

## Summary of BPhO papers and competition dates 2017-18

Paper	Yr 10 Online Competition	Experimental Project	A2 Challenge	Astronomy & Astrophysics A2 Challenge (Astro Challenge)	The British Physics Olympiad BPhO Round 1*	British Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad Competition Paper	The British Physics Olympiad BPhO Round 2	AS Challenge	GCSE Physics Challenge
Year group	Yr 10	Yr 11 & Yr 12 entries	Yr 13 or below	Yr 13 or below	Yr 13 or below	Yr 13 or below	Yr 13 or below	Yr 12 (or below)	Yr 11
Registering for paper	Online via online shop.	Available from: w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Available from: w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	Available from: w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	Deadline: Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 <i>Electronic version is available to order until Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017</i>	Deadline: Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 <i>Electronic version is available to order until Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018</i>	By Invitation only (only students who achieve Top Gold)	Deadline: Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2018 <i>Electronic versions only</i> <b>(new date)</b>	Deadline: Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018 <i>Electronic versions only</i> <b>(new date)</b>
Test date	A 2-3 week period during Autumn 2017	Submission date: By Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2017	Certificate deadline: Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Certificate deadlines: Distc'n: Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 Merit: Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2017	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018	Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2018	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018 <b>(new date)</b>	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 <b>(new date)</b>
Overview	A new online quiz to generate interest in a national physics competition amongst students. Many easy marks with some more testing questions. Multiple choice. 2 x 25 minute quizzes.	The project gives students hands-on experience of 'How Science Works' - planning and undertaking an open-ended expt., with independent research, working in pairs, and communicating their findings.	The paper develops students' interest in problem solving. It prepares them for questions which require analysis of information to work out not only the answer, but also what route to take in order to obtain it.	A mix of astronomy and physics to allow students to analyse observational data through to a conclusion. Physics ideas applied to the wider universe in a problem solving context. Based on core physics, with extra detail being supplied in the question.	Our flagship competition, the British Physics Olympiad has run for over 25 years. The competition has a dual purpose: to challenge and reward the best physicists in British schools and to select the UK Team for the IPhO.	Similar to the Astro Challenge Paper but taking the ideas a little further. Based on core physics. Extra syllabus material is given in the question. Copy of syllabus online. For physicists at AS or A2 interested in astronomy or just good physics problems.	A paper about problem solving through setting up models, making predictions and explaining real world effects.	Stretches physics thinking skills and encourages students to apply fundamental principles to novel situations. Provides an excellent tool to assess and challenge good students.	The paper has a more mathematical style and includes multiple-choice and short answer sections. It is suitable for students who are predicted to achieve an A* or A for either dual award science or physics as a separate subject.
Length of exam	2 x 25 minutes	Open ended	1 hour	1 hour	2 hrs 40 min (can be sat in 2 sections)	3 hours	3 hours	1 hour	1 hour
Marked	Online	Teachers select their best entries to submit for each age group, to be judged nationally by the BPhO team	In school, mark scheme provided	In school, mark scheme provided.	By the BPhO team Deadline for returning papers: Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	By the BAAO team Deadline for returning papers: Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	By the BPhO team Deadline for returning papers: Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	In school, mark scheme provided	In school, mark scheme provided
Certificates	Emailed out	Gold, Silver, Bronze, Commendation	Merit: 20/50 or above Participation: 19 marks or below	Distinction: papers over 60% to be submitted by Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 Merit & Participation: results submitted online by Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2017	Gold (Top 50), Gold, Silver, Bronze I, Bronze II, Participation	Gold, Silver, Bronze, Participation	≈ 15 Gold ≈ 15 Silver ≈ 20 Bronze	Gold, Silver, Bronze, Participation	Gold, Silver, Bronze, Participation
Book prizes		Gold award winners and some top silvers			Gold award winners	Gold award winners	Selected students invited to Royal Soc.	Gold award winners	Gold award winners
Cost	£30 for any number of entries from a school	Free electronically	Free electronically	Free electronically	£18 per printed paper (two free entries for non-fee paying schools). (Entries to Round 2 and 3 are free*)	Free - papers posted	Free - papers posted	Free electronically	Free electronically

\*Round 2 and 3 of the British Physics Olympiad are by invitation only and are used to select the UK team for the International Physics Olympiad. Round 3 is open to the top 15 students who are interested in the participating in the IPhO. This paper is sat at the University of Oxford Training Camp.

Papers are designed to favour all exam boards equally. Some of the students achieving the highest results in the Experimental Project, The British Physics Olympiad, The British Astronomy & Astrophysics Competition, AS Challenge and GCSE Challenge will be invited to a prize giving ceremony at the Royal Society. More information about the competition can be found here: [www.bpho.org.uk](http://www.bpho.org.uk).