E-mail: Info@saolympiads.co.za website: www.saolympiads.co.za

Natural Sciences & Technology Olympiad
GRADE 4

DATE: 25 AUGUST 2026

TIME: 90 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This booklet has 11 pages (including the cover) with 50 multiple-choice questions.
2. Use the answer sheet provided.

   Circle the letter corresponding to your answer.
3. Each question carries 1 mark.
4. You have 90 minutes to answer all the questions on this paper, which works out to an average of 1.8 minutes per question.
5. Read each question carefully before answering.

ENJOY THE OLYMPIAD.

Grade Four Natural Sciences and Technology Olympiad 2026

Indicate the correct answer by circling the corresponding letter on the answer sheet provided.

1. Which animal is a HERBIVORE? **(1)**
A. Lion
B. Cow
C. Snake
D. Frog

2. What do CARNIVORES mainly eat? **(1)**
A. Plants
B. Fruits only
C. Other animals
D. Insects and plants

3. An animal that eats BOTH plants and animals is called a: **(1)**
A. Herbivore
B. Carnivore
C. Insectivore
D. Omnivore

4. Which of these animals is an insectivore? **(1)**
A. Elephant
B. Eagle
C. Frog
D. Goat

5. Why do herbivores have flat teeth? **(1)**
A. To tear meat
B. To grind plants
C. To catch insects
D. To bite other animals

6. Which of the following are the three states of matter? **(1)**

A. Solid, water, gas
B. Solid, liquid, gas
C. Ice, water, steam
D. Hard, soft, runny

7. Which state of matter has a fixed shape and a fixed volume? **(1)**

A. Solid
B. Liquid
C. Gas
D. Air

8. Why does ice melt when it is taken out of the freezer? **(1)**

A. It gets colder.
B. It loses heat.
C. It gains heat.
D. It turns into gas.

9. Which sentence BEST describes a gas? **(1)**

A. It keeps its shape.
B. It flows and stays in one place.
C. It spreads out to fill its container.
D. It has a fixed volume.

10. When you pour milk into a cup, what state of matter is the milk? **(1)**

A. Solid
B. Liquid
C. Gas
D. Ice

11. What happens to butter when it is left in the sun? **(1)**

A. It freezes.
B. It melts.
C. It boils.
D. It breaks.

12. Ice, water, and steam are all made from the same substance. What is it? (1)

A. Air
B. Milk
C. Water
D. Heat

13. Why does a balloon get bigger when air is blown into it? (1)

A. Air is a solid.
B. Air takes up space.
C. Air disappears.
D. Air turns into liquid.

14. Which container is BEST for storing water? (1)

A. A net
B. A basket
C. A bottle
D. A sieve

15. Which of the following shows a correct match? (1)

A. Solid – water
B. Liquid – air
C. Gas – steam
D. Gas – stone

16. What is PHOTOSYNTHESIS? (1)

A. When plants breathe.
B. When plants make their own food.
C. When plants drink water.
D. When plants grow roots.

17. Which part of the plant mainly makes food during photosynthesis? (1)

A. Roots
B. Stem
C. Leaves
D. Flowers

18. What do plants need from the Sun to make food? **(1)**

A. Heat
B. Light
C. Smoke
D. Air pollution

19. Which gas do plants take in during photosynthesis? **(1)**

A. Oxygen
B. Carbon dioxide
C. Nitrogen
D. Helium

20. Which substance do plant roots take in from the soil for photosynthesis? **(1)**

A. Oil
B. Sugar
C. Water
D. Sand

21. What food do plants make during photosynthesis? **(1)**

A. Protein
B. Starch
C. Sugar (glucose)
D. Fat

22. What gas do plants give out during photosynthesis? **(1)**

A. Carbon dioxide
B. Oxygen
C. Nitrogen
D. Smoke

23. Why is photosynthesis important for animals and humans? **(1)**

A. It makes plants grow tall.
B. It helps plants breathe.
C. It provides food and oxygen.
D. It makes flowers smell nice.

