

Report on the 2016 SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs

SUMMARY OF QUIZ 2016

'The challenge is great. The kids learn so much. It's a game changer.' Teacher, Glendale Secondary.

We believe this statement by one of the teachers working with the quiz team from her school sums up the impact of the SAIIA Interschool Quiz. For so many, it is a game changer, a point that opens up the world to young minds, and young minds to the world. With this in mind, the SAIIA Western Cape Quiz Committee set about planning the 24th SAIIA interschool Quiz on International Affairs.

Begun in 1993, the quiz is designed to draw learners of all backgrounds from among the schools in the Western Cape into reading world news, and especially news and analysis about South Africa's international affairs. Invitations go out annually to a wide range of schools and, except for several reserved spots for new or developing schools, respondents are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For a seventh year running, a pre-quiz workshop gave less-resourced schools, and especially schools who did not fare well in the previous year, an opportunity to receive coaching on gleaning information from the papers and practise for the quiz through a 'mini-quiz', as well as an introduction to the world of international affairs. Romy Chevallier, a senior researcher in SAIIA's Governance of Africa's Resources Programme based in Cape Town, led the workshop on 5 March at the Diocesan School for Boys (Bishops). Thirteen schools took part in total.

The 2016 quiz took place on Tuesday, 26 April 2016. A total of 50 teams (200 learners) took part.

Master of Ceremonies Africa Melane, of Cape Talk Radio, kept his audience inspired and focused with the occasional 'dance break', while Advocate Murray Bridgman did an excellent job as Quiz Master. Provincial Education Minister Debbie Schaefer spoke briefly on the importance of reading in general, commending the learners for their dedication in preparing for the quiz, and Cape Times Columnist Peter Fabricius delivered the keynote address, an overview of South Africa's foreign policies in Africa.

The quiz questions, based on nine days of the Cape Times and on one article from the SAIIA website (www.saiia.org.za), were judged in the feedback as varied and fair and, for the most part, well-structured. With a clear first place winner at the end of twenty questions but with two schools tied for second, a series of tie breaker questions was employed to establish the second and third placed

National Office Bearers

schools. The quiz ended at 9:30 pm, with great fanfare from the MC and the handover of a stack of books for the library of each school. Each learner also received a drawstring bag, notepad and pen from the Cape Times with extra goodies in the bag to keep them sustained through-out the evening.

In the end, the ten top-scoring schools were:

The Oracle Academy	49 points
La Rochelle Girls High School	47.03 points
Herzlia High School	47.01 points
Spine Road High School	45 points
Glendale Secondary	44 points
Durbanville Hoerskool	43 points
Plumstead High School	43 points
Sans Souci Girls High School	43 points
Jan van Riebeck High School	40 points
Belgravia High School	39 points

Jan van Riebeck High was named the Most Improved School, moving up from 37th in 2015 to 9th place this year, and received the new Cape Times-donated trophy.

The winning schools' team members are invited to attend the 2016 Young Leaders' Conference in the June holidays, and other learners may apply to attend via the Young Ambassadors programme outlined on the Youth@SAIIA webpage (<http://www.saiia.org.za/news/launch-of-saiia-young-ambassadors-programme>).

PUBLICITY

The quiz was covered by the Cape Times in a short advance piece, as well as a follow up article on 28 April (see <http://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/the-oracle-academy-ct-quiz-champs-2014950>). Many schools covered the event in their weekly and monthly school newsletters.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Quiz Committee is deeply grateful to the Abe Bailey Trust for its grant of R140,000, which enabled us to cover costs for the 2016 quiz. Several smaller donations were received, both in cash and in kind, from many donors, including the Cape Times who supplied free newspapers for all learners and question-setters, sponsored the keynote speaker's costs, and donated gifts to all the learners. All donors were noted in the quiz programme.

A special thanks must go to Phil Court of Bishops who organised the venue and related logistics, both for the quiz and the pre-quiz workshop. Thanks are due as well as to the audio team and the staff at Bishops who assist with set up, catering, security and clean up. This year we also wish to thank a new team of 'runners' (those who help collect the answer slips), from Glendale High.

Thanks to the many other volunteers who assist each year in various ways, such as setting up the hall the day before the quiz, collating the books for donation, and marking and scoring the answer sheets on the night of the quiz, and to Lee and Nicholas Hall, who once again kept track of the quiz points via their computerised scoring programme in a most professional manner.

Quiz Coordinator Pippa Segall held it all together once again. From her initial contact with the schools through to the night of the quiz, Pippa employs her impressive organisational and communication skills to make sure schools are well prepared and each receive the newspapers and other reading materials they require. Pippa also works with the question setters, collating the questions for the final selection under the quiz committee chair, and liaises with the myriad other service providers to bring quiz plans to fruition. Her 'second-mile' efforts for this event are greatly appreciated.

A final word of appreciation must go to the learners and their teachers, for their enthusiasm and hard work in preparing for the quiz, and to the audience of parents, teachers, and SAIIA WC members who come to support the teams on the night of the quiz. Their part in this 'game-changer' event is key.

Martha Bridgman
Quiz Committee Chair

Pippa Segall
Quiz Coordinator

SAIIA Western Cape Branch
Cape Town