 20%
2. Understanding – 30%
3. Applying – 30%
4. Analysing – 20%

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 to schools.

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

Queries (new email address): scienceolympiad@saasta.nrf.ac.za or Tel: 012 392 9300

Prices And Awards

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