24. Which of these would slow down photosynthesis the MOST? **(1)**

A. Plenty of sunlight.
B. Enough water.
C. No sunlight.
D. Healthy leaves.

25. Which sentence is TRUE about photosynthesis? **(1)**

A. Only animals can do it.
B. Plants make food at night only
C. Plants use sunlight to make food.
D. Plants are consumers.

26. What does it mean to REDUCE waste? **(1)**

A. Use more things.
B. Throw rubbish anywhere.
C. Use less and avoid waste.
D. Buy more plastic.

27. Which of the following is an example of REUSING something? **(1)**

A. Throwing a bottle away.
B. Using a glass jar to store buttons.
C. Burning paper.
D. Buying new plastic bags.

28. Which item can be RECYCLED? **(1)**

A. Banana peel
B. Plastic bottle
C. Dirty tissue
D. Used food

29. Why is recycling important? **(1)**

A. It makes rubbish smell better.
B. It helps save resources and the environment.
C. It creates more waste.
D. It wastes water.

30. Which action is BEST for the environment? **(1)**

A. Using a reusable shopping bag.
B. Throwing litter on the ground.
C. Leaving taps running.
D. Burning rubbish.

31. What is electricity mainly used for? **(1)**

A. Growing plants.
B. Making food.
C. Powering lights and appliances.
D. Cleaning water.

32. Which of these uses electricity? **(1)**

A. Candle
B. Gas stove
C. Torch
D. Bicycle

33. Why is it dangerous to touch electrical plugs with wet hands? **(1)**

A. They become dirty.
B. Water conducts electricity.
C. The plug will break.
D. Nothing will happen.

34. Which object is a GOOD conductor of electricity? **(1)**

A. Plastic ruler
B. Wooden stick
C. Metal spoon
D. Rubber eraser

35. What should you do if you see a broken electrical wire? **(1)**

A. Touch it.
B. Play near it.
C. Tell an adult.
D. Pick it up.

36. What is the safest thing to do if your clothes catch fire? **(1)**

A. Run fast.
B. Hide.
C. Stop, drop, and roll.
D. Shout and run.

37. Why should matches and lighters be kept AWAY from children? **(1)**

A. They are toys.
B. They can cause fires.
C. They are colourful.
D. They are noisy.

38. Which item is used to put out a small fire? **(1)**

A. Pillow
B. Fire extinguisher
C. Plastic bag
D. Paper

39. What should you do if there is a fire in your home? **(1)**

A. Hide under the bed.
B. Call friends.
C. Get out quickly and tell an adult.
D. Open all windows.

40. Why is it important to not play with fire? **(1)**

A. Fire is bright.
B. Fire can burn and hurt people.
C. Fire makes smoke.
D. Fire is hot only sometimes.

41. Which object gives the Earth <u>light and heat</u>? **(1)**

A. The Moon
B. A star
C. The Sun
D. A planet

42. Why does the Moon look different on different nights? **(1)**

A. The Moon changes size.
B. Clouds cover it.
C. We see different parts of the Moon lit by the Sun.
D. The Moon moves closer to Earth.

43. Which of these is a planet in our solar system? **(1)**

A. The Sun
B. The Moon
C. Mars
D. A star

44. What causes day and night on Earth? **(1)**

A. The Earth moving closer to the Sun.
B. The Sun moving around the Earth.
C. The Earth spinning on its axis.
D. The Moon blocking the Sun.

45. Which object would you MOST likely see in the night sky? **(1)**

A. The Sun
B. A rainbow
C. Stars
D. Clouds only

46. What is a VERTEBRATE? **(1)**

A. An animal with wings.
B. An animal with a backbone.
C. An animal with no legs.
D. An animal that lives in water.

47. Which of the following animals is an INVERTEBRATE? **(1)**

A. Dog
B. Bird
C. Fish
D. Spider

48. Which group do humans belong to? **(1)**

A. Invertebrates
B. Reptiles
C. Vertebrates
D. Insects

49. Why is a snail an invertebrate? **(1)**

A. It is very small.
B. It moves slowly.
C. It has a shell.
D. It has no backbone.

50. Which of these animals is a vertebrate? **(1)**

A. Worm
B. Butterfly
C. Crab
D. Frog

TOTAL MARKS = 50