XPERTSTEM

INTERNATIONAL
STEM COMPETITION

Guidebook

2026 - 2027 SEASON









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Organised by
Oscar Education Group

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1. About the XPERTSTEM Competition

XPERTSTEM is an international, knowledge-based STEM competition for students in Grades 3 to 12. It celebrates and rewards academic excellence in Mathematics, Science, CoreSTEM, and English, giving students the chance to compete on a global stage.

The competition brings together students, parents and teachers, supporting young learners on their journey from national achievement to international success. The best students earn a place at the Elite Finals, where competition meets cultural exchange, social activities and excursions.

It aims to:

- raise the level of enthusiasm for science, technology, English and mathematics among students worldwide;
- identify and nurture the next generation of scientific leaders;
- build bridges between science, technology, education and young people.

2. Subjects for 2026–2027

Subject	Notes
Mathematics	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
English	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Natural Science	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Biology	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
Chemistry	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
Physics	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
CoreSTEM (new)	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

3. New for 2026–2027: CoreSTEM

The XPERTSTEM CoreSTEM Challenge is an international STEAM competition where students solve real-world problems using science, mathematics, technology, engineering, data, sustainability, and society. Themes: Scientific Discovery · Mathematics & Data · Technology & Computing · Engineering & Design · Society, Ethics & Communication.

Questions are tailored to each age group, with appropriate vocabulary and difficulty. This means a Grade 5 and Grade 11 student can have questions on the same topic, but at different levels.

4. How the Competition Works

XPERTSTEM has two main stages: the **Qualification Round** and the **Elite Finals**. Students can reach the Elite Finals through three pathways:

- **Online Qualifier:** students qualify for the XPERTSTEM Elite Finals with an online test. The online test is available in English only. Gold medallists receive 10% off Elite Finals registration.
- **On-site Qualifier:** a physical test where our partners decide the test date, venue, and language. Gold medallists receive 10% off Elite Finals registration.
- **National / Regional Qualifier:** a prestigious on-site qualifying event that gives students the Elite Finals feel at qualifier level. Gold medallists receive 10% off Elite Finals registration.

Elite Finals: the prestigious Global Finals take place in Dubai, Boston and London in 2027. Division 1 (Grades 3–4) students must have parental supervision.

5. Who Can Participate

Students currently enrolled in primary or secondary school, **Grades 3 to 12**, in any country. The difficulty of questions depends on the student's grade.

Division	Grades
Division 1	3–4
Division 2	5–6
Division 3	7–8
Division 4	9–10
Division 5	11–12

6. Online Qualification Round

The Online Qualification Round is a remote phase held on scheduled dates. Results create a leaderboard, and top-ranking students earn the chance to compete in the Elite Finals. Students can take the tests from home or school, supervised by a parent or teacher.

Each test has **30 multiple-choice questions (four options each)** and an **80-minute** time limit. Not all questions carry the same points (for example, question 12 might earn 1.3 points and question 24 only 0.9). Students who finish faster earn additional points.

The three tests

Test	Syllabus	Registration deadline	Test date
Ignition Test	First chapter	2 December 2026	5 December 2026
Acceleration Test	Second chapter	27 January 2027	30 January 2027
Final Orbit Test	Third chapter	17 March 2027	20 March 2027

Students only need to take one test to qualify for the Elite Finals, but may take all three if they would like to. Skipping an earlier test does not prevent entry to a later one.

How to register

Our local partner in your region can register you on our platform, or you can register by yourself, in which case we advise you to have your supervisor/partner's code in hand when registering.

In either case, you will receive your login details via email. Once you have them, you can log in to our platform and start your exam at the scheduled time.

1. Visit www.xpertstem.org and click on **REGISTER**.
2. Select Online Qualifications Rounds.
3. Fill in the registration details.
4. Log in to your account.
5. Purchase your exam.

Online exam platform rules

- Any suitable device may be used (laptop, desktop, tablet, smartphone); Chrome is recommended
- A stable internet connection is required
- The exam link is sent to the email address given at registration, and cannot be opened on two devices at once
- The timer starts when the student clicks Start at the announced time
- If the connection drops, the student can resume where they left off
- One question is shown at a time; skipped questions cannot be revisited, and a submitted test cannot be reviewed
- A blank sheet of paper is allowed; **no calculators of any kind**

Practice tests

Free practice tests are provided on the XPERTSTEM website for each subject and grade division, covering the whole syllabus, in the same MCQ format.

7. Onsite (Paper-Based) Qualification Round

Together with national partners, students can take the qualification test onsite on paper. Dates and venues are set locally with the partner, and the test may be offered in the local language.

- 30 multiple-choice questions, 80 minutes
- Same qualification threshold and certificates as the online round
- Partners can organise onsite exams on the official dates

8. Languages

Stage	Language
Online Qualification Round	English only
Onsite Qualification Round	English or the local language, as agreed with the partner
National Finals	English or the local language, as agreed with the partner
Regional Qualifiers and Elite Finals	English only

9. Results and Medals in the Qualification Phase

Every student receives a participation certificate. Achievement certificates are awarded by score:

Score	Certificate
30–59 points	Honourable Mention
60–69 points	Bronze Medal
70–89 points	Silver Medal
90+ points	Gold Medal

- **Qualifying for the Elite Finals:** a score of **at least 60 points in any one test**. Qualifiers receive a qualification letter.
- **Gold medallists** receive a **10% discount** on the Elite Finals submission fee. The discount code is valid for 30 days.
- Results are final; appeals are not accepted.

