



NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGES (NSC) GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

1.0 NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE (NSC) COMPETITION

The National Science Challenge (NSC) is a national science competition specifically for secondary school students. The main goal of this competition is to increase the interest of students throughout Malaysia to explore the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), innovation, and science communication. Since 1999, NSC has grown from a national science quiz program to one of the premier science competitions in Malaysia that provides high-level challenges to secondary school students. In addition, NSC also challenges the minds of students in various STEM subjects and provides opportunities for them to seek direct guidance from young scientists from the Young Scientists Network-ASM (YSN-ASM). The NSC competition which was held virtually in 2021 has received a total of 706 teams from across the country.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

The NSC competition aims to **nurture, encourage and increase** students' interest in STEM-related subjects. In addition, the competition also aims to instil students' interest to choose STEM fields and careers in the future.

3.0 NSC 2022 THEME

Sustainable future of Planetary Health through Science, Technology, Innovation & Economy (STIE)

4.0 COMPETITION FORMAT

Competition Level	Date	Description
Preliminary	10 - 12 June 2022	Online individual quiz at www.nsc.my
State Level	1-20 July 2022	The top 80 teams with the highest scores from the preliminary level will compete at this stage.
Semi-Final	6-27 August 2022	The top 20 teams from the state level will compete at this level
Grand Final	10 September 2022	The top 5 teams will compete to win the YAB Prime Minister Trophy

Note: Please refer to the latest information on the NSC 2022 schedule at www.nsc.my.

1) REGISTRATION

- i. NSC is open to Malaysian students, Form 1 to 4, (aged between 13 to 16 years in the year of participation), from national, private, and international schools. Home-schooled students are also eligible to participate in this competition.
- ii. NSC 2022 is open for registration from **15 April until 8 June 2022**.
- iii. Mentor teachers need to register the team that will compete on www.nsc.my.
- iv. Mentor teachers are required to enter all participants and school details into the system. If the school is not listed, the mentor teacher must enter the name of the school in full. For teams consisting of students who attend homeschooling, the mentor must enter "Home School" followed by the name of the Mentor (Example: Home School_ Ali) and select their respective state.
- v. **There is no limit to the number of teams per mentor teacher.**
- vi. **There is no limit to the number of teams per school.**
- vii. **No registration fee imposed.**
- viii. For each completed team registration, each participant will be given an individual ID for the Preliminary Stage. All information can be accessed by mentor teachers through their respective NSC accounts. All participants are required to create a password when logging in for the first time.

2) PRELIMINARY LEVEL – ONLINE QUIZ

- i. All easy level questions are based on Form 1 to Form 4 syllabus, while the Higher Level Thinking Skills (HLTS) questions are based on Form 3 and Form 4 syllabi.
- ii. The organiser will contact the mentor teacher regarding online quiz rules and regulations.
- iii. During the competition:
 - a. Mentor teachers will be given a link to the Sasbadi Online Quiz Platform one hour before the competition.
 - b. Mentor teachers need to ensure that all contestants are in the computer lab after school hours (based on the current instructions of the MOE) to answer the quiz questions. All participants need to answer the quiz individually. Mentor teachers need to ensure participants do not break rules such as imitating etc.
 - c. All participants must log in using their individual ID and password to answer the quiz. Quiz questions were arranged randomly.
- iv. **80 teams will be selected from 16 states and 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, WP Kuala Lumpur, WP Labuan, and WP Putrajaya.
- vi. The five teams with the highest overall scores from each state will be crowned State Level winners.
- vii. The following are the criteria for selecting the winning team:
 - a. The total score of each participant 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.
- viii. All participants will be given a certificate of participation. The certificate can be downloaded at www.nsc.my after the Preliminary Round ends.

3) STATE LEVEL

NOTE: Detailed instructions and guidelines will be provided as an attachment to the official letter to the MOE and can also be found at www.nsc.my. These guidelines are for general reference only and are subject to the final version.

The theme for NSC 2022 is “Sustainable future of Planetary Health through Science, Technology, Innovation & Economy (STIE)”. Each team is required to produce a video based on a given topic.

i. Video Competition

- A briefing on the State Level guidelines will be conducted for all participants via Zoom platform.
- All teams will be given a topic to produce one video. A period of two (2) weeks will be given for this round.
- All teams can use any software to produce the video. Videos should be sent to nsc@akademisains.gov.my in **.MP4 format**.
- All videos will be uploaded to ASM’s official YouTube channel.
- The video will be judged by the jury according to the rubric.
- All participants will be given a certificate of participation. The certificate can be downloaded at www.nsc.my after the round ends.

ii. Interview Session

- After all the videos are evaluated, interview sessions with all 80 teams will be conducted by the judges via the Zoom meeting application.
- Each team will be assessed based on their understanding of the respective video content, basic STEM knowledge, and opinions on STI issues.
- Teams will be evaluated according to this breakdown: 50% for video content and presentation and 50% for performance during the interview session.
- The jurors will judge and choose the top 20 teams that will compete in the Semi-Final.
- The following is a list of zones for the interview session:

Zone	Negeri
North	Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak
East Coast	Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang
Central	Selangor, FT Kuala Lumpur, FT Putrajaya
South	Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor
East Malaysia	Sabah, Sarawak, FT Labuan

4) SEMI-FINAL

NOTE: Detailed instructions and guidelines will be provided as an attachment to the official letter to the MOE and can also be found at www.nsc.my. These guidelines are for general reference only and are subject to the final version.

- A briefing on the Semi-Final Stage guidelines will be conducted for all participants via the Zoom platform.

APPENDIX 3

- ii. The **Top 20 teams** that will compete in the Semi-Final (online or physically) will be determined according to the latest approval from the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) and the National Security Council (NSC).
- iii. Online format will be conducted via the Zoom meeting application.
- iv. The jury will select **five (5) teams** with the highest scores to advance to the Finals. These results will be confirmed by the ASM NSC Steering Committee.
- v. Each team competing in the Finals will be guided by YSN-ASM members in the production of their respective prototypes.
- vi. State Level participation certificates will be emailed to each participant who competes at this level.

5) **GRAND FINAL**

NOTE: Detailed instructions and guidelines will be provided as an attachment to the official letter to the MOE and can also be found at www.nsc.my. These guidelines are for general reference only and are subject to the final version.

- i. Five (5) teams will compete in the Grand Final.
- ii. The format of the Final Stage competition (virtual or physical) will be determined according to the latest approval from KPM and MKN.
- iii. The Grand Final consists of:
 - a. **Quiz**
 - b. **Prototype Presentation**
- iv. A National Level Certificate of Achievement will be emailed to each participant who competes at this level.

Note: Please refer to the latest information on NSC 2022 guidelines at www.nsc.my.

-END-