NISMCAA

Volunteer Course

Public learning edition · Orientation and Child Care & Protection

Open to everyone. Read online or save this PDF. No registration is required.

Practice questions are learning exercises only. They do not confirm screening, appointment, an ID card or permission to work with children.

Contact: info@nismcaa.com

NISMCAA Orientation Course

Twelve approved lessons for volunteers and recruits

6 October 2026

Public course materials

This course is open to everyone. NISMCAA retains ownership of its course materials. Studying this course or using the practice questions does not constitute screening, appointment or permission to work with children.

Lesson 1: What is NISMCAA?

NISMCAA stands for National Inter-School Music Competition & Academic Award. It brings schools together around two connected activities: a music competition for students and academic awards that recognize educational achievement.

Students have opportunities to create, practise, collaborate and express themselves through music. Schools also celebrate the effort and achievement that happen in the classroom. For NISMCAA, the stage and the classroom belong in the same conversation. Musical talent deserves encouragement, and academic achievement deserves recognition.

Our mission: Enhancing academic excellence using music as a tool.

Our vision: Impacting academics through music.

Remember: NISMCAA supports both music and learning. You should clearly explain these two parts of the project.

Lesson 2: The Music Competition and Academic Awards

School group competition

Every student must be enrolled in the school they represent, and the school must verify enrolment. Schools must follow the official submission arrangements confirmed by NISMCAA, provide accurate information, obtain required student and parent or guardian permissions, and have an authorised representative review and accept the terms.

School group presentations must:

- Include no more than 30 pupils on stage, counting singers, instrumentalists and dancers.

- Last no more than 10 minutes.

- Include singing and live instrumentation on the assigned theme.

- Use original student songs and performances, with instruments played live by students.

Copyright songs, loops, prerecorded beats, backing tracks and external performance aids are prohibited.

A jury reviews eligible schools, and the Secretariat confirms selection of 8–10 schools for the finals. Eligibility does not automatically secure a final-stage place.

Individual competition

Individual contestants present vocal or instrumental solos. They must be enrolled in their represented school, complete registration before the deadline, provide accurate information, obtain required permissions and follow the accepted category rules. The qualifying video must not exceed 10 minutes.

Originality is strongly encouraged. Individuals may perform covers or copyrighted presentations, but the student and school are responsible for required permissions, licences and copyright liability. NISMCAA does not grant permission to use another person’s work.

Eligibility and conduct

The music competition currently focuses on secondary schools. There is no age limit, but students must be enrolled in their represented school. Primary schools may register a profile and interest in music programmes; their music entry arrangements will be announced separately. Academic award nominations also include primary schools and tertiary institutions, as explained in Lesson 5.

Contestants must behave respectfully and show good sportsmanship. Cheating, plagiarism and unethical conduct are prohibited. Suspected breaches may lead to an integrity review.

Academic awards separately recognize educational achievement.

Remember: School groups must present original student work with live instrumentation. Individuals have different copyright rules. All entrants must register and follow their category rules.

Lesson 3: How NISMCAA Began

NISMCAA was founded in 2009 by Olushola Adebowale, professionally known as MC Confess, to give students a platform to showcase their musical talents.

The Academic Award was added in 2012 to enhance and reward students’ academic excellence while recognising teachers’ efforts and schools’ contributions.

Winning schools by edition

Edition	Winning school
1st	Dansol High School
2nd	Inglewood Academy
3rd	Ronik Comprehensive School
4th	Honeyland College
5th	Honeyland College
6th	Honeyland College
7th	Imperial Lights College
8th	Platform Schools
9th	Honeyland College and Lagoon School — joint winners after review

Our alumni

NISMCAA has provided a platform for students to showcase their talents and develop as musicians.

Michael Olusegun led Honeyland College to its first victory in the fourth edition and received the Student of the Year award, as confirmed by the founder. He has continued his career as a musician.

Elias Fatade, a former student of Ronik Comprehensive School, won the individual category in the fourth edition. The founder confirmed that he received a scholarship courtesy of Dr Tee Mac.

Remember: The project began with music and later added academic recognition. Both support its mission.

Lesson 4: Understanding the Annual Theme

Each year, schools receive a specific theme and compose an original song for presentation.

The themes address:

- Critical challenges facing young people.

- Teenage pregnancy.

- Youth and crime.

- Societal issues.

- National and patriotic messages.

The purpose is to help students express ideas, raise awareness and share positive messages. National and patriotic themes encourage students to believe in their country and contribute to its future.

Themes Used So Far

- Stop Corruption.

- No to Drug Abuse.

