



NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGES (NSC) 2023 **GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS**

1.0 BACKGROUND

The National Science Challenge (NSC) is an annual national science competition conducted by The Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) since 1999, to increase the interest of students throughout Malaysia to explore the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM).

This competition is open to secondary school students aged 13 to 16 years old and has grown to become one of the premier science competitions in Malaysia that provides high-level challenges in various STEM subjects. In addition, NSC also provides opportunities for students to seek direct guidance from young scientists from the Young Scientists Network-ASM (YSN-ASM) and gain knowledge that may not be obtainable in school curriculum.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

The overarching objectives of NSC are:

- To develop and nurture a set of thinking, reasoning, researching, collaborating and creative skills amongst school students through engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- To instil interest in pursuing careers within STEM related fields that are of importance to the nation.
- To provide opportunities for students to showcase their scientific knowledge and skills.

3.0 NSC 2023 THEME

“Ensuring Nation’s Food Security through Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)”

4.0 COMPETITION FORMAT

Competition Level	Date	Description
Registration	1 April – 31 May 2023	Online registration through www.nsc.my
Preliminary	12 – 20 June 2023	Online individual quiz in www.nsc.my according to the zone distribution. Quiz will be conducted in bilingual (English and Malay).
State Level	28 June – 28 July 2023	The top 80 teams with the highest scores from the preliminary level will compete at this stage.
Semi-Final	4 – 23 August 2023	The top 20 teams from the state level will compete at this level.
Grand Final	13 September 2023	The top 5 teams will compete to win the YAB Prime Minister Trophy.

5.0 PRELIMINARY LEVEL (ONLINE QUIZ)

A. QUESTION FORMAT

- i. The quiz will consist of 60 randomly generated questions covering topics from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and General Science.
- ii. Among the 60 questions, 50 are Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) and 10 are Fill in the Blank Questions (FITBQ).
- iii. Each participant is allocated one (1) hour to answer all 60 questions.
- iv. All easy level questions are based on Form 1 to Form 4 syllabus, while the Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) questions are based on Form 3 and Form 4 syllabus.

B. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

- i. Before the quiz:
 - a. Mentor teachers are to share the **individual ID and Password** for each participant (provided in the Manage Teams section of the Mentor Teacher portal). It is advised for this information to be **shared personally**, to avoid students logging in to a different account.
- ii. During the quiz:
 - a. All participants must log in to the NSC website (www.nsc.my) using their individual ID and password to answer the online quiz.
 - b. Participants at any suitable location with Internet connection can answer the online quiz within the time limit between **7 am to 7 pm** on the allocated day according to the zone distribution.

- c. It is advised for students to not answer the questions close to the end of the session/ last-minute to avoid any system error during that period.
- d. All participants need to answer the quiz individually.
- iii. The following are the criteria for selection of the winning team:
 - a. The overall score from each participant is cumulative in a team.
 - b. The overall time taken to answer the quiz will be taken into account if there are two teams with the same overall score.
- iv. **80 teams** will be selected from **13 states and 3 Federal Territories (five teams for each state/federal territory)** to compete at the State Level.
- v. The states and federal territories are Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Penang, Sabah, Sarawak, Selangor, Terengganu, W.P. Kuala Lumpur, W.P. Labuan, and W.P. Putrajaya.
- vi. All participants will be given a certificate of participation. The certificate can be downloaded at www.nsc.my after the Preliminary Level ends.

C. QUIZ TIMELINE & ZONE DISTRIBUTIONS

- i. The Preliminary Level will be held from **12 to 20 June 2023**, in an online quiz platform according to zone distributions as shown in the table below.

Level	Details		Date
Preliminary (Online Quiz – open from 7 am to 7 pm)	Zone A	Sarawak & Pulau Pinang	12 June 2023 (Monday)
	Zone B	Selangor	13 June 2023 (Tuesday)
	Zone C	Pahang & Kedah	14 June 2023 (Wednesday)
	Zone D	Johor	15 June 2023 (Thursday)
	Zone E	Perak, Perlis, WP Putrajaya & WP Labuan	16 June 2023 (Friday)
	Zone F	Terengganu & Kelantan	18 June 2023 (Sunday)
	Zone G	Sabah & Melaka	19 June 2023 (Monday)
	Zone H	Negeri Sembilan & WP Kuala Lumpur	20 June 2023 (Tuesday)

- ii. A Mock Trial session for the quiz will be held on **7, 8 and 9 June 2023** for participants to adapt to the quiz platform.
- iii. The Mock Trial session is held to make necessary adjustments before the start of the competition thus, Mentor Teachers are encouraged to inform the organisers of any issues faced during the session.
- iv. Note that the Mock Trial Session is **NOT COMPULSORY**.

6.0 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q : Why is my student unable to log in to the quiz platform?

A : Mentor teachers and students are to make sure the correct individual ID & Password is used when logging in to the quiz platform. The login details for each student can be found under the 'Manage Teams' section of the Mentor Teacher portal.

Q : Can the quiz be answered using a mobile phone?

A : Participants may answer the questions using any electronic device, such as a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Nevertheless, please note that mobile electronic devices must be in **LANDSCAPE mode** to ensure that the questions are entirely visible during the session.

Please also ensure that these electronic devices have a stable internet connection to avoid connection issues when responding to the questions.

Q : There is an error in the questions. What should I do?

A : Mentor Teachers can inform the organisers directly via the Telegram channel created based on each zone distribution, to inform on the error found. Students can then refresh the screen after changes have been made.

Q : What should I do if someone else has logged in to my ID and answered the quiz?

A : The participation certificate will be generated based on the ID used during login. Thus, it is important to make sure that only the mentor teacher and student are aware of their individual login ID and password.

Q : Due to the lack of time, student was unable to click the submit button. Does this mean the answers submitted are now invalid?

A : After each question has been answered, the system automatically captures the progress, thus answers submitted will still be valid.

Q : Can students log out halfway while answering the quiz due to connection problem?

A : Yes, the progress of the student and quiz time will be stopped in the case that a connection problem occurs, causing student to be logged out. Once the student logs back in, the system will resume where the student left off.

7.0 CONTACT DETAILS

Should you require further information or clarification on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at our official email (nsc@akademisains.gov.my) or by calling the following ASM Officers:

- i. Ms Nurul Hamizah Md Yusof (Tel: 03-6203 0633 ext 143)
- ii. Ms Adlin Sofea Alauddin (Tel: 03-6203 0633 ext 131)

Please also follow our official social media pages below and website (www.nsc.my) for more updates.

Facebook : National Science Challenge Malaysia
Twitter : @nsc_my
Instagram : @nsc_malaysia
YouTube : @Akademisainsmalaysia

Note: Instructions and guidelines for each level are subject to change. Any changes will be notified to all participants and mentor teachers via official email, Telegram channel and NSC social media. Please visit the website www.nsc.my for more information.

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