School Connect Online

SCO INTERNATIONAL CODING OLYMPIAD

EXAM SCHEDULE

GRADE 1 TO GRADE 12

A comprehensive schedule and exam-format guide for schools, teachers, parents, and students

Designed for SCO's three-cycle online Olympiad pathway with multiple exam dates, grade-wise coding progression, guided preparation, practice, reporting, and future-ready digital learning.

- global online exam access for Grade 1 to Grade 12 learners
- age-fit coding, AI awareness, programming logic, algorithms, data, and application-development pathways
- exam schedule, cycle windows, class-wise exam format, and preparation guidance for schools and families

Spring	Summer	Winter	Coding	Data Skills
Grade 1-12	Multiple Dates	Online Exam	Algorithms	Reports

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SCO International Coding Olympiad (SCO ICO) Exam Schedule & Syllabus Guide

For Grade 1 to Grade 12 | Three Cycles Per Year | Multiple Online Exam Dates

1. Purpose of this Schedule Guide

This public-facing guide presents the SCO International Coding Olympiad exam schedule model, cycle windows, configured online exam dates, grade-wise exam format, and syllabus snapshot for Grade 1 to Grade 12. It is designed for schools, teachers, parents, and students who need a clear view of how SCO ICO is structured across the academic year.

SCO ICO is positioned as a future-ready online coding olympiad pathway that supports computational thinking, algorithmic reasoning, programming confidence, AI awareness, data literacy, application-development readiness, and responsible digital citizenship.

2. Global Standard Alignment

The SCO ICO academic model aligns with internationally recognised computer science and informatics learning expectations. Global informatics olympiad preparation emphasises algorithmic problem-solving, independent reasoning, systematic testing, and efficient solution design. K-12 computer science standards further stress computing systems, data, algorithms, programming, the internet, and the impacts of computing. Responsible AI education is also becoming essential, with global frameworks highlighting ethical AI use, AI applications, human-centred thinking, and inclusive system design.

- For early grades, the focus is digital awareness, pattern recognition, logic, sequencing, AI examples, and safe technology curiosity.
- For middle grades, the focus expands to structured programming, loops, conditions, arrays, simple web concepts, visual programming, and problem-solving projects.
- For senior grades, the focus moves toward algorithms, data structures, databases, web applications, Python/data science, AI/ML foundations, and practical computational thinking.

3. SCO ICO Three-Cycle Calendar Model

SCO Olympiad follows a three-cycle operating model. Each cycle may include multiple online exam dates so that schools and individual students across countries can select suitable windows. The registration portal and school allocation process confirm the final available slot for each participant.

Cycle	Official cycle window	Result publish date	Public schedule note
SPRING 2026	01 Jan 2026 - 31 Mar 2026	30 Apr 2026	Active cycle window for early-year online exam participation
SUMMER 2026	01 Apr 2026 - 31 Jul 2026	31 Aug 2026	Active cycle window for mid-year online exam participation
WINTER 2026	01 Aug 2026 - 31 Dec 2026	28 Feb 2027	Active cycle window for late-year online exam participation
SPRING 2027	01 Jan 2027 - 31 Mar 2027	30 Apr 2027	Next-year spring cycle window
SUMMER 2027	01 Apr 2027 - 31 Jul 2027	31 Aug 2027	Next-year summer cycle window
WINTER 2027	01 Aug 2027 - 31 Dec 2027	29 Feb 2028	Next-year winter cycle window

4. Configured SCO ICO Online Exam Dates

The dates below are compiled from the configured SCO ICO exam-plan data provided for the Coding subject. These date slots apply across Grade 1 to Grade 12; the portal confirms the final available date according to registration category, school plan, and student allocation.

