

2022 SAIIA Schools Quiz on International Affairs Report

The SAIIA Western Cape Branch has for the past 30 years, since 1993, organised the SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs. Specifically designed to draw learners of all backgrounds from among the schools in the Western Cape, and to encourage them to read world news – especially news and analysis about South Africa’s international affairs – the quiz has had an impact on several generations of high school learners, many of whom go on to study or work in international affairs, according to alumnae of the programme.

The quiz formula has been refined over the years. By now up to 50 schools from the various communities of the Western Cape are able to participate when they respond to the invitations, issued at the start of each year to nearly two hundred schools. These schools receive instructions via a manual and support from Pippa Segall, to equip the teams and their teachers as they prepare for the quiz. There is an emphasis on the fact that this quiz differs from other ‘general knowledge’ quizzes on offer in that the focus is specifically *international affairs*. Since 1993, 92 schools (or 3782 learners) have taken part – some schools have participated every single year since the quiz started.

In addition, a pre-quiz workshop is offered to all schools a few weeks prior to the quiz. At the 2022 workshop, learners heard from Jude Wells and Caleb Kay, both previous quiz winners and still involved in the Youth@SAIIA programme. The presenters introduced the learners to the field of international affairs, discussed fake news and offered advice on preparing for the quiz. The learners were sent two articles ahead of the workshop and answered questions in a mini-quiz based on those two articles.

SAIIA’s 30th quiz took place in the third term, on Thursday, 25 August 2022 at 5pm. Up to two teams were allowed to participate per school. A total of 53 teams took part. Hot soup and sandwiches were provided for the learners and teachers, along with snack packs at the tables and a SAIIA branded tote bag for each learner as well.

The participants were tested on their reading of ten days of online articles – between 7 – 9 articles a day – from topical news articles published online in the two weeks preceding the quiz, ranging from news on the Ukraine crisis and tensions around Taiwan to developments in Africa on environmental and energy issues.

There were 20 questions altogether, read out by Quiz Master Advocate Murray Bridgman. Several questions included two or three parts, for 69 points total, plus three tie breaker questions ready in the event of a tie for first, second or third place. These questions were set by international affairs

specialists from academia, policy think tanks, the diplomatic corps and the private sector. The spirited responses from the audience as the Quiz Master called for answers to the questions, once all answer sheets were in, testified to the strong teacher and parental involvement in the preparation for the quiz. Three tie-breaker questions settled the identity of the winning teams, in the end.

The results of the quiz (top 12 scoring teams) were as follows. Where a school sent two teams, they were referred to as 'Ambassadors' or 'Diplomats'. After the first three places, teams are noted as tied:

- 1st - SACS (Ambassadors)
- 2nd - SACS (Diplomats)
- 3rd - The Oracle Academy (Diplomats)
- 4th - Bishops (Ambassadors)
- 5th - Cravenby Secondary School
- 5th - La Rochelle Girls High School
- 7th - Springfield Convent (Ambassadors)
- 8th - San Souci Girls High School (Diplomats)
- 8th - The Oracle Academy (Ambassadors)
- 10th - Springfield Convent (Diplomats)
- 10th - St Cyprian's School (Ambassadors)
- 12th - Makupula Secondary School
- 12th - Spine Road High (Ambassadors)

Bishops was awarded the Cape Times trophy for 'Most Improved'.

Feedback

This has been such an amazing event for the learners at my school. They have not only learned about International events but have realised they are more than capable of competing against the best. These students are on cloud 9 and wish to thank the organisers, especially yourself for making their participation possible. You are running a competition but for these girls a new and exciting world has been revealed....one where they are valued and accoladed. Thank you so much for being available and assisting whenever we have had questions. May this competition continue for many more years to come. Thank you again...it has been the highlight of every year I have entered a team. Yvette Albertyn, Cravenby High School

Thank you very much, on behalf of my team, and the school, for a fun and successful event. They have already begun planning for next year, to mount a challenge, or at least claim the "most improved" trophy. It was wonderful to be at such an event once more, in the light of recent years. Paul Maneveld, Protea Academy

Thank you so much! It was great to have the quiz in person once again. My kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I am so proud of their achievement. I always knew it was going to be close. Fatima Ebrahim, The Oracle Academy

Acknowledgements

The Quiz Committee is once again deeply grateful to the Abe Bailey Trust for its support in the form of R150,000 in 2022. Thanks are also due for several smaller donations, both in cash and in kind, including from Bishops which continues to provide the venue and technical support without charge, organised by teacher Phil Court.

Special thanks to Quiz Coordinator Pippa Segall, whose excellent organisational skills and friendly communications makes the quiz a great pleasure for the many volunteers helping to pull it together, as well as for those participating.

Finally, to the learners and their teachers, we again convey our admiration for their hard work and enthusiasm. This event continues to inspire those who attend with hope regarding the youth of South Africa.

Dr Martha Bridgman
Quiz Committee Chair

Pippa Segall
Quiz Coordinator

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