Economic and Management Sciences Results

Grades 7 – 9 • 2026 Olympiad

SA Olympiads produced the Economic and Management Sciences Olympiads for grades 7 – 9 in 2026. The Olympiad was written by grades 8 – 9 in 2025; Grade 7 sat it for the first time this year.

An Olympiad asks a learner to do more than recall what has been taught. It sets unfamiliar problems in a familiar subject, and rewards the learner who reads carefully, reasons clearly and is willing to attempt a question whose method is not obvious.

That is a different skill from writing a school test, and it is one that grows with practice. Learners who sit Olympiads tend to approach their own examinations more confidently, because they have met questions that cannot be answered by memory alone. The habits it builds – structured reasoning, persistence, checking your own work – carry well beyond the subject itself.

Our thanks to every school that entered this year, and to the teachers who prepared learners and ran the sittings.

A. Overall Results

The total number which entered this Olympiad was approximately 3 535 learners. Grade 7 sat the Olympiad for the first time and produced the strongest set of results in the phase, with 14% of learners achieving gold and a further 19% silver. The two grades which also wrote in 2025 improved beyond recognition. Grade 8 moved from no gold or silver gradings at all to 10% gold and 12% silver, and cut its participation band from 94% to 26%. Grade 9 went from 1% silver and no gold to 8% gold and 5% silver, with its participation band falling from 86% to 43%. At a high level there are key areas of development which need to be addressed, but the direction of travel is clear. Where your school has performed better than below, these educators must be applauded for their outstanding work.

A summary of the performance in terms of the gold, silver, bronze and participation categories is detailed below:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Participation
Grade 7	14%	19%	36%	31%
Grade 8	10%	12%	52%	26%
Grade 9	8%	5%	44%	43%
Overall	**13%**	**16%**	**39%**	**32%**

Table 1

B. Top Learners per Grade

The top 5 learners per grade are listed below, being the learners with the highest marks for that grade-specific Olympiad. Where several learners from one school placed in the leading positions, a maximum of three learners per school is listed, so that the table reflects the spread of performance across schools. These learners will receive medals and discounted fees on the digital courses at www.saolympiads.co.za, and those shaded in gold will receive cash prizes.

Grade 7

Position	Name	School
1	Lilitha Nkqwili	Zithulele Independent School
2	Riba Motheo	Kopjeng
2	Cara Lammerding	Laerskool Tygerpoort
2	Khumalo Olwethu	Nsiwa
2	Mgabhi Simphokuhle	Nsiwa

Grade 8

Position	Name	School
1	Abdur Rahman Laher	The Learning Legacy
2	Ntshembho Mathye	Khanyisa Education Centre
2	Ethan Mahlangu	Lowveld Academy
3	Remofilwe Morake	Advanced College
3	Chokoe Bohlale	Graceland

Grade 9

Position	Name	School
1	Wela Mfeli	Libode
2	Mashao Matome	Graceland
2	Moodley David	Wingen HS
3	Xego Kwanda	Nqabane SSS
3	Ampfunaho Mudau	Uitsig High School

C. Concluding Remarks

An Olympiad exists to find the learners who think well under an unfamiliar question, and to give schools a measure of where their learners stand against the country rather than against one another.

The performance in the 2026 Olympiads is a marked improvement on 2025 in both grades which wrote in each year, and the new Grade 7 entry has started from a strong base. Schools should not be disappointed if the results did not meet their expectations. They should rather see this as an opportunity to improve learners in the gaps identified.

Past papers and guides are available on **www.saolympiads.co.za** which should help you prepare for the Olympiads.

Digital courses for learners are now available on **www.saolympiads.co.za** as well, provided by our partner the Virtual School of Africa.

D. Important Dates to Diarise

Registration:	Open now at saolympiads.co.za
2026 prices held until:	31 March 2027
Written – 3-term schools:	Last school week before Term 2 closes
Written – 4-term schools:	August 2027, on the published subject dates

Register and pay before 31 March 2027 to hold 2026 prices – from R35 per learner per subject; every price rises by R5 from 1 April 2027. Papers are emailed to your school one week before the write date.