School Connect Online

SCO INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

SCO IBO EXAM SCHEDULE

A global exam schedule and syllabus guide for schools, teachers, parents, and students

Designed from SCO's three-cycle olympiad model and aligned with global Biology Olympiad expectations for guided preparation, online exam readiness, reporting, and future-ready life-science learning.

- Grade 8 to Grade 12 biology pathway for learners globally
- three annual SCO cycles: Spring, Summer, and Winter
- multiple online exam date choices across the year
- IBO-style emphasis on reasoning, diagrams, data, practical thinking, and biological ethics

IBO Schedule	Grade 8-12	Biology	Online Exam	Global Schools
Spring	Summer	Winter	Syllabus	Certificates

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SCO IBO Exam Schedule & Syllabus

This publication-ready document presents the visitor-facing schedule structure and class-wise syllabus for the SCO International Biology Olympiad (SCO IBO), conducted for Grade 8 to Grade 12 learners. It combines SCO cycle-based exam planning with global Biology Olympiad expectations so schools, teachers, parents, and students can understand when to participate and what to prepare.

Website-ready date standard

All visitor-facing dates in this document use the readable format DD Month YYYY, for example 03 January 2026. Raw database date-time values are not displayed to visitors.

1. SCO IBO Calendar Model: Three Cycles Every Year

SCO IBO is organised under three annual cycles so that schools and learners from different academic calendars can select a suitable preparation and exam window. The current public model uses Spring, Summer, and Winter cycles with multiple date choices inside each cycle. Results are published after the relevant cycle window according to the cycle schedule and operational readiness.

Exam Year	Cycle	Exam Window	Qualifier / Stage Window	Result Publish Date
2026	Spring	01 January 2026 - 31 March 2026	01 January 2026 - 31 March 2026	30 April 2026
2026	Summer	01 April 2026 - 31 July 2026	01 April 2026 - 31 July 2026	31 August 2026
2026	Winter	01 August 2026 - 31 December 2026	01 August 2026 - 31 December 2026	28 February 2027
2027	Spring	01 January 2027 - 31 March 2027	01 January 2027 - 31 March 2027	30 April 2027
2027	Summer	01 April 2027 - 31 July 2027	01 April 2027 - 31 July 2027	31 August 2027
2027	Winter	01 August 2027 - 31 December 2027	01 August 2027 - 31 December 2027	29 February 2028

2. SCO IBO Official Online Exam Date Slots

The attached SCO IBO plan data shows multiple configured online exam date slots for Grade 8 to Grade 12. The same date pattern appears across the Grade 8-12 Biology plans, so the schedule below can be shown as a common SCO IBO date guide for these grades. Live registration pages may show only dates that are currently active, available, and open for the selected school, cycle, country, or student plan.

Winter 2025-26 (SCO Exam Year 2026)

Configured online exam-date options for Grade 8-12 SCO IBO plans.

Date 1	Date 2	Date 3	Date 4
06 September 2025	14 September 2025	27 September 2025	04 October 2025
12 October 2025	25 October 2025	01 November 2025	09 November 2025
22 November 2025	06 December 2025	14 December 2025	27 December 2025

Spring 2026

Configured online exam-date options for Grade 8-12 SCO IBO plans.

Date 1	Date 2	Date 3	Date 4
03 January 2026	11 January 2026	24 January 2026	07 February 2026
08 February 2026	28 February 2026	07 March 2026	08 March 2026
28 March 2026			

Summer 2026

Configured online exam-date options for Grade 8-12 SCO IBO plans.

Date 1	Date 2	Date 3	Date 4
04 April 2026	12 April 2026	25 April 2026	02 May 2026
10 May 2026	23 May 2026	06 June 2026	14 June 2026
27 June 2026	04 July 2026	12 July 2026	25 July 2026

Winter 2026-27 (SCO Exam Year 2027)

Configured online exam-date options for Grade 8-12 SCO IBO plans.

Date 1	Date 2	Date 3	Date 4
04 September 2026	12 September 2026	20 September 2026	02 October 2026
10 October 2026	18 October 2026	06 November 2026	14 November 2026
15 November 2026	04 December 2026	12 December 2026	20 December 2026

3. SCO IBO Online Exam Format and Guidance

SCO IBO is designed as an online Biology Olympiad pathway. The student dashboard should display the exact test duration, number of questions, marking rules, and instructions for each live exam. Academically, the exam should test understanding, application, data interpretation, diagram analysis, and practical reasoning rather than only textbook recall.

Grade Band	Exam Focus	Visitor-facing Guidance
Grade 8-9	Foundation Biology Olympiad Pathway	Core concepts, diagrams, vocabulary, observation, ecosystems, cell basics, human body systems, and reasoning from simple data.
Grade 10	Bridge to Senior Biology	Life processes, heredity, evolution, control and coordination, environment, and resource management with diagram and data-based questions.
Grade 11-12	Advanced IBO-Style Pathway	Cell biology, physiology, genetics, evolution, ecology, biotechnology, experimental design, microscopy interpretation, and analytical problem solving.
All Grades	Online Conduct	Students should use a quiet space, stable device and internet, permitted materials only, and follow all proctoring and academic-integrity instructions.

