**14.6 Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF)**

**What is SOF examination?**

SOF is an educational foundation and a non-profit organization, established in 1996, based in New Delhi, India which promotes science, mathematics, general knowledge, introductory computer education and English language skills among school children in India through various Olympiad examinations.

* It helps students in their studies by providing a higher level of education through their books, sample papers and Olympiads. Its official language is English.
* SOF is affiliated to CBSE, British Council, Institute of Company Secretaries of India, and Techfast.
* SOF organizes six Olympiads each year, namely, IEO, NSO, NCO, ICO, IGKO, and IMO.

**How to participate**

**Registration of students** –

* Open for class I to XII students. Prospectus containing the registration forms are sent to all schools registered with SOF (Science Olympiad Foundation).
* During 2016-2018 academic year, 45,000 schools from more than 1400 cities were registered, and millions of students appeared for the six Olympiad exams.
* Olympiads were conducted across 30 countries.
* About 5 lakh (5,00,000) students take part in each of the following Olympiads.
* **International General Knowledge Olympiad (IGKO)** is a single level exam. Students from class I-X may participate in the examination. This Olympiad was introduced in 2017-2018 academic session.
* **International English Olympiad (IEO)** used to be single level exam each year, but since 2017-2018 it is conducted on two levels. Students from I-XII can participate in this Olympiad. It is conducted in partnership with British Council.
* **National Science Olympiad (NSO)** is conducted on two levels each year. It was the first Olympiad conducted by SOF. Students from class I-XII may participate in the examination. It is conducted in partnership with techfast.
* **International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO)** is conducted on 2 levels each year. Students from I-XII may participate in the examination.
* **International Commerce Olympiad (ICO)** is a single level exam. Students from class XI-XII may participate in the examination. It is conducted in partnership with ICSI.
* **National Cyber Olympiad (NCO)** is a single level exam. It has been conducted since 2000. Students from I-XII may participate in the examination. It is conducted in partnership with TCS iON, a branch of TCS. **NCO** was formerly a 2 level exam, but it has been abandoned since 2017-18. The National Cyber Olympiad (NCO) is a cyber concept and knowledge competition for students of class I to class XII. It is conducted with the aim of identifying and nurturing future scientists, technologists and IT talent at the school level.
* **International Sports Knowledge Olympiad (ISKO)** was conducted only once during 2016-17 session. It was a single level exam conducted in partnership with **Star Sports.**

**Level 2 Exams;**

* From among the students who participate in each of these Olympiads every year, the top 500 students , top 10 students in each state, as well as school toppers from schools having participation of more than 10 students in the exam are selected for the second level.
* Three school toppers who get more than 50% marks mean 30 out of 60 or more than 30 marks get medals (gold, silver and bronze) and are selected for the second level of the examination.

**Eligibility and pattern**

* Students from class I-XII can participate.
* There is a different exam paper for each class. The question paper contains 35 multiple choice questions of 40 marks for class I-IV.
* 50 multiple choice questions for class V-XII of 60 marks.
* **Questions are to be answered in 1 hour.**
* Five questions that are part of the “Achievers’ section” carry 3 marks each, whereas the remaining questions carry one mark each.
* Students are required to mark their answers on an OMR sheet.
* Results are announced for every student and it includes the student’s international rank, zonal rank and the school rank.
* SOF also generates a performance report for all participating schools, as well as awards teachers and principals whose pupils excel in the examination.

**What are the benefits of Olympiad exams?**

* Improves the students’ problem solving ability and challenges them to think analytically.
* Prepares them for future competitive exams by testing the student’s aptitude as well as the knowledge in a particular subject.
* Motivate students to endeavor for better and deeper understanding of scientific facts so as to enhance their reasoning skills.
* Exams are perfect to test a student’s conceptual understanding of the subject.
* Provide exposure to students at the national as well as international platforms.
* Instill the quality of hard work in students by pushing them to prepare hard for the exams and improve their results.
* Students’ performance in the school is also improved as Olympiad shape their thinking and learning process which helps them to grasp the concepts taught in the school better.

**How to apply**

* Prospectus containing the registration forms of all exams conducted by SOF are sent to all schools registered with SOF. Schools which are not registered may also request for prospectus by sending e-mail at [info@sofworld.org](mailto:info@sofworld.org) or may contact at phone.
* School’s coordinating teacher generates the students’ roll nos. as per the guidelines stated in the prospectus.
* A copy of all these roll numbers along with the Students’ Registration Sheet (SRS) and School Registration Form (SRF) is then sent to the foundation’s office before the due date of submission of farms.
* The Foundation then dispatches the question papers after the applicant school and the students get registered.

**What is the syllabus of Olympiad?**

* Questions of level-1 **Olympiad exams** will be 60% from the current syllabus and 40% from the previous class syllabus.
* Questions of level-2 **Olympiad exams** will be from current class syllabus only.

**How to prepare for the Olympiad Exams?**

* Most of the Olympiad exams are conducted on the similar syllabus that is taught in the school.
* No additional reference books are required for the preparation of these exams.
* Students are required to be clear with all the concepts and basics.
* The questions asked in the Olympiad exams are quite different than what kids learn in the school.
* Questions are trickier and conceptual which require the students to have a wide thought process to solve the variety of problems based on logic and concepts.

**Tips to crack second level of NSO**

* Know your syllabus.
* Start your preparation well in advance.
* Identify study material and resources.
* Understand the pattern.
* Take real time mock test.
* Plan and execute.
* Continuous efforts.
* Take proper sleep before exams.
* Solve sample papers