GUIDELINE FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE (NSC) 2026
STATE LEVEL (SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGE)

1.0 OVERVIEW

In the NSC 2026 State Level, each team will be assigned a problem statement developed in collaboration with NSC 2026 strategic partner agencies. In line with the theme **"Strengthening Science Foundations for Resilient and Inclusive Future,"** the problem statements are designed to reflect real-world challenges and encourage students to apply scientific knowledge, experiment skills, creativity, and teamwork to propose solutions.

To support students in developing their experiment:

I. Each team will receive an **experiment kit** containing materials and apparatus that are suitable to be used for the problem statements. While students are encouraged to use the kit as a guide, they are not limited to the materials provided and may incorporate additional materials and apply their own ideas and scientific reasoning to design and conduct the experiment.

II. Students will also be guided by a **video prepared by the agencies**, which will help participating teams understand the scientific context of the assigned problem statement.

III. Each team will be assigned a **Mentor from the Young Scientists Network - Academy of Sciences Malaysia (YSN-ASM)** to provide guidance on preparing the scientific challenge report and conducting the experiment. The list of assigned mentors will be announced by 8 June 2026.

The NSC 2026 State Level consists of **TWO** components:

Scientific Report (50%) | **Video Recording (50%)**

2.0 RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. SCIENTIFIC REPORT (50%)

1. The team must submit a scientific report documenting your experiment, data, analysis, and conclusion. The scientific report must be prepared using the **NSC 2026 Scientific Report Template** provided.

2. The report must be written in **either Bahasa Melayu or English**, and the language used must be consistent with the language of the video submission.
3. The scientific report may be **typed or handwritten**. However, teams are strongly encouraged to type their report for clarity and neat presentation. If the report is handwritten, it must be clear, neat, and legible for the judges to review.
4. All data, observations, photos, diagrams, tables, and graphs must be **original** and related to the team's own experiment.
5. The experiment must be suitable, safe, and possible to conduct using materials and apparatus available to the team.
6. Any information taken from books, websites, articles, or other sources must be properly acknowledged in the reference section.
7. The report must be the original work of the team and must not include false data, copied content, or experiments that were not actually conducted. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited.
8. AI must not be used to fabricate data, generate false results, create diagrams, graphs, tables, analyses, or conclusions, or replace work that should be conducted by the team. Any other use of generative AI must be declared upon submission.
9. The organiser reserves the right to conduct plagiarism checks and/ or AI-generated content checks. Any submission found to violate this rule may be disqualified.
10. The scientific report must **NOT** exceed **10 pages**, including the first page of references.
11. Late submissions will **NOT** be accepted.

B. VIDEO RECORDING (50%)

1. The video must clearly **SHOW** that the experiment was conducted by the students and must show the experimental setup and design, scientific explanation, results and conclusion.
2. All team members must be present in the video, either through speaking, demonstrating, explaining, or assisting with the experiment.
3. The experiment shown in the video must be the same experiment described in the scientific report.
4. Key or informative figures such as labels, diagrams, flow chart, table, or any related graphics may be used to help explain the experiment.
5. The video must be original and produced by the team. Students must not use copied scripts, AI-generated narration, staged or misleading experiment footage. The organiser may review the video for originality and authenticity. Any video found to be misleading, copied, or not produced according to the rules may result in disqualification.
6. **No professional assistance is allowed**. Mentor teachers may assist in the video production process and provide verbal guidance only. However, they are **NOT ALLOWED** to appear in the video recording.

7. The video **MUST NOT** contain inappropriate language, offensive content, violent, racist, or defamatory content. Failure to comply with these formal specifications will lead to an automatic disqualification of the team.
8. Late submissions will **NOT** be accepted.
9. Record and submit a video either in **Bahasa Melayu or English (a maximum of 3 minutes including the title screen)**. The language used must be **consistent** with the language of the scientific report. Further details on the **technical specifications** for the video submission are outlined below.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. All entries should begin with 10 seconds "title screen" that includes the following information:
   i. Team ID
   ii. School name
   iii. State
   iv. Title of video
2. Video must be uploaded as one single file in the highest quality as follows:
   a. **Maximum size**: 500 MB
   b. **Format**: MP4
   c. **Orientation**: Landscape, 1080p (H) x 1920p (L)
   d. **Video duration:** 3 minutes
   e. **Audio**: Please ensure the audio is clear and easily audible. The use of a microphone is highly recommended. If a microphone is not available, kindly record in a quiet environment to minimise background noise.
   f. **Language:** Bahasa Melayu or English (with clear narration). The language used must be consistent with the scientific report.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. There will be independent judges allocated for each team. The team will be assessed based on Judging Rubric. The judges' decision is final.

2. The scientific report will be judged based on:
   - **Abstract**: Summary of the project which includes objective(s), methodology, results, conclusion.
   - **Introduction**: Introductory of the project which includes background of study, problem statement and objective(s).
   - **Methodology:** Outline all the steps, materials, and equipment used in the experiment, and explain the purpose of each step.
   - **Results and Discussions:** Present the results based on the experiment's objectives, with a proper discussion and analysis.
   - **Conclusions:** Conclude the findings in addressing all objectives of the experiment.

3. The video recording will be judged based on:
    - **3-Minute Synthesis:** Effectively synthesise and communicate the entire experiment within 3 minutes.
    - **Scientific Communication:** Effectively communicate the experimental setup, the process of the investigation, and the results through clear, structured, and coherent explanations.
    - **Results & Findings:** Exhibit significant results with proper discussion and a clear, logical explanation.
    - **Scientific Discussion:** Explain issues related to the experiment and describe technical aspects with depth**.**
    - **Creativity in Problem Solving:** Apply appropriate techniques and materials to solve problems despite limitations.
    - **Teamwork & Synergy:** Exhibit collaborative effort; every member demonstrates initiative and ideas.
    - **Impact Justification:** Explain why your experiment is important, what problem it addresses, and how it contributes new knowledge.
    - **Safety & Ethics:** Adherence to lab safety protocols, proper handling of materials, and ethical practices in conducting the experiment.

HOW TO SUBMIT

1. The deadline for the submission of both the scientific report and video recording is **17 July 2026, 11.59 PM.**
2. The scientific report and video recording may be uploaded via the **submission form** linked here: https://forms.akademisains.gov.my/nsc2026statelevelsubmission

HOW TEAMS ADVANCE TO THE SEMI FINAL & GRAND FINAL LEVEL

i. 16 teams will be selected from **13 States and 3 Federal Territories (1 team from each State/ Federal Territory)** to compete at the Semi Final Level.
ii. The states and Federal Territories are Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Sabah, Sarawak, Selangor, Terengganu, W.P. Kuala Lumpur, W.P. Labuan, and W.P. Putrajaya.
iii. **One (1)** team with the **highest normalised scores** from each state will advance to the Semi Final Level.
iv. From the Semi Final Level, **five (5)** teams with the highest normalised scores will advance to the Grand Final Level.
v. The decision of the judges is final and cannot be appealed.

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