



WORLD'S BIGGEST OLYMPIADS

8 School Level Olympiad Exams



Presents

Brainiac Bulletin

A FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 | 17/24 | December 15, 2025

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RESULT DECLARED

★ SOF WISHES ALL THE BEST ★

TO ASPIRANTS TAKING THE JANUARY OLYMPIAD EXAM!

SOF FORTNIGHTLY UPDATES

Important Notice: The SOF NSO, IMO, IEO, IGKO, ICO exams have successfully concluded across all examination dates, marking another milestone in our journey of academic excellence.

For schools that may have missed registration for the ICSO, ISSO, and IHO, it's the final opportunity to participate. Don't miss the chance, registrations are open for the upcoming final exam dates listed below.

EXAM SCHEDULE

SOF Olympiad	Date 1	Date 2	Date 3
ICSO	24-September, 2025	09-October, 2025	22 January, 2026
ISSO	18-September, 2025	20-November, 2025	23 January, 2026
IHO	19-September, 2025	19-November, 2025	22 January, 2026

For additional information, Schools and institutes are advised to contact the SOF support team. Teachers and Principals may contact SOF Authorities at **+91 9312680855**, **+91 9312680857**, or **+91 124-4951200** to get all the details.

Showcase Your Success in the SOF Hall of Fame!

SOF invites schools, parents and students to submit entries for the "Hall of Fame", a platform that celebrates exceptional and well-rounded student achievements. Selected entries will be featured on the SOF website, Facebook page, and in this newsletter.

To participate, please email your achievements along with valid proof and photographs to info@sofworld.org

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INNOVATIONS THAT CHANGED OUR WORLD FOR FOREVER!

Innovation that saved time and effort

By John Lee Love (1897)



The pencil sharpener revolutionized the way we maintain our writing tools, keeping them in perfect shape and ready for use. Before this convenient invention, people had to sharpen pencils manually, either using knives or by hand, which was time-consuming, messy, and sometimes even dangerous.

These methods were inefficient and often resulted in uneven or broken pencil tips, making the writing experience frustrating. Love's invention, however, streamlined the process, making sharpening quick, easy, and precise.

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TEXTBOOK MEETS REAL WORLD

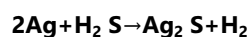
Have you ever noticed how silver jewellery, utensils, or decorative items slowly turn dark or black over time? That black coating that forms on the surface isn't dirt — it's tarnish, and its formation is actually a fascinating chemical process involving sulfur-containing substances in the air.

When silver is exposed to hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) or other sulfur compounds present in the atmosphere, a slow chemical reaction begins. This reaction causes the silver to break down at the surface and form a black compound known as silver sulfide. Unlike rust on iron, this tarnish doesn't flake away, but it still affects the appearance and shine of the metal.

Here is how it works:

As the silver (Ag) comes into contact with hydrogen sulfide gas in the air, a reaction occurs in which silver atoms bond with sulfur atoms. This reaction forms silver sulfide (Ag_2S), the dark, black material responsible for the tarnished look. Because silver sulfide is insoluble and strongly attached to the metal surface, the tarnish remains unless it is cleaned or polished away. Moisture in the air can speed up the reaction by helping the ions move more easily.

This process happens gradually over time, and although it doesn't significantly weaken the structure of the silver object, it goes dull and discolour the surface. The scientific process at play here is a sulfide-formation reaction, and the overall chemical reaction can be summarised as:



Scientific Conclusion:

In summary, the black coating you see on silver items is a result of silver reacting with sulfur-containing gases in the air to form silver sulfide. This surface reaction is a natural and inevitable process, but it can be reversed through polishing or chemical cleaning. So the next time you notice your silver jewellery turning black, you're witnessing the subtle chemistry of tarnishing taking place right before your eyes!

TEACHERS HELPDESK

What teachers could do to boost logical thinking for their students?

- **Engage:** Incorporate open-ended questions during discussions to encourage students to explain their reasoning rather than aiming for quick answers.
- **Demonstrate:** Set up live demonstration practices by showing students how to break problems into steps and evaluate different possibilities.
- **Connect:** Integrate real-world scenarios into lessons so students practice applying logic to situations they recognise and care about.
- **Collaborate:** Use collaborative problem-solving tasks, which prompt students to compare viewpoints, justify ideas, and refine their reasoning.
- **Reflect:** Provide regular reflection moments, inviting students to review how they reached a conclusion and what they might approach differently next time.
- **Play:** Introduce simple logic-based games and puzzles, helping students strengthen pattern recognition and reasoning skills in a fun, low-pressure way.

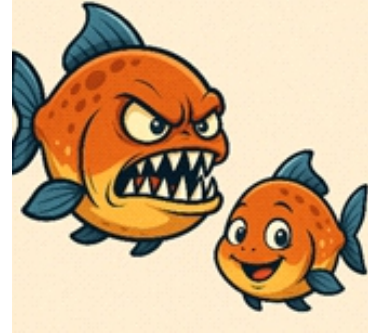
MYTH VS FACT

MYTH

Piranhas can devour a human body in a matter of seconds, just like Hollywood movies portray.

FACT

Piranhas are really timid and cautious fish. No cases of human death from piranha attacks have ever been recorded.



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TIPS FOR TEACHERS

How can teachers help Olympiad Aspirants by setting a digital tech space?

1. **Create personalised learning paths** using digital platforms that assess each student's current level and recommend topic-wise study modules.
2. **Set weekly micro-goals** (topics, quizzes, practice questions) and track completion through learning management systems (LMS).
3. **Use interactive tools** like simulations, video lessons, and concept apps to strengthen conceptual understanding in Math, Science, and Logical Reasoning.
4. **Incorporate adaptive practice tests** that adjust difficulty based on performance to prepare students for higher-level Olympiad problems.
5. **Provide instant feedback** through auto-graded quizzes and digital analytics to identify strong and weak areas quickly.
6. **Schedule revision cycles using** digital planners, reminders, and spaced-repetition apps to ensure long-term retention before exams.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF



Sun turns into a black hole?

Sometimes you can't help but wonder what would happen if the familiar glow above us shifted, just slightly into something darker, heavier, almost aware. Imagine looking up one night and sensing the sky change, as if the light itself is holding its breath. And you can't shake the question: what if the Sun became something that no longer warms... but watches?

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VOCABULARY BOOST



What is Fatuous?

"Fatuous" refers to something foolish or senseless, often used to describe behaviour that pretends to be wise but lacks real thought behind it. It's the kind of remark you might hear in a dull meeting, a smug comment, or an empty argument. This word captures the essence of shallow thinking wrapped in misplaced confidence. Describe something that's confidently silly, pointless, and unaware of its own absurdity today.

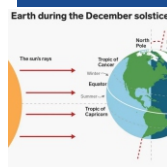
DO YOU KNOW?



Frog can throw up their stomach.

If a frog eats something poisonous, it cannot vomit like humans. Instead, it throws out its entire stomach, cleans it, and then pulls it back in! This is called 'Full Gastric Aversion.' This unusual survival trick helps the frog quickly get rid of toxins before they can be absorbed into its body.

ASTRONOMY FACT



Dec 21: December Solstice

The December solstice takes place at 15:03 UTC. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year. Meanwhile, in the Southern Hemisphere, it is the summer solstice and the longest day of the year.



ASK the Expert

Have doubts & queries about the SOF Olympiads? Ask now! Submit your questions and get them answered by experts. Don't miss out, stay informed, and excel in the SOF Olympiad. Message us on the SOF Official Instagram Page.

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