- Stop Abduction in Nigeria.

- Nigeria at Fifty, Patriotism and Nation Building.

Students use their songs to explain the issue and share ideas for positive change.

Preliminary and final themes

Schools receive a first theme for preliminary assessment by the jury. All elimination rounds take place online. Only the best schools selected for the final receive the main annual theme. They compose a song on that theme and present it live at the finals venue.

Remember: The song must address the assigned theme. Its message is an important part of the presentation.

Lesson 5: Understanding the Academic Awards

NISMCAA's academic awards are like the "Grammy of schools"—recognising and celebrating excellence in education through nominations and awards. Schools nominate eligible candidates and submit evidence. The jury reviews nominations and selects award recipients. These awards are separate from the music competition.

Three academic award categories

- Students Category: for example, Best Student in Mathematics.

- Teachers Category: for example, Best Teacher in Music.

- School Category: for example, Best School in English.

Honorary awards also recognise individuals who have made outstanding contributions to national development through their work for children.

Student subject awards

The website lists Best Student in Mathematics, Music, Science & Technology, and English.

Student nominees must be registered at their represented school, have achievements verified by a school representative and have required student and parent or guardian permissions. There is no age limit. Entry is free, with a separate nomination for each subject or award category.

Education levels

Academic award participation includes primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions, including universities, polytechnics and colleges of education.

The three categories remain students, teachers or lecturers, and schools or institutions. Tertiary student assessments must match the nominee's course, year of study and nominated subject.

Academic award process

Read the published criteria, prepare nomination details and supporting evidence, and obtain the required permissions. Download the public entry form and contact NISMCAA for current submission arrangements. Online submission and assessment records are not available on this public website.

Student nominee test

Primary and secondary students answer ten questions matching their class and nominated subject. The school representative opens the test through the submitted nomination, with the named student present and ready.

NISMCAA considers the accuracy of the answers and how quickly the student completes the task. The timer starts when the student presses "Start." The website records the score and elapsed time for administrator review. Correct answers remain available only to authorised administrators.

Students should work carefully and independently. Younger pupils may receive neutral help reading questions, without hints or answers. Tell NISMCAA about reading support, accessibility needs or interruptions that affect completion time. The timer continues during interruptions; reopening the same test does not reset it.

Tertiary nominations are accepted, but their tests remain pending until suitable questions for the nominee's course and year are available. No academic nominee pass mark or percentage weighting for completion speed has been set. Do not apply the volunteer test's passing score or retake rules to academic nominees.

Supporting evidence

Explain the achievement and include work samples, projects, results, certificates or a teacher's explanation. Academic nominations do not require a theme, song composition or music performance.

Assessment area	Weight
Academic achievement	40%
Supporting evidence	30%
Contribution and impact	20%
Presentation of the achievement	10%

Public audience votes do not replace jury assessment.

Confirmed prizes in Nigeria

Each academic award category winner receives a NISMCAA award and a cash prize of **₦100,000**.

The music competition has the following cash prizes:

Position	School music group	Individual music
1st	₦500,000	₦100,000
2nd	₦300,000	₦75,000
3rd	₦150,000	₦50,000

NISMCAA may review cash prizes upward if credible sponsorship is secured. Any increase will be officially announced. Volunteers must communicate the confirmed prizes and must not promise an unannounced increase.

Recognising teachers and schools

Teachers help students develop their knowledge and talents. Schools provide opportunities to learn, practise and achieve. The Academic Award celebrates students' academic excellence while recognising teachers' efforts and schools' contributions.

Remember: A nomination is consideration for an award, not an automatic win. Evidence should be verifiable.

Lesson 6: How Schools Register and Submit Entries

Read the participation guide and entry rules. Download the fillable entry form, prepare the correct category details and obtain the required permissions. Contact NISMCAA at info@nismcaa.com for current submission arrangements. Downloading or completing a form does not confirm an entry. The public website does not process submissions, uploads, entry payments or tracking. Do not email confidential child records.

Lesson 7: Volunteer Responsibilities and Conduct

An application does not automatically make you a volunteer. NISMCAA reviews your profile and photograph, then confirms your role, responsibilities and schedule. Read and accept the Volunteer Terms and Commitment and Loyalty Pledge.

Follow the coordinator's instructions and assigned duties. Treat everyone respectfully, notify the coordinator if you cannot attend, report incidents and concerns promptly, and declare conflicts of interest.

Approval or an ID does not permit unsupervised access to children. Do not arrange unauthorised private contact or take students away from their supervisors.

