Technology Results

Grades 7 – 9 • 2026 Olympiad

SA Olympiads produced its second Technology Olympiads in 2026, now spanning grades 7 – 9. Grade 7 is reported here for the first time alongside the high-school grades.

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 2 020 learners across all grades. Grade 7 is the strongest of the three grades in its first year in this report, with 8% of learners achieving gold and a further 9% silver – the only grade in the Olympiad to place learners in both of the top two bands in any number. Both high-school grades improved markedly on 2025, the Olympiad's first year. Grade 8 was the stronger of the two, with 8% of learners achieving silver and half the grade placing in the bronze band, against 28% bronze and no silver in 2025. Grade 9 produced the high-school phase's first gold grading and cut its participation band from 80% to 67%. 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	8%	9%	28%	55%
Grade 8	0%	8%	50%	42%
Grade 9	1%	4%	28%	67%
Overall	**5%**	**8%**	**32%**	**55%**

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	Chani Hofmeyr	Laerskool Tygerpoort
2	Joel Govender	Northdene Prep
2	Charlotte van Acker	Summerwood
2	Mapudi Carly Mahlase	Thingwa
3	Sithole Luthando	Inkhanyeti

Grade 8

Position	Name	School
1	Seyjal Ramdeen	Durban North College
1	Xuza Alulutho	Nqabane SSS
2	Ledwaba Reneiloe	Graceland Combined
3	Keotshepile Moyo	Advanced College
4	Taytum Woodward	SBCS

Grade 9

Position	Name	School
1	Lobi Qhawe	Nqabane SSS
2	Nyoni David	Armour Foundation
2	Analee Mashonganyika	Cresta College
3	Nate Naidoo	Durban North College
4	Leago Mokone	Hoërskool Silverton

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 has shown encouraging results and is a marked improvement on 2025 in both high-school grades. 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.