

NCRST
NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

National Science Quiz Guide

2024

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Introduction

The National Science Quiz (NSQ) is an annual event where high school learners from all the regions compete against each other in answering scientific.

The purpose of the NSQ is to stimulate learner's interest in science and technology while simultaneously promoting the development of the skills such as communication, strategic thinking, teamwork, and ignite the passion for learning.

Entering a National Science Quiz,

Eligibility/ Limitations

High school learners (Grade 8-12) can apply and participate in the National Science Quiz. Interested schools, learners and teachers should contact their nearest regional Science Quiz coordinator for more information.

Ensure that entry forms are fully completed; that the information is clear, and you have entered your information correctly.

Teams

Each region consists of at most six (3) participants under the supervision of one teacher and a Science Quiz Coordinator:

- Must be a Science teacher;
- Each contestant must be a high school registered learner on the day of the competition;
- Contestants must not be enrolled in any post-secondary institution; and
- Each participating region must provide their contact details: postal address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Design

Level 1 and 2 of the competition will be a face-to-face written test. The marking for level 1 and 2 will be done by the teachers selected by the schools under the guidance and close supervision of the regional science quiz coordinator. For level 3 and 4, learners will be required to do the oral.

RULES OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE QUIZ

1. Each team may only be made up of three members.
2. Points are scored by correct answers to questions having pre-stated values. No points are subtracted for wrong answers.
3. Should an answer be interjected from the audience, the question may be discarded at the Quiz Master's discretion.
4. Questions requiring a person's name as an answer may be correctly answered by giving the person's surname only, provided there is no other person having the same surname with whom he or she might be confused (e.g. the Roosevelts). If more information is provided then is required for a correct answer and some portion of the information is incorrect, the whole answer will be deemed incorrect.
5. If at the end of the contest, two teams have the same number of points, the tie is broken in a sudden-death playoff. The first team to answer a question correctly in overtime wins the quiz. All overtime questions are valued at five points.
6. Appeals regarding answers to questions should be lodged only by the team's teacher, not the players. Appeals may be lodged only at the breaks or at the end of the game before the quiz competition is declared official. If a contestant wishes to discuss a protest with his or her teacher, they may work out a hand-signal to arrange a conference at the next break.
7. Decisions of the judges are final. The official declaration of the outcome of the match is irrevocable. A game shall not be replayed, even if the outcome could have been altered by judgment errors.
8. To be an eligible contestant, a learner must be enrolled in a participating high school at the time of the contest.

First and third round rules

1. All questions in these rounds are a "toss up".
2. The Quiz Master will ask 10 Questions in these rounds
3. Players may interrupt a question while it is being asked if they believe they can anticipate the answer required by the completed question.
4. The player first signalling readiness to answer by activating the electronic response system must wait to be recognized by the Quiz Master as the eligible respondent. If a player gives an answer before being recognized, the question will be completed for the opposing team.

5. If the recognized player gives an incorrect answer or no answer, the first member of the opposing team to signal readiness may respond after being recognized.
6. If a team answers a question incorrectly before the question is completed, the question will be completed and the opposing team will be given an opportunity to answer.
7. If the end of round tone sounds while the Quiz Master is asking a question, he or she will stop, and the round is finished. If the bell sounds during or after a player signals readiness to answer, the player may give the answer to the question—if he or she is correct, the round is ended; if wrong, the opposing team is given opportunity to answer, and the round is ended.
8. The first round is called the “Warm Up Round” and questions are worth 5 and 10 points. The third is called “Stump the Experts” and questions are valued at 15 and 20 points.

Second round rules

1. The round begins with the team that answered the last question of the previous round correctly. They will answer 10 questions.
2. This round is called “Sixty Seconds” and each question is worth 10 points. If any team answers all 10 questions in a set correctly, they are awarded a 20-point bonus.
3. All answers must be given by the team captain.
4. The captain need not be recognized by the Quiz Master before responding, and the electronic response system is not used except to keep time.
5. The captain may respond before the Quiz Master has completed a question, but the Quiz Master will complete all questions after a right or wrong answer has been given.
6. After the first team’s round has expired, the second team may try to answer any questions the first team missed.
7. After completing these attempts, the round for the second team start.
8. After the round has expires for the second team, the first team tries to answer the questions missed or passed by the second team.
9. **IMPORTANT:** The team is playing against the 60 Second clock in each question. The Quiz Master will give the team only 60 seconds to answer a question. If the team does not know the answer, the captain must say “Pass” to move on to the next question. Once a team misses or passes on a question, they cannot later return to it.

Awards

At the national level, the host institution will be responsible for the awards medals, prizes and certificates of participation. Medals for the Mathematics Olympiad contestants will be gold, silver and bronze. The total number of medals awarded will not be more than half of the number of contestants.

Depending on the availability of funds, learners will get awards as follow:

- Overall winning team: N\$2000 (each learner), framed certificate
- 1st Runner up team: N\$1000.00 (each learner), framed certificate
- 2nd Runner up team: N\$500 (each learner), framed certificate
- Winning schools - Scientific equipment -N\$10000
- 1st Runner up schools N\$5000 - Scientific equipment - N\$10,000.00
- 2nd Runner up schools 5000 - Scientific equipment - N\$5,000.00

Responsibilities

Host institution

The host institution takes care of all the science quiz necessities, the awards medals, prizes and certificates of participation.

Participating regions

The participating regions in consultation with the steering committee should ensure that round 1 and 2 takes place smoothly and the 6 winners are entered to compete in round 3 and 4.