Do not request or accept money, gifts, tips or personal benefits from participants. Do not collect cash for NISMCAA or receive fees or donations into a personal account. Direct payments to official channels.

Keep participant records private and use approved communication channels. Do not publish student photographs, recordings or personal information without authorisation and required permissions.

Approved volunteers receive an event-specific ID. It expires when that event ends and does not grant unrestricted access.

Remember: Support the event, protect students and follow your assigned responsibilities. Do not use volunteering for personal gain.

Lesson 8: Protecting Students and Reporting Concerns

Respect students' safety, dignity and privacy. Follow safeguarding and supervision arrangements. Do not arrange unauthorised private contact or remove students from their supervisors. An ID does not authorise unsupervised access to children.

Schools must obtain required student and parent or guardian permissions. Participation permission differs from permission to publish photographs, recordings or profiles.

Do not publicly share personal contact details, home addresses, dates of birth or confidential school records. Publication requires NISMCAA authorisation and appropriate permissions.

Report safety or safeguarding concerns promptly to the designated event lead. The website states that the named safeguarding contact and confidential reporting channel await publication. Until announced, students should raise concerns with a parent, guardian or designated school safeguarding lead.

Remember: Protect students and keep private information confidential. The website is not an emergency service.

Lesson 9: Fair Competition and Result Reviews

Schools and students must compete honestly and follow the rules. Cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, prohibited performance aids and other material breaches are prohibited.

For a suspected breach, the school representative should prepare the entry reference, factual explanation and supporting evidence for the Secretariat. Keep student records private.

NISMCAA may review results before or after announcements or prize awards. The affected school or student is informed of allegations and given a reasonable opportunity to respond. A result or award may be withheld during review.

If a breach is established, NISMCAA may disqualify an entry, cancel or amend results, withdraw titles or awards, require prize returns and reallocate placements or awards. Decisions and reasons are communicated in writing.

Remember: "Judges' decisions are final" does not prevent an authorised integrity review. A public vote or general enquiry does not automatically begin a formal review.

Lesson 10: Public Voting and Official Awards

Approved academic profiles allow public voting. Previously published vote totals remain visible on approved profiles. New voting and profile submissions are not available on this public website.

Votes are separate from academic jury assessment. A high total does not automatically make someone an official academic award winner.

Music People’s Choice has its own opening and closing periods. Results appear after the contest closes. Audience awards or prizes must be confirmed before being promised.

Remember: Public voting allows audience participation. Academic awards are determined through jury assessment.

Lesson 11: Understanding Judges’ Scores

Music competition

Scoring area	Weight
Musical execution	30%
Originality	25%
Theme relevance	20%
Ensemble / stage performance	15%
Overall presentation	10%
Total	100%

Judges use these criteria and must declare conflicts of interest before scoring.

Academic awards

Scoring area	Weight
Academic achievement	40%
Supporting evidence	30%
Contribution and impact	20%
Presentation of the achievement	10%
Total	100%

Academic assessment concerns the nomination and evidence. Public votes do not replace it.

Remember: Judges use published criteria. The Secretariat checks music eligibility and confirms finals selection. A separate judges’ course will explain scoring in greater detail.

Lesson 12: Volunteer Recognition and Opportunities

Volunteers who take part receive a certificate of participation at the end of the event. Applying alone does not qualify someone for a certificate.

NISMCAA will motivate and support volunteers from time to time according to available resources.

Volunteers may have opportunities to travel locally and internationally at the organisers' expense when selected for an authorised assignment. Travel is an opportunity, not an automatic entitlement.

An ID expires when its named event ends. Another event requires a new application, review and event-specific ID.

Remember: Recognition, support and travel opportunities depend on participation, available resources and organisational assignments.

Practice questions

The public practice quiz has 50 questions: the original 40 plus ten child protection questions. The learning benchmark is at least 40/50 (80%) overall and 9/10 in child protection. Practice is anonymous and unrecorded, with no attempt limit, management notification, certificate or volunteer approval. The lesson checklist lasts only while the page is open.

Child Care & Protection

Seven lessons for everyone supporting children at NISMCAA.

Lesson 1: Our duty to children

NISMCAA works with children, so every volunteer's first duty is the child's safety and wellbeing. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If in doubt, report.

Lesson 2: Safe conduct (the golden rules)

• Never be alone with a child out of sight of other adults; stay in open, visible areas.

• Don't share your personal phone number or social media with children; all contact goes through official NISMCAA channels.

• Don't give personal gifts or money to a child.

• Take photos or videos of children only when officially assigned by NISMCAA, and only where consent is on file. Never post them on personal accounts.