4. Global IBO-Style Academic Benchmark

SCO IBO should be presented as an independent School Connect Olympiad programme benchmarked with global Biology Olympiad-style expectations. The official International Biology Olympiad model gives strong importance to biological understanding, processing skills, application of knowledge, practical methods, observation, evidence, and domain balance across major life-science areas.

IBO-style Domain	Global Weightage	How SCO IBO Uses It
Cell Biology	20%	Cell structure and function, microbiology, biotechnology, biomolecules, membranes, enzymes, division, and molecular processes.
Plant Anatomy and Physiology	15%	Seed plants, tissues, transport, photosynthesis, respiration, growth, reproduction, and plant responses.
Animal Anatomy and Physiology	25%	Human and vertebrate systems: nutrition, gas exchange, circulation, excretion, movement, nervous and endocrine control, immunity.
Ethology	5%	Animal behaviour, communication, learning, social behaviour, orientation, and survival strategies.
Genetics and Evolution	20%	Inheritance, molecular genetics, gene expression, variation, population genetics, speciation, and evolutionary mechanisms.
Ecology	10%	Populations, communities, ecosystems, energy flow, nutrient cycles, biodiversity, conservation, and sustainability.
Biosystematics	5%	Classification, phylogeny, diversity, taxonomy, and comparative biological relationships.

5. Class-wise SCO IBO Syllabus: Grade 8 to Grade 12

The following syllabus pathway is designed to make SCO IBO suitable for global school systems while gradually moving students toward international Biology Olympiad-style reasoning. Each grade contains a chapter-wise note and learning outcome so the document is useful for students, teachers, parents, and school coordinators.

Grade 8 Biology Syllabus

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	Key Learning Outcomes and Chapter Note
1	Cell Structure and Function	Cells as basic units of life; cell organelles; plant vs animal cells; microscopy awareness; link between structure and function.
2	Microorganisms: Friend and Foe	Bacteria, fungi, protozoa, algae and viruses; fermentation; disease; vaccines; antibiotics; food preservation and biotechnology basics.
3	Crop Production and Food Systems	Agricultural practices, nutrients, irrigation, pest control, food security, and sustainable farming decisions.
4	Reproduction in Plants and Animals	Asexual and sexual reproduction, pollination, fertilisation, embryonic development, life cycles, and responsible health awareness.
5	Human Body Systems	Nutrition, respiration, circulation, excretion, movement and coordination as connected biological systems.
6	Conservation of Plants and Animals	Biodiversity, endemic species, protected areas, food webs, habitat loss, and human impact on ecosystems.
7	Health, Hygiene and Disease Prevention	Pathogens, immunity, vaccination, sanitation, balanced diet, and interpreting health-related evidence.

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Grade 9 Biology Syllabus

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	Key Learning Outcomes and Chapter Note
1	The Fundamental Unit of Life	Cell theory, plasma membrane, cell wall, nucleus, cytoplasm, organelles, osmosis, diffusion, and cell specialisation.
2	Tissues	Plant and animal tissues, structure-function relationships, epithelial, connective, muscular, nervous, meristematic and permanent tissues.
3	Diversity in Living Organisms	Classification principles, major groups of organisms, evolutionary relationships, and biological naming logic.
4	Human Health and Disease	Communicable and non-communicable diseases, immunity, prevention, nutrition, pathogens, and public-health reasoning.
5	Natural Resources and Ecosystems	Air, water, soil, biogeochemical cycles, pollution, sustainability, and ecological balance.
6	Improvement in Food Resources	Plant and animal breeding basics, crop protection, animal husbandry, productivity, and ethical food systems.

Grade 10 Biology Syllabus

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	Key Learning Outcomes and Chapter Note
1	Life Processes	Nutrition, respiration, transport and excretion in plants and animals; energy flow within organisms; process comparison and diagrams.
2	Control and Coordination	Nervous and endocrine systems, receptors, reflexes, hormones, plant responses, and body regulation.
3	Reproduction	Asexual and sexual reproduction, reproductive health, flowering plants, human reproduction, and heredity connections.
4	Heredity and Evolution	Mendelian inheritance, variation, sex determination, evolution, natural selection, speciation, and evidence of evolution.
5	Our Environment	Food chains, trophic levels, energy transfer, waste, ozone, ecosystem services, and human ecological responsibility.
6	Management of Natural Resources	Conservation, biodiversity, sustainable development, water, forests, wildlife, and data-driven environmental decisions.

Grade 11 Biology Syllabus

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	Key Learning Outcomes and Chapter Note
1	The Living World and Biological Classification	Characteristics of life, taxonomy, nomenclature, five-kingdom and modern classification, and phylogenetic thinking.
2	Plant Kingdom and Animal Kingdom	Diversity, life cycles, evolutionary trends, major groups, comparative anatomy, and classification evidence.
3	Morphology and Anatomy of Flowering Plants	Root, stem, leaf, flower, fruit and seed structure; internal tissues; adaptation and function.
4	Structural Organisation in Animals	Animal tissues, organ systems, comparative structure, and organism-level function.
5	Cell: Unit of Life	Prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, organelles, membranes, microscopy, cell cycle, mitosis, meiosis and regulation.
6	Biomolecules and Enzymes	Carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, nucleic acids, enzymes, metabolism, energy transfer, and biological catalysis.
7	Plant Physiology	Transport, mineral nutrition, photosynthesis, respiration, growth regulators, tropisms and experimental interpretation.

