

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ASTRO QUIZ 2018

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF). SAASTA's mandate is to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering and technology (SET) in South Africa and thus contribute to the Foundation's vision 2015 by growing the pool of quality learners today who will become the scientists and innovators of tomorrow.

SAASTA uses many different programmes and activities, including the Astro Quiz to create awareness of the value and impact of science on everyday life. The Astro Quiz project specifically targets grade 7 learners, engaging them in an exciting competition while they learn more about Astronomy.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The proposed project aims to improve teaching and learning of basic astronomy in primary schools.

The **objectives** of the project are:

- To contribute to the improvement of awareness, interest, understanding and insight into basic astronomy;
- To build appreciation of and pride in South Africa's history of astronomical activity and achievements, and current projects;
- To record and celebrate the participation of women in astronomy so as to foster interest in girl learners of career opportunities in astronomy.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

The following dates have been identified for implementation of the quiz:

Preliminary round:	Tuesday, 27 March 2018
Round 1:	Thursday, 26 April 2018
Round 2:	Thursday, 24 May 2018
Round 3 & 4:	Friday, 27 July 2018
National finals:	Thurs-Sat, 4-6 October 2018

COMPETITION RULES

The following rules should be adhered to, for the competition:

1. The quiz events will be held in the form of a knock-out quiz.
2. Each **school will enter one team of four Grade 7 learners.**
3. The schools will be responsible to get their team to the quiz venue.
4. The quiz will start at 14h00 on the designated day.
5. Each school will designate at least one but not more than two teachers to manage the project and act as coach for the school's team. Coaches may not participate in answering questions.
6. Only the participating teams and their coaches will attend the quiz sessions. The school may, at its own expense, bring groups of learners to support their teams.
7. Learners participating may not take resource material into the quiz venue.
8. Teams may discuss the answers quietly among themselves.
9. Schools will compete to answer a set of 30 questions in each round. All schools answer the same questions.
10. Eventually one team per centre goes through to the finals.
11. **No question papers/questions should be left with the learners, teachers or schools for rounds 1 - 4.**

12. Preliminary round to be held on Tuesday, 27 March 2018:

- Schools are allowed to enter as many teams as they would like for this round
- Question papers will be emailed to the school at approximately 12h00 on the day of the quiz.
- Each team is given a question and answer sheet. The teams are given a fixed period of 60 minutes to answer the questions. Each team sits at a table and they work as a team to complete the questions. Only one answer per question may be marked as correct.

- Soft pencils should be used to mark the answers. Incorrect answers may be erased and a new answer marked clearly. There should be no possible misunderstanding as to which the marked answer is, otherwise no marks will be given for that question.
- When time is up, the response sheets are collected and scored by the educator/coach. The top scoring answer sheet for each school should be faxed to the Scifest Africa office by 15h30 on the day of the quiz.
- The top scoring teams from each school will go through to Round 1.
- In the event of a tie, where a number of teams achieve the same score and where only one or a few of them can go forward to the next round, the tying teams are given five additional questions to answer. The top scoring teams are then selected. In the event of a further tie, the tie-breaking process is repeated.

12. Round 1 to be held on Thursday, 26 April 2018:

- The same process is used as for the preliminary round, but each school will enter one team of four Grade 7 learners.
- The top scoring teams from each district will go through to Round 2.

13. Round 2 to be held on Thursday, 24 May 2018:

- Teams compete in each cluster.
- Each team sits together at a table.
- Each question is projected onto a screen, via a PC and data projector.
- The teams have cards labeled 1 to 4.
- The questions are multiple choice questions.
- As each question is posed, the teams make their decision about the correct answer and hold up the appropriate card.
- Facilitators record their answers on scoring sheets
- At the end of the quiz, all correct answers are tallied.
- The top scoring teams in each cluster go forward to the third round.
- In the event of a tie, additional questions are posed to the tying teams only, on a sudden death basis.
- As soon as one team falls behind on correct answers, it is knocked out.
- This process continues until a selection can be made of teams that will go forward

14. Round 3 to be held in Grahamstown on Friday, 27 July 2018:

- The same process is used as for the second round.
- The top scoring teams will go forward to the round.
- The same tie breaking method is used.

15. Round 4 (Centre finals) to be held in Grahamstown on Friday, 27 July 2018:

- The last top scoring teams compete.
- A winning team and a runner-up are chosen at each centre.

16. Round 5: (National Finals):

- The winning team in each province will travel to a designated venue as arranged and funded by SAASTA for the finals.
- This event will take place on Thursday to Saturday, 4-6 October 2018.