Cycle label	No. of configured dates	Configured online exam dates	Applicable grades
WINTER 2026	12	06 Sep 2025, 14 Sep 2025, 27 Sep 2025, 04 Oct 2025, 12 Oct 2025, 25 Oct 2025, 01 Nov 2025, 09 Nov 2025, 22 Nov 2025, 06 Dec 2025, 14 Dec 2025, 27 Dec 2025	Grade 1 to Grade 12

SPRING 2026	9	03 Jan 2026, 11 Jan 2026, 24 Jan 2026, 07 Feb 2026, 08 Feb 2026, 28 Feb 2026, 07 Mar 2026, 08 Mar 2026, 28 Mar 2026	Grade 1 to Grade 12
SUMMER 2026	12	04 Apr 2026, 12 Apr 2026, 25 Apr 2026, 02 May 2026, 10 May 2026, 23 May 2026, 06 Jun 2026, 14 Jun 2026, 27 Jun 2026, 04 Jul 2026, 12 Jul 2026, 25 Jul 2026	Grade 1 to Grade 12
WINTER 2027	12	04 Sep 2026, 12 Sep 2026, 20 Sep 2026, 02 Oct 2026, 10 Oct 2026, 18 Oct 2026, 06 Nov 2026, 14 Nov 2026, 15 Nov 2026, 04 Dec 2026, 12 Dec 2026, 20 Dec 2026	Grade 1 to Grade 12

Important Schedule Notes for Visitors

- All dates are written in DD MMM YYYY format, for example 03 Jan 2026.
- The final exam date shown to a student or school may depend on registration completion, seat/window availability, country/time-zone settings, and official portal confirmation.
- SCO may add, close, or update exam slots when required for operational, academic, or proctoring reasons. Students should follow the date visible in their confirmed exam dashboard.

5. SCO ICO Exam Format by Grade

Grade	Duration	Questions	Exam type	Core sections
Grade 1	60 mins	35	Objective	Basic Concepts; Examples of AI; Pattern Recognition Games; Achievers Section
Grade 2	60 mins	35	Objective	Basic Concepts; Examples of AI; Pattern Recognition Games; Achievers Section
Grade 3	60 mins	35	Objective	Fundamentals of Coding; Logic and Reasoning; Simple Game Creation; Achievers Section
Grade 4	60 mins	35	Objective	Fundamentals of Coding; Logic and Reasoning; Simple Game Creation; Achievers Section
Grade 5	60 mins	40	Objective	Intro to Programming; Basic Coding Applications; Game Development Basics; Achievers Section
Grade 6	60 mins	45	Objective	Intro to Programming; Basic Coding Applications; Game Development Basics; Achievers Section
Grade 7	60 mins	50	Objective	Programming Basics; Advanced Coding Concepts; Game Development Basics; Achievers Section
Grade 8	60 mins	50	Objective	Programming Basics; Advanced Coding Concepts; Game Development Basics; Achievers Section
Grade 9	60 mins	50	Objective	Programming Concepts; Application Development; Coding Projects; Achievers Section
Grade 10	60 mins	50	Objective	Advanced Programming; Application Development; Coding Projects; Achievers Section
Grade 11	60 mins	50	Objective	Advanced Programming Concepts; Algorithm Development; Coding Projects; Achievers Section
Grade 12	60 mins	50	Objective	Advanced Data Structures; Algorithms and AI Basics; Practical Applications and Programming; Achievers Section

6. Grade-wise SCO ICO Syllabus Snapshot

Grade	Syllabus focus	Learning outcome note
Grade 1	Basic AI concepts, voice assistants, robots, recognizing objects and colors, logical puzzles	Develops digital curiosity, observation, simple logic, and early problem-solving confidence.
Grade 2	Introduction to AI, simple applications, color and object recognition, basic logical puzzles	Builds AI awareness and strengthens memory, reasoning, and structured thinking.
Grade 3	Basic programming concepts, logic in coding, basic algorithms, pattern games, puzzles	Introduces sequencing, basic algorithms, and puzzle-based computational thinking.
Grade 4	Basic programming, logic puzzles, coding applications, simple animations	Encourages creativity, simple animation logic, and practical coding awareness.
Grade 5	Variables, data types, simple coding projects, animations	Builds foundation for programming projects and interactive problem-solving.
Grade 6	Computer science introduction, Java, Python, Python vs. Java, HTML, CSS	Introduces structured programming and web basics for digital creation.
Grade 7	C programming basics, XML, Turtle Programming in Python	Strengthens language awareness, syntax thinking, and visual programming practice.
Grade 8	Variables, loops, conditions, arrays, C++, Kotlin, Scratch sprites	Develops control-flow reasoning and multi-language exposure through projects.
Grade 9	Functions, algorithms, application development, Swift, Objective-C, PHP, SQL, advanced Python, data science, statistics with Python	Connects algorithms, apps, databases, and data reasoning to real-world technology.

