Natural Science and Technology Results

Grades 4 – 9 • 2026 Olympiad

SA Olympiads produced the Natural Science and Technology Olympiads for grades 4 – 6 and the Natural Science Olympiads for grades 7 – 9 in 2026. This report covers both in one document: Table 1 sets out grades 4 – 6 and Table 2 grades 7 – 9.

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 8 080 learners. Performance in the senior primary phase was exceptionally strong. Grade 6 led the way, with 59% of learners achieving a gold grading and only 9% in the participation band. Grade 4 placed 42% in gold and Grade 5 36%, with silver adding a further 17% and 19% respectively. Across grades 4 – 6, 46% of learners achieved gold and only 13% finished in the participation band. Gold gradings on this scale are well above those seen in the other Olympiads, and schools should read the paper's demand alongside these figures when comparing subjects. In the high-school phase, Grade 7 produced the strongest results, with 12% of learners achieving gold and a further 18% silver, and the smallest participation band at 32%. Grade 9 placed 16% in silver, the highest silver share of those three grades, but only 6% in gold. Grade 8 was the weakest on every measure, with 7% gold, 9% silver and almost half the grade in the participation band. At a high level there are key areas of development which need to be addressed, particularly in Grade 8. 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 4	42%	17%	25%	16%
Grade 5	36%	19%	29%	16%
Grade 6	59%	17%	15%	9%
Overall	**46%**	**18%**	**23%**	**13%**

Table 1

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Participation
Grade 7	12%	18%	38%	32%
Grade 8	7%	9%	35%	49%

Grade 9	6%	16%	31%	47%
Overall	**10%**	**15%**	**36%**	**39%**

Table 2

B. Top Learners per Grade

The top 10 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 4

Position	Name	School
1	Emma van der Merwe	Country House
1	Mondise Sithole	Curro Roodeplaat
1	Arav Harshiv Naidoo	Virginia Prep
1	Mkhize Emihle	Maqongqo PS
1	Dlamini Declan	Royal Mount College Riverside
1	Uwais Brey	Wynberg Boys' Junior School
2	Wyatt Coombe	Capella House
2	Leago Mooketsi	Curro Mahikeng
2	Rushav Venkanna	Curro Rivonia
2	Luyanda Ndlovu	Grantham Park

Grade 5

Position	Name	School
1	Isla Millar	Generation School
2	Shamiso Chikowore	Curro Roodeplaat
2	Andreas van Heerden	Generation School
2	Channing Neilson	Generation School
2	Mikhael Villem Anthonissen	Reddam House Durbanville
2	Rachel Letago Gororo	Independent Candidate
2	Saarthak Srivastava	Montrose Primary School
2	Evan Hirst	St Stithians Boys' Prep
2	Likho Kwenze Mamane	St Stithians Boys' Prep
2	Aydin Lmbrechts	Woodhill College

Grade 6

Position	Name	School
1	Elize Jacob	Curro Aurora
1	Joe Pieters	Curro Rivonia
1	Vaishnav Rajesh	Blouberg International School
1	Sam Akpa	Kidlands PS
1	Riyanka Moodley	Northdene PS
1	Aarin Govender	St Stithians Boys' Prep
1	Stefan Gutram Johann Buchhold	St Stithians Boys' Prep
1	Ryan Haschick	Summerwood PS
1	Aariz Mazema	Wynberg Boys' Junior School
1	Isa Gamildien	Wynberg Boys' Junior School

Grade 7

Position	Name	School
1	Zian Vorster	Glenwood House
2	Jehiel Gounden	Northdene PS
3	Mufaro Mgazi	Curro Roodeplaat
4	Ashlyn Subroyen	Pretoria Chinese School
5	Rumaysa Patel	Azaadville
5	Rikhotso Rivoningo	Bright Star Christian Academy
5	Kiara Ramkissoon	Curro Aurora
5	Mfunwa Anothando	Elityeni PS
5	Aliana Stipec	Glenwood House
5	Phiwe Makosonke	Libode

Grade 8

Position	Name	School
1	Craig Nyathi	Royal Mount High School
2	Madiba Tshegofatso	Graceland
3	Tyler Haasbroek	Brylin Independent Learning Centre
3	Mitchell Zuma	Elevation Academy
4	Kagiso Tshiamo Manale	Future Comprehensive
4	Ferdie Le Grange	Hoerskool Garsfontein
4	Sahashra Harinarain	Eden College
4	Mkhefelele Paul	St Martins
4	Jessica Nikeza	Teneo
4	Matthew Von Maltitz	Waterfall College

Grade 9

Position	Name	School
1	Motheo Rapitsi	Graceland
2	Jezreel Jeewan	Teneo
3	Azola Ubisi	Libode
3	Riley Anthony Rathborne Cooke	Waterfall College
4	Mila Van Wambeke	Waterfall College
5	Tracey Johnson	Brylin Independent Learning Centre
5	Caleb Steadman	Riverside College
6	Ramiz Jada	Azaadville
6	Bonolo Mahlatsi Mkazi	Hoërskool Silverton
6	Christyn Jacob	Werda 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.

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.

The learners listed above will participate in the qualifying rounds for an international competition in 2027.

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.