• Use kind, respectful language. Never shout at, humiliate or physically punish a child. Involve your supervisor if behaviour needs correcting.

• No inappropriate touching, jokes or comments. Appropriate contact means a handshake or high-five in public view, or helping a child who is hurt.

Lesson 3: Caring for children at events

• Know your assigned children/school and do regular headcounts.

• Lost or upset child: stay with them in a public place and alert NISMCAA staff or security immediately. Never take a child to your car or home.

• Release children only to the authorised parent, guardian or school representative on the list. Check ID if unsure.

• Look after basic needs: water, rest, toilet breaks (in pairs or with a same-gender chaperone, never alone with a volunteer), and food and allergy awareness.

• First aid: know where the first-aid point is and call the medical team. Don't give medicine yourself.

• Know the emergency and evacuation plan for the venue.

Lesson 4: Recognising signs of abuse or neglect

Possible signs: unexplained injuries, sudden fear of a particular adult, withdrawal or big changes in behaviour, poor hygiene or hunger, or a child saying something worrying. Signs are not proof, but they must always be reported.

Lesson 5: When a child tells you something (disclosure)

• Stay calm, listen and believe them. Don’t ask leading questions.

• Never promise to keep it a secret. Explain that you must tell someone who can help.

• Write down what they said in their own words, with the date and time.

• Report to the NISMCAA Safeguarding Lead the same day. Don’t confront the person involved, and don’t post about it.

Lesson 6: Reporting concerns about adults

If you see any adult (staff, volunteer, parent or visitor, even someone senior) behaving inappropriately with a child, report it immediately to the Safeguarding Lead. Reports are taken seriously and handled confidentially.

Lesson 7: Data, photos and privacy

Children’s names, photos and details are confidential. Don’t share them outside official NISMCAA use. Follow the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023.

The 5 things to always remember

• Stay visible

• No private contact

• Report every concern

• Release children only to authorised adults

• Be kind and never use physical punishment

Practice questions

Optional learning exercise. The online public practice quiz checks your answers without saving or sending the result. Learning benchmark: 40/50 overall and 9/10 in Child Protection. There is no attempt limit. No official screening result or approval is recorded.

1. What does NISMCAA combine?

A) Only concerts

B) Music competition and academic awards

C) Sports and fashion

2. What is NISMCAA’s mission?

A) Replacing classroom learning

B) Enhancing academic excellence using music as a tool

C) Guaranteeing scholarships

3. What is NISMCAA’s vision?

A) Impacting academics through music

B) Replacing examinations

C) Producing every student’s album

4. Who founded NISMCAA?

A) An audience voter

B) Olushola Adebowale (MC Confess)

