Western Cape Education Department
R Ebrahim, AJ Lamprecht, D Thomas
Directorate: Curriculum GET & FET
Razzia.Ebrahim@westerncape.gov.za | 021 467 2617
Andre.Lamprecht@westerncape.gov.za | 021 467 2443
Deodat.Thomas@westerncape.gov.za | 021 829 0402

File no.: 21/2/5/2/ MATHEMATICS
Reference: 20240219-1753

Curriculum GET and FET Minute: DCG 0002/2024

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Heads: Curriculum Support, Heads: Management and Governance, Circuit Managers, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, GET Coordinators, Intermediate Phase Subject Advisers, Senior Phase Subject Advisers, FET Subject Advisers and Principals of all ordinary public and independent schools

Subject: South African Mathematics Challenge for Grades 4−7 and South African Mathematics Olympiad for Grades 8−12

1. The **South African Mathematics Challenge (SAMC)** and the **South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO)** are Mathematics opportunities for learners in Grades 4−7 and Grades 8−12 respectively. The SAMC and SAMO seek to develop the quality of Mathematics teaching and learning by providing learners with interesting and challenging problems at their own grade level as well as developing key 21st century skills.

2. The SAMC and SAMO aim to:
   - popularise Mathematics;
   - promote problem solving in Mathematics education;
   - promote a perspective that mathematical activity is more than just calculating;
   - emphasise the importance of reading during mathematical activities;
   - disseminate materials that contribute to meaningful mathematical activities in classrooms; and
   - provide a diagnostic tool to enable educators to identify learners' misconceptions.

3. The Olympiads are not merely about competing, but rather aim to expose learners to challenging mathematical problems. The questions are designed to develop understanding, applying knowledge in new situations, communication and general mathematical thinking.

4. There are two ways in which to participate:
   - Stronger learners may prefer to participate as individuals (singles).
   - Other learners may prefer to work in pairs (doubles).

5. The **2024 South African Mathematics Challenge (Grades 4–7)** will have **three rounds**:
   - First round: 11−15 March 2024
   - Second round: 22 May 2024
   - Third round: 12 September 2024

6. The **2024 South African Mathematics Olympiad (Grades 8−12)** will have **three rounds:**
   - First round: 14 March 2024
   - Second round: 09 May 2024
   - Final round: 25 July 2024

7. The logistical arrangements for both competitions as well as past papers can be found at the following websites:
   SAMC – Grades 4−7: http://www.samf.ac.za/en/sa-mathematics-challenge
   SAMO – Grades 8−12: http://www.samf.ac.za/en/sa-mathematics-olympiad

8. **Registration for the SAMC and SAMO can be done online** at the abovementioned websites or schools can complete and submit the entry form attached as **SAMC-2024 Entry** with closing date, **01 March 2024** or **SAMO-2024 Entry** with closing date of **24 February 2024**. Please make sure that you use the correct entry form for the different competitions.

9. The Western Cape Education Department **will subsidise** the entry fees for the SAMC and SAMO for learners at selected ordinary public schools. Schools that charge no school fees and Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) schools will be given preference. Learners at quintile 1 and 2 schools may enter for free.

10. The first round will be written at schools. Educators may mark the answers, or it may be marked during an open class discussion by learners. The memoranda will be provided by the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF). Once marked, the results will be captured on a specific form provided by the SAMF which should be sent back to them, who will further manage the registration process for the second and final round.

11. To progress to the next round, learners must achieve 50% or more in the first round.

12. The next rounds will be conducted at central venues in the different regions.

13. Every participant of the SAMC/SAMO will be challenged with at least one problem, which will improve his or her problem-solving skills. Problem-solving skills can be further improved by carefully working through the solutions for these rounds. Alternative and innovative solutions will be presented, and it is recommended that the problems used in the papers be used as resources for classroom discussions.

14. Creative problem-solving skills are necessary and very marketable in today's technically oriented marketplace. This marketplace is now global and South Africa needs to be competitive. Hence, we need expert problem solvers. Practice in problem solving will help to train our future leaders in technological development.

15. The SAMF recognises achievement and will award the following certificates:
    - Gold certificate: All learners scoring more than 80% in the final round;
    - Silver certificate: All learners scoring between 60% and 79% in the final round; and
    - Bronze certificate: All learners scoring between 50% and 59% in the final round.

16. The SAMF is also offering talent search opportunities. Educators are encouraged to identify learners with potential and visit the relevant website to register the learners.
    Visit: Grades 6−11: https://mytutor.chat/samf-talent-search/

17. Principals are kindly requested to bring this minute to the attention of all Mathematics educators.

SIGNED: H MAHOMED
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT
DATE: 2024-02-27