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Curriculum GET and FET Minute: DCG 0003/2025

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, South African MathematicsOlympiad for Grades 8–12 and the Kangaroo Maths Competition for Grades 3–12

- 1. The South African Mathematics Challenge (SAMC), the South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO) and the Kangaroo Maths Competition are Mathematics opportunities for learners in Grades 3–12. The SAMC, SAMO and Kangaroo Maths Competition 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 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
- 2. The SAMC, SAMO and Kangaroo Maths Competition 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. These Maths competitions 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. The 2025 South African Mathematics Challenge (Grades 4–7) will have three rounds:
  - First round: 10–14 March 2025
  - Second round: 22 May 2025
  - Third round: 11 September 2025
- 5. The 2025 South African Mathematics Olympiad (Grades 8–12) will have three rounds:
  - First round: 13 March 2025
  - Second round: 15 May 2025
  - Final round: 31 July 2025
- 6. The Kangaroo Maths Competition (Grades 3–12) will have only one round:
  - 14 April-09 May 2025. No entry fee.
- 7. The logistical arrangements for the competitions as well as past papers can be found at the following websites:

SAMC – Grades 4–7: <u>http://www.samf.ac.za/en/sa-mathematics-challenge</u> SAMO – Grades 8–12: <u>http://www.samf.ac.za/en/sa-mathematics-olympiad</u> Kangaroo – Grades 3–12: <u>https://www.samf.ac.za/en/knagaroo</u>

- 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-2025 Entry with closing date, 28 February 2025, or SAMO-2025 Entry with closing date of 21 February 2025. 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 <u>selected ordinary public schools</u>. Schools that charge no school fees, Mathematics, Science and Technology schools as well #Back on Track 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. Please note that digital versions of the competitions are also available.
- 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/Kangaroo Maths Competition will be challenged with at least one problem, which will improve his/her problem-solving skills. Problem-solving skills can be improved further 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. Schools can prepare their learners for the competitions by working through previous papers that are available at: <u>https://www.samf.ac.za/en/past-papers</u>
- 17. Principals are kindly requested to bring this minute to the attention of all Mathematics educators.

SIGNED: BJ LORISTON DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT DATE: 2025-02-13