10. National Finals

Held in each participating country with national partners, the National Finals crown the National XPERTSTEM Champion.

- **Who:** any student in Grades 3–12. Taking part in the Qualification Round is not required.
- **Format:** an individual test of 30 MCQs covering all three syllabus chapters, 80 minutes. Held onsite at partner-selected venues or online, on dates set per country.
- **Language:** English or the local language.
- **Awards:** national medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze), certificates and national rankings.
- **Progression:** top students qualify directly for the Elite Finals or advance to the Regional Qualifiers.

11. Regional Finals

Regional Qualifiers bring together students from several countries in a region.

- **Who:** top-ranking students from the National Finals
- **Components:** an Individual Test (30 MCQs, 80 minutes) and a Theory Challenge (15 two-tier questions, 150 minutes)

- **Language:** English
- **Awards:** regional medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze), certificates and regional rankings
- **Progression:** top students earn a place in the Elite Finals

2026–2027 Regional Qualifiers

Location	Dates	Format
Indonesia	29 October – 1 November 2026	In person
Türkiye	1–4 April 2027	In person

12. Elite Finals

The Elite Finals are the highest stage of the competition, where the best students from around the world compete for the global XPERTSTEM titles. Students from Grades 3 to 12 who have qualified compete in Science, English, Mathematics and CoreSTEM. All challenges cover the full syllabus announced in advance, and everything is conducted in English.

Locations and dates

Elite Final	Dates
Dubai, United Arab Emirates	11–15 March 2027
Boston, United States	23–28 June 2027
London, United Kingdom	2–7 August 2027

The three challenges

Challenge	Format	Share of total score
Individual Challenge	30 MCQs, four options each	30%
Theory Exam Challenge	Step-by-step solutions; points for each correct step	50%
Team Challenge	Teams of up to 3; step-by-step working; every member receives the team's points	20%

Daily schedule

Day	Programme
Day 1	Arrival, check-in, Welcome Night
Day 2	Opening Ceremony, Individual Challenge, excursion
Day 3	Theory Exam Challenge, excursion
Day 4	Team Challenge, excursion, International Night
Day 5	Excursion, Award Ceremony, Farewell Party
Day 6	Check-out and departure

13. Awards and Benefits

All Elite Finals participants receive an XPERTSTEM certificate of participation. Exceptional performers receive a certificate of achievement and a medal.

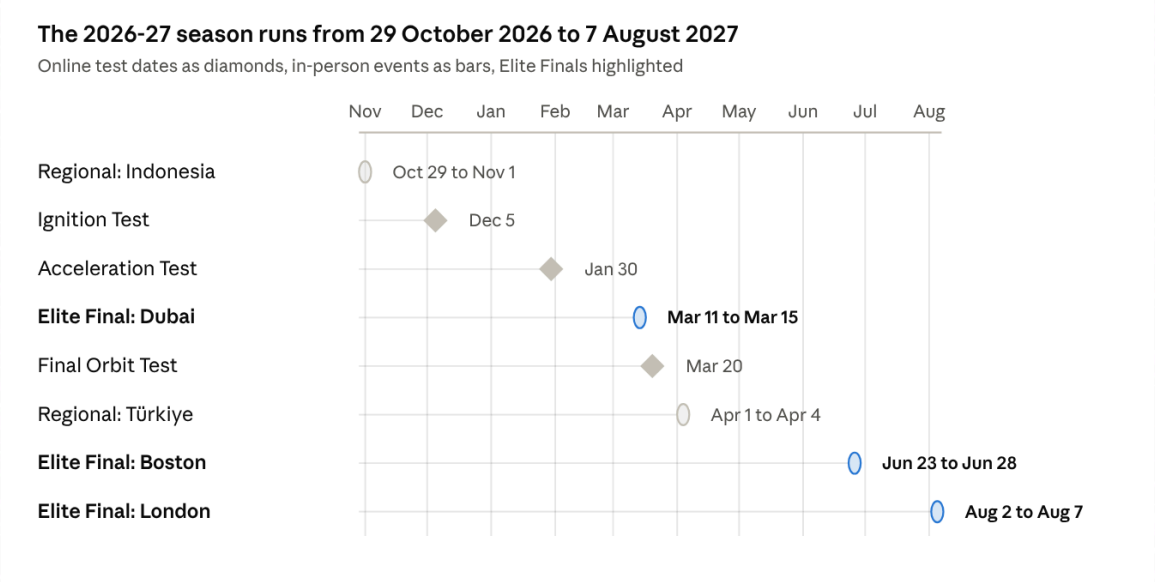
Medal ranking at the Elite Finals

Medals are awarded per grade division as a share of participants: **Gold 10%, Silver 30%, Bronze 40%.**

Elite Finals benefits

- **Language / Summer Schools:** exclusive discounts of up to 20% at renowned language and summer schools in the UK
- **Colleges:** discounts of up to 50% from CATS Colleges across the globe, depending on academic ranking
- **Universities:** free consultations on university placements through Oscar Education Group

14. 2026–2027 Season at a Glance



2026–27 season timeline · 8 events

Students attending the Dubai Elite Final (11–15 March 2027) qualify through the Ignition or Acceleration Test. The Final Orbit Test (20 March 2027) falls after Dubai, so students who qualify through it can only attend Boston or London.

XPERTSTEM

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