Administration

Science Quiz Coordinator(s)

The Coordinator(s) will be appointed for the term of one year and must be proficient in math and science . The Coordinator(s) must be fluent in the official languages of the science quiz: English.

The Coordinator(s) is required to:

- Be familiar with the hosting modality and be able to use it to ensure the region have participated in all rounds of the competition.
- Participate in the various working meetings; and

- Provide mediation before and during the coordination process, in case of disputes between team leaders and coordinators.

Questions setting Committee

The Problems Committee will consist of DNEA, MoEAC and NCRST. The question setting Committee members will meet on stipulated times to work on the problems which will cover, Biology, Physical Science, Mathematics, Chemistry, Mining and Telecommunication.

Jury Committee

This committee will consist of the question setting Committee and the Organizing Committee. The Jury has the responsibility to select questions for each round from the short list recommended by the question setting Committee.

Mathematics Problems

Submission of Problems

All the problems will be set by the DNEA.

Syllabus

The questions will be based on the Namibia curriculum. The problems must cover, Biology, Physical Science, Mathematics, Chemistry, Mining and Telecommunication.

Problems must be original. Learners must be able to answer without referring to sophisticated theoretical knowledge.

Methodology

An advert will be placed in the newspapers, social media pages of NCRST as well as partnering institutions and through the education regional directorate officers. All schools that wish to participate in the National Science Quiz must register through their respective Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture regional offices. Regional Coordinators will be responsible for the registration process and registration will be done online through a google form on or before a date set by the organising committee. The NCRST will keep a database of all schools in the country who registered for the competition.

Participation in the science quiz is open to all learners from grade 8 to grade 11. The science quiz will be conducted in the following 4 stages:

STAGE - I (School Level)

During this stage of the competition all registered secondary schools in the different regions will conduct a written multiple-choice test of 10 questions for all interested learners. Each participating learner will be scored on a 10-point scale. This stage of the competition will take place in April. The Top 3 performers of each school will be selected for Stage II (Circuit level).

Each school should select two teachers to conduct this stage of competition and to coach the school team.

The organizer at the school is encouraged to host the event face to face, as per the procedures indicated in stage – IV (the national level).

STAGE - II (Circuit Level)

During this stage of the competition all circuits in the different regions will conduct a written multiple-choice test of 10 questions for all teams of the secondary schools in their respective circuits at a school selected by the respective circuit inspectors in the regions. Each participating team will be scored on a 20-point scale. This stage of the competition will take place in May. The top team of a circuit will be selected for Stage III (regional level).

Each circuit should select two people to conduct this stage of the competition.

The organizer at the circuit is encouraged to host the event face to face, as per the procedures indicated in stage – IV (the national level).

STAGE - III (Regional Level)

During this stage of the competition circuit teams will compete against each other to answer a set of 20 questions. Quiz Master, a Timekeeper, a Scorekeeper and an independent judge will conduct the question-and-answer session at a venue determined by the Regional Coordinator in consultation with NCRST. Each participating team will be scored on a 20-point scale. This stage of the competition will take place in July. The top team of a regional will be selected for Stage IV (national level).

STAGE - IV (National Level)

The NCRST is responsible for the National Level of the science quiz which will be hosted face to face. During this stage of the competition regional teams will compete against each other to answer a set of 20 questions. Quiz Master, a Scorekeeper and an independent judge will conduct the question-and-answer session at a venue determined by the NCRST. The timekeeper will do the timing, and the first team to buzz will automatically be given the chance to answer the question, and if they take long or get it wrong, the other team is given the chance to answer. Each participating team will be scored on a 20-point scale. This stage of the competition will take place in September. The top team will be the winners of the Science Quiz Competition.

The NCRST will provide resource packages to each region to enable regions to conduct stages I - III. The resources pack will consist of the following:

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- A planning check list for each stage
- Scoring sheets for the various stages

Confidentiality

All results are CONFIDENTIAL until announced at the Awards Ceremony.

markers must:

- Be discreet when discussing making critical comments;
- Keep confidential any privileged information or ideas that were conveyed as part of the judging process and do not disclose such information or ideas to third parties;
- Not inform learners of the scores they have received; and
- After the Jury Committee meeting not communicate with the contestant until after test.

Conflict of Interest

A jury will be appointed to lead the process. The jury will be responsible for all judging assignments. This include ensuring that all teams are judged fairly, ensuring that there is no conflict of interest with judging such as judging your own child or that of his/her classmate or frien or judging a child from a family that you know, etc.



Annexure(s)

NATIONAL NATIONAL SCIENCE QUIZ (NSQ)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM

As an official of the science quiz, I understand that I am entrusted with a duty to supervise/assist/judge the competition without any personal bias.

I will declare any conflict of interest before or during marking sheets. Conflict of interest is amongst others:

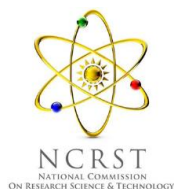
- Judging relatives;
- Judging of learners that are in the same class or friend of my child.

I am aware that should it arise that I have judging that fall within the above-mentioned restrictions, I will be disqualified as a judge and all my scores will be disregarded.

NAME PRINTED

DATE

SIGNATURE



NATIONAL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD (NMO)
CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

As an official for the science quiz, I understand that I am entrusted with information of a confidential nature. The Following information is confidential and cannot be revealed to or discussed with anyone other than the relevant committee/ person assigned to deal with it:

- Score sheets
- Scores
- Names of winners, etc.

I am aware that I have access to information that is strictly confidential and that I will handle and retain information in a secure manner, free from view of others, at all times, while in my possession.

NAME PRINTED

DATE

SIGNATURE