

February 9, 2026

Dear High School Physics Teachers:

I would like to take this opportunity to alert you to **TWO** physics competitions that may be of interest to your students.

1. The Canadian Association of Physicists is sponsoring the annual physics prize competition as outlined in the enclosed attachments. The date for the competition is **Wednesday, April 8th, 2026**. Again this year the exam is common to all provinces in Canada. There are prizes awarded within each province and in addition there will be national prizes awarded.
2. The Department of Physics and Engineering Physics at the University of Saskatchewan is once again sponsoring the province wide UofS High School Physics competition. The details of the competition are outlined in the enclosed announcement and will closely follow the Saskatchewan High School Curriculum. The date for the competition is **Thursday, May 7th, 2026**.

An announcement poster and additional information is attached.

We are asking each school to make their own arrangements regarding the place for writing the competition(s). We will **email** the competition papers directly to the schools that wish to participate, unless paper copies are requested.

- Requests for the 2026 CAP High School Prize Examination **should be received on or before March 23, 2026**
- Requests for the 2026 U of S High School Physics Competition **should be received on or before April 24, 2026**

Thank you for your assistance in this project. It is our sincere hope that many of your students will take advantage of either, or both, of these opportunities. Please contact us about any matters relating to the competitions.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Mark Boland  
Provincial Coordinator of the CAP High School Prize Examination  
and  
Dr. Amir Farahani  
Coordinator of the UofS High School Physics Competition

Encls.



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING PHYSICS

**2026**  
**University of Saskatchewan**  
**High School Physics**  
**Competition**



A 1.5 hour multiple choice exam based on the *Saskatchewan High School Physics Curriculum*.

**Exam Day:** Thursday, May 7, 2026.

**Prizes:** First \$400, Second \$325, Third \$250 Awarded when the winning student enrolls in a first-year Physics, Engineering Physics or Astronomy class at the University of Saskatchewan



**2026**  
**Canadian Association of Physicists**  
**High School Prize Examination**

The examination will consist of a combination of multiple choice and long answer problems.

**Exam Day:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

**Prizes:** National awards: First \$500, Second \$300, Third \$200.

**\*\*TEACHERS – please note the attached page from CAP with instructions for their new format of the exam procedure and grading.**

For more information visit: <https://research-groups.usask.ca/physics-high-school-outreach/>

# 2026 CAP High School Prize Examination

The [Canadian Association of Physicists High School / Cégep Prize Exam](#) seeks to discover the best secondary-level physics students in Canada. This is a great opportunity to get your high school students involved!

This year's exam will be held on **Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Teachers are invited to register their schools by contacting the appropriate CAP [provincial coordinator](#).

Available in English and French, the exam consists of a multiple-choice section and three long-answer problems. The exam is marked by a National Exam Committee, which will announce results and distribute prizes. The level of this exam is intentionally high and is based on the International Baccalaureate Higher Curriculum, with an emphasis on mechanics, optics, electricity and magnetism.

## Why get involved?

There will be national prizes sponsored by the CAP. A student's result on this National Exam may be made available to all universities in Canada, making a student eligible for scholarships. Top students who ace this exam will be invited to participate in the [Physics Olympiad National Training Camp](#), which will be run by the University of British Columbia in May, 2026. The top student finalists from the camp will be announced as Team Canada, and will have the opportunity to represent Canada at the International Physics Olympiad in Bucaramanga, Colombia in July 2026. Find out more about this year's 2026 International Physics Olympiad [here](#).

We are requesting that each school make its own arrangements regarding the place for writing the exam. Any number of students may sit the exam, but we recommend that teacher discretion be used, as the exam is meant to stretch even the most capable students. Please return the examination request form by email to [marj.granrude@usask.ca](mailto:marj.granrude@usask.ca) to request the appropriate number of examination papers. Papers will be available in French or English. Requests should be received by **March 23, 2026**. Exam materials will be emailed to you at least one week before the exam date.

If you would like more information please contact Dr. Mark Boland at [mark.boland@usask.ca](mailto:mark.boland@usask.ca) or the departmental secretary at [marj.granrude@usask.ca](mailto:marj.granrude@usask.ca).

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Boland  
Provincial Coordinator for the CAP High School Prize Examination

## CAP Exam Procedure and Grading-April 8, 2026

This year, the CAP exam grading will be done differently. CAP coordinators will no longer need to grade the multiple-choice questions, as these will be marked automatically using a specialized software.

Each exam booklet will have a unique identifying number printed at the top of all pages. For this reason, it is very important that **teachers do not print multiple copies of the same booklet.**

To ensure this process works correctly, exam coordinators and teachers must carefully follow the instructions below.

### Coordinators:

- To allow us to prepare the exam booklets on a timely manner, please enter the following information in the shared Excel worksheet by March 20<sup>th</sup>:
  - The list of participating schools.
  - The approximate number of students expected to write the exam at each school.
  - The exam version required by each school (French or English).
- We will email you individual exam files for each school, clearly labeled with the school's name. **Each file will contain 20-30 unique exam booklets.**
- You are responsible for distributing these files, ensuring that each school receives its designated file.
- After the exam, please review all scanned files you receive from the teachers to ensure the scans are complete and clear before emailing them to us.

### Teachers:

- Each exam booklet will have a unique identifying number printed at the top of all pages. For this reason, it is very important that **you do not print multiple copies of the same booklet.**
- Based on the expected number of students at your school, please print only the required number of booklets.
- Students should be instructed to fully and clearly fill in the square corresponding to their chosen answer.
  - The following instruction will be included on the exam booklet.
    - Do not circle the boxes. Use dark pen/pencil to indicate your choice.
-  excellent  
wrong, lines too thin  
really bad
- The software can not detect answers if the square is not filled in properly.
- Sufficient space will be provided for each long-answer question, so **students must write all solutions directly in the exam booklet.** Solutions written outside the designated area will not be graded.
- After the exam, please **scan each booklet individually**, but only those booklets that contain solutions to at least one long-answer question.
  - Booklets with no long-answer solutions should not be scanned.
  - Please ensure all pages of the exam booklets are scanned.
- Please zip all the scanned files into a single folder, name the zipped folder using the school's name, and send it to the coordinator immediately after the exam.

# 2026 CAP High School Prize Examination

## Request for Examination Papers

Exam date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

This form should be emailed by **March 23, 2026** to the departmental secretary marj.granrude@usask.ca (e-mail requests will be acknowledged by e-mail.)

**PLEASE NOTE THE ATTACHED PAGE ABOVE WITH THE NEW FORMAT FOR THE CAP PRIZE EXAM.**

High School:	
School District:	Principal:
<b>Examiner to whom papers should be sent:</b>	
Name:	Telephone No.:
Address:	
City:	E-mail:
Postal Code:	

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ exams in English. Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ exams in French.

\_\_\_\_\_ **WOULD LIKE EXAM SENT BY EMAIL**

\_\_\_\_\_ **WOULD LIKE EXAMS SENT BY MAIL (number of exams \_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_ French)**

Examiner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_