C) A winning school

5. When did the music competition begin?

A) 2009

B) 2022

C) 2012

6. When was the Academic Award added?

A) 2023

B) 2012

C) 2009

7. Who won the first edition?

A) Dansol High School

B) Platform Schools

C) Lagoon School

8. Who were the ninth-edition joint winners after review?

A) Ronik and Inglewood

B) Honeyland College and Lagoon School

C) Dansol and Platform

9. Who received a scholarship courtesy of Dr Tee Mac?

A) Every nominee

B) Elias Fatade

C) Every volunteer

10. How many pupils may a school group have on stage?

A) 30 singers plus unlimited dancers

B) No more than 30 including singers, instrumentalists and dancers

C) Unlimited pupils

11. What is the school group presentation limit?

A) 20 minutes

B) 10 minutes

C) No limit

12. Who must play group instruments?

A) A prerecorded track

B) Student performers, live

C) Adults offstage

13. May school groups use backing tracks or prerecorded beats?

A) Yes if popular

B) No

C) Yes if quiet

14. What is required of group songs?

A) No connection to the theme

B) Any popular copyright song

C) Original student work on the assigned theme

15. May an individual perform a cover song?

A) Yes, with required permissions and copyright responsibility

B) Yes with automatic NISMCAA permission

C) No under any circumstances

16. Who is responsible for an individual cover’s permissions?

A) The entrant and school

B) The audience

C) NISMCAA automatically

17. Who verifies student enrolment?

A) The represented school

B) A sponsor

C) A public voter

18. Does eligibility automatically secure a finals place?

A) No

B) Yes

C) Only after public voting

19. Where do all elimination rounds take place?

A) At the finals venue

B) Online

C) At volunteers’ homes

20. When do selected schools receive the main annual theme?

A) After qualifying for the finals

B) After winning the final

C) Only after voting

21. What do national and patriotic themes encourage?

A) Belief in the country and contribution to its future

B) Only learning celebrity names

C) Ignoring national issues

22. Which is a past theme in this course?

A) Fashion Forever

B) No School Today

C) Stop Corruption

23. What are the three academic award categories?

A) Singers, Dancers and Sponsors

B) Parents, Voters and Guests

C) Students, Teachers and Schools

24. Who may honorary awards recognise?

A) Individuals contributing to national development through work for children

B) Only ticket buyers

C) Only music contestants

25. Does an academic nomination require a music performance?

A) Only a prerecorded song

B) No

C) Yes always

26. What supports an academic nomination?

A) Verifiable achievement evidence

B) Only audience applause

C) Only a famous recommendation

27. Which action submits a portal entry?

A) Uploading a PDF alone

B) Saving a draft

C) Clicking Submit entry after completing requirements

28. What is required for a music entry?

A) Only an audio recording

B) Only photographs

C) A qualifying video or YouTube link of no more than 10 minutes

29. What are the Nigeria group and individual fees?

A) Both ₦50,000

B) Both free

C) ₦50,000 and ₦10,000 respectively

30. Are academic award entries free?

A) Yes

B) Only for music students

C) No

31. Does a volunteer application guarantee appointment?

A) Yes

B) No; review and role confirmation are required

C) Only when a friend recommends it

32. Can an ID allow unsupervised access to children?

A) Yes after a test pass

B) No

C) Yes

33. Can volunteers collect cash or use personal accounts for fees?

A) Yes if the school agrees

B) Yes if they keep notes

C) No; direct payments to official channels

34. May student photographs be published without authorisation and permissions?

A) No

B) Yes after any performance

C) Yes by any volunteer

35. Where should volunteers report safeguarding concerns?

A) Nowhere until the event ends

B) Only a public social media page

C) The designated event lead

36. When may integrity reviews occur?

A) Before or after results and prize awards

B) Never after results

C) Only before registration

37. What opportunity does an affected school receive in review?

A) Only a public vote

B) A reasonable opportunity to respond

C) No opportunity to respond

38. What are music execution and originality weights?

A) 40% and 30%

B) 10% and 10%

C) 30% and 25% respectively

39. What are academic achievement and evidence weights?

A) 40% and 30% respectively

B) 20% and 10%

C) 30% and 25%

40. Are volunteer travel opportunities guaranteed to everyone?

A) Yes after applying

B) Yes automatically

C) No; they depend on authorised assignments and available resources

Child Protection practice questions

41. A child tells you a secret that someone is hurting them. What should you do?

A) Listen calmly, don’t promise to keep it secret, and report it to the NISMCAA Safeguarding Lead the same day

B) Promise to keep it secret

C) Confront the person yourself

D) Wait to see if it happens again

42. Is it OK to be alone with a child in a closed room out of sight of others?

A) Yes, if the parent agreed

B) No, always stay where other adults can see you

C) Yes, for short periods

D) Only for rehearsals

43. A child asks for your phone number or to follow you on social media. You should:

A) Give it so they can contact you

B) Politely refuse and direct contact through NISMCAA official channels

C) Accept on Instagram only

D) Give it to older children only

44. Can you take photos or videos of children at a NISMCAA event on your own phone?

A) Yes, anytime

B) Only if the child agrees

C) Only when officially assigned by NISMCAA, and with consent on file

D) Yes, if you don’t post them

45. A child is visibly upset and lost at an event. What is the right action?

A) Take them home

B) Stay with them in a public place and alert NISMCAA staff or security

C) Leave them to find their school

D) Take them to your car to calm down

46. Which of these is a possible sign of abuse or neglect?

A) Unexplained injuries or sudden fear of a particular adult

B) Being excited to perform

C) Asking questions in class

D) Wearing a uniform

47. Who should a child be released to at the end of an event?

A) Anyone who says they’re a relative

B) Only the authorised parent, guardian or school representative on the list

C) Any adult who arrives first

D) The child can leave alone

48. Is it acceptable to give a child gifts or money?

A) Yes, to encourage them

B) Only small amounts

C) No, never give personal gifts or money to a child

D) Yes, if they win

49. If you see another adult behaving inappropriately with a child, you should:

A) Ignore it, it’s not your business

B) Report it immediately to the Safeguarding Lead, even if they are senior

C) Post about it online

D) Speak only to the child’s friends

50. When correcting a child’s behaviour, you must:

A) Shout so they listen

B) Use physical punishment if needed

C) Stay calm, never use physical punishment or humiliation, and involve the supervisor

D) Send them out of the venue alone