8	Human Physiology	Digestion, breathing, circulation, excretion, movement, neural control, endocrine regulation, and homeostasis.
9	Introductory Ecology and Behaviour	Organisms and environment, adaptations, population basics, ecological interactions, and introductory ethology.

Grade 12 Biology Syllabus

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	Key Learning Outcomes and Chapter Note
1	Reproduction in Organisms and Flowering Plants	Life cycles, reproductive strategies, flower structure, pollination, fertilisation, seed formation and reproductive adaptations.
2	Human Reproduction and Reproductive Health	Human reproductive systems, gametogenesis, pregnancy, contraception, health, ethics, and public-health awareness.
3	Principles of Inheritance and Variation	Mendelian genetics, linkage, sex-linked traits, pedigree analysis, probability, variation and genetic problem solving.
4	Molecular Basis of Inheritance	DNA/RNA, replication, transcription, translation, gene regulation, mutations, and molecular evidence.
5	Evolution	Origin of life, natural selection, population genetics basics, adaptive radiation, speciation, and phylogenetic evidence.
6	Human Health and Disease	Immunity, vaccines, pathogens, cancer, lifestyle disorders, drugs, mental and physical health, and epidemiological thinking.
7	Biotechnology: Principles and Applications	Recombinant DNA, cloning, PCR, vectors, genetic engineering, medical and agricultural biotechnology, and bioethics.
8	Ecology, Biodiversity and Environmental Biology	Population ecology, ecosystems, energy flow, biodiversity conservation, environmental issues, climate links and sustainability.
9	Advanced Practical and Data Skills	Microscopy, experimental design, controls, variables, enzyme/data interpretation, graphing, statistics awareness and laboratory safety.

6. Preparation Roadmap for Students

Preparation Phase	Recommended Action
Foundation Phase	Read the chapter, learn terms through diagrams, and make one-page concept maps for every unit.
Practice Phase	Solve chapter-wise MCQs, diagram questions, assertion-reason questions, and data interpretation tasks.
IBO-Style Phase	Practise unfamiliar biological situations, experimental controls, evidence-based reasoning, genetics problems, and ecological case studies.
Exam Readiness	Confirm cycle, date, login, device, internet, quiet space, allowed materials, and time-zone readiness before the exam day.
After Result	Use topic-wise performance feedback to revise weak areas and plan the next SCO cycle or advanced practice.

7. Guidance for Schools, Teachers and Parents

For Schools

- Select SCO IBO cycles according to the school calendar, holidays, revision period, and available computer-lab or online-support arrangements.
- Encourage students from Grade 8 to Grade 12 to participate through grade-appropriate biology pathways rather than only senior competitive tracks.
- Use cycle-wise participation to identify talented biology learners and guide them toward science projects, environmental clubs, biotechnology awareness, and advanced olympiad preparation.

For Teachers

- Map chapters to IBO-style skills: diagram interpretation, data reading, experimental design, classification, genetics reasoning, and ecological evidence.
- Use one weekly olympiad task: one diagram, one graph, one experimental setup, and one high-quality reasoning question.
- After each practice test, analyse mistakes by concept, skill type, and reasoning pattern rather than only by marks.

For Parents and Students

- Choose a date after reviewing preparation level, school schedule, device readiness, and internet stability.
- Prepare with diagrams, short notes, flashcards, past-style reasoning questions, and everyday biological examples.
- Treat SCO IBO as a learning-growth opportunity: the aim is strong biology thinking, ethical exam behaviour, and steady improvement across cycles.

8. Important Notes

- SCO IBO is an independent School Connect Olympiad programme and should be described as an online global alternative and preparation pathway benchmarked with IBO-style expectations, not as the official International Biology Olympiad selection route.
- Date availability may vary by active cycle, registration status, country, school, and operational configuration in the live SCO portal.
- The exact exam duration, question count, negative marking rule, and result visibility should always be confirmed from the active online test instructions shown to the student.
- Students should follow all proctoring, login, identity, device, browser, and academic-integrity requirements displayed on the test platform.

9. Academic Benchmark References

This document has been prepared with reference to official and global Biology Olympiad guidance, especially IBO rules and guidelines that describe theoretical tasks, practical problem-solving, domain balance, safety, and student-centred biological reasoning. SCO IBO adapts these expectations into an online, grade-wise, globally accessible format for Grade 8 to Grade 12 learners.

Reference Area	Use in SCO IBO Document
International Biology Olympiad official website	Global mission, rules and guidelines, papers, and general Olympiad structure.
IBO Operational Guidelines	Theory domain proportions, practical-skills expectations, exam review, and biological problem-solving focus.
IBO-style practical guidance	Observation, experimental design, laboratory methods, safety, data handling, and reasoning from biological evidence.