Grade 10	Control structures, arrays, web applications, advanced Python, data science, statistics with Python, Swift, C, PHP, SQL	Prepares students for advanced programming and applied computing challenges.
Grade 11	Advanced programming, algorithm development, data structures, searching, sorting, data manipulation, Python, C, SQL, Swift	Builds senior-level algorithmic thinking, application design, and college-readiness.
Grade 12	Arrays, linked lists, trees, graphs, algorithms, AI/ML basics, Python data science, web development, SQL, C, Swift, PHP	Develops higher-order problem-solving, AI/data awareness, and advanced computational maturity.

7. How Students Should Prepare for SCO ICO

Preparation stage	Grades	Main preparation focus
Foundation stage	Grade 1-4	Pattern recognition, puzzles, AI examples, visual logic, sequencing, simple animation thinking
Skill-building stage	Grade 5-8	Variables, data types, loops, conditions, arrays, visual programming, web basics, and beginner languages
Competitive stage	Grade 9-10	Algorithms, functions, application design, SQL, web programming, Python/data concepts, and coding logic
Advanced stage	Grade 11-12	Data structures, algorithms, graphs, AI/ML basics, data science, databases, and real-world software thinking

- Students should revise the class-wise syllabus, solve practice questions, attempt mock tests, and review explanation-based solutions before the official exam date.
- Schools can use SCO ICO as a structured digital-skills enrichment programme because it connects curriculum-level coding with future-ready computational skills.
- Parents should encourage consistent practice instead of last-minute memorisation; coding olympiad performance improves when students build logic gradually.

8. School, Parent, and Student Guidance

Stakeholder	Recommended action
Schools	Share the schedule early, confirm grade-wise registrations, guide students to practice resources, and ensure device/readiness checks before the selected online exam slot.
Teachers	Use the syllabus snapshot to plan revision lessons, coding clubs, logic practice, mock tests, and explanation-based remedial sessions.
Parents	Support regular short practice sessions, confirm login readiness, and help younger students become comfortable with the online exam interface.
Students	Prepare topic-wise, read each question carefully, use logical elimination, manage time, and complete mock tests before the official date.

9. Why SCO ICO Supports Global Coding Readiness

SCO ICO is designed to support a progressive coding journey from early logic and AI awareness to advanced algorithms, data structures, AI/ML foundations, and applied programming. Its online format enables schools and learners across regions to participate through multiple cycle-based dates, making it suitable for international academic calendars and different school readiness windows.

The programme is not limited to language syntax. It promotes computational thinking, abstraction, pattern recognition, testing, data reasoning, ethical AI awareness, and creative problem-solving. These are the skills that global education systems increasingly associate with future academic and career readiness.

10. Reference Basis for Global Alignment

Reference area	How it informs the SCO ICO schedule guide
International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI)	Official IOI syllabus and informatics olympiad orientation: algorithmic problem-solving, preparation through past olympiad problems, and international informatics engagement.
Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA)	K-12 CS learning objectives: computing systems, networks, data, algorithms, programming, and impacts of computing.
UNESCO AI Competency Framework for Students	Human-centred AI, ethics of AI, AI techniques and applications, and AI system design across progressive learning levels.
SCO internal syllabus and schedule inputs	Grade-wise SCO Coding Olympiad topics, exam duration, objective-type format, number of questions, sections, and configured three-cycle exam dates.