

DE BEERS  
GROUP OF COMPANIES

2019

# ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Enrichment through English



## CALL FOR ENTRIES

A joint venture of the Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education



## CALL FOR ENTRIES: 2019 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

We are issuing our call for entries earlier than usual so that candidates can have more time to prepare. Although the examination is an open-book examination, candidates need to prepare well before the exam as there is no time in the exam room to read the text. As soon as we receive entry forms, schools will be sent the study material.

## THE AIMS AND APPROACH OF THE ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

The English Olympiad aims to enrich young people through the study of English, while at the same time encouraging learners to explore the English language and its literature beyond the scope of the school curriculum. In so doing, the English Olympiad encourages learners to:

- Take responsibility for their own learning;
- Be empowered in the rigours of academic writing;
- Think critically and creatively;
- See the relevance of what they study – to themselves and the world around them;
- Question their assumptions and explore alternative ways of thinking and experiencing the world in which they live;
- Express those experiences in critically and creatively written responses to the English Olympiad exam questions; and
- Substantiate their opinions with close reference to the texts prescribed for the Olympiad.

## THE SYLLABUS for 2019

The literature section of the 2019 English Olympiad will be based on an anthology of short stories entitled *A Twist in the Tale*, with the theme ‘**Hidden Truths**’. The language section will be based on a section of **punctuation** included in the Study Guide.

## THE DATE OF THE EXAMINATION

The exam will be written on **Tuesday 5 March 2019** at your school. Schools may start the examination at any time **between 11h00 and 14h00** on the exam day, provided the candidates are allowed **3 hours** to write. The date of the exam is determined by the time needed to process the results, so that the top 15 candidates can be invited to attend the National Schools Festival in July.

**Please note that no requests for an alternative date will be considered.** Schools are requested to ensure that the date and time of the English Olympiad exam are included on their 2019 calendars.

## WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION?

Candidates are required to prepare for a **3-hour, open-book examination**. Candidates may use the anthology, *A Twist in the Tale*, during the examination, enabling more creative answers. **The Study Guide may NOT be taken into the exam.**

The examination will require you to answer:

- one question from section A – academic literary essay (50 marks)
- one question from section B – creative or transactional piece (20 marks)
- all the questions from section C – language section (30 marks)

There is a choice of a **Home Language (HL)** or **First Additional Language (FAL)** examination. All schools are encouraged to enter their candidates to write the HL paper. However, candidates may choose to write the FAL paper, but **only if they are registered at their school for English FAL as an FET subject**. Teachers must indicate clearly on the Entry Form whether their candidates are writing the HL paper or the FAL paper. **If there is no indication for the FAL exam, it is assumed that the candidates will write the HL exam.**

## HOW TO ENTER

The competition is open to ALL learners who will be in **Grades 10, 11 and 12 in 2019**, that is, those learners who are currently in Grades 9 to 11. Entries are only accepted through schools.

To enter the 2019 English Olympiad, please complete both sides of the enclosed **Entry Form**, and fax/email it to the Olympiad Officer before the closing date below:

**CLOSING DATE: 31 October 2018**

**ENTRY FEE: R125**

Entries will cost **R125.00 per entry/candidate**. This includes a copy of the anthology and study guide for each candidate.

Teachers may purchase separate copies of the anthology at **R35.00 per copy**.

Please note that entering earlier will benefit your candidates as they will receive their texts earlier and have more time to prepare.

**Entry Forms and proof of payment** must be received by the Olympiad Officer on or before the entry closing date. **Entries will not be processed without proof of payment.**

### **POSTAGE FEE:**

A once-off **POSTAGE FEE of R100 per school** is applicable for the first postage of STUDY MATERIALS sent to schools. **Further study materials requested (late entries) will incur additional postage costs. International Schools (schools outside the Republic of South Africa) must ascertain and pay the full courier costs of all postage.**

**Please remember to include the postage fee of R100** when submitting your school's entries. Study materials will not be posted if this fee has not been paid.

## DETAILED ASSESSMENTS

Provision is made for a limited number of candidates to apply for comment on their scripts. Application should be made on the Entry Form when the school sends through its entries and payment to the Olympiad Officer. **Each detailed assessment costs R150.00 over and above the actual entry fee. A maximum of two detailed assessments per school is allowed.** The assessments will be sent to the candidates via his/her school after the results have been released.

*Note: The English Olympiad is not an examination focused simply on results and the scripts are never returned to the school.*

## ENGLISH OLYMPIAD SPONSORSHIP (EOS) – R25 per entry

There are a limited number of partial bursaries for students who cannot afford the entry fee. If candidates are not able to afford the full entry fee, please request that your candidates each write and sign a **short letter of application** saying:

- **why they would like to write the English Olympiad**
- **how they plan to prepare** for the examination, and
- **confirming that they will write the examination on 5 March 2019.**

**School Principals** may write a **supporting letter** to endorse their candidates' bursary applications.

Please submit the letters to the Olympiad Officer with your Entry Form. Bursaries will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, and will be based on the commitment of applicant school's learners to writing the exam in previous years. The cost of an EOS entry is a contribution of **R25.00** per entry.

**Please do not send through payment until the Olympiad Officer has confirmed approval of your bursary applications.**

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

ALL CANDIDATES who complete the English Olympiad sufficiently enough to warrant assessment, receive a **certificate** indicating their exam evaluation. Candidates who do not complete the paper or whose answers are clearly insufficient ('unclassified') will not receive a certificate.

The **Top 3 Home Language** candidates will receive the following substantial cash prizes:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize:</b>	<b>R33 000</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:</b>	<b>R30 000</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:</b>	<b>R27 000</b>

### **National Schools Festival Tour prize**

The **Top 15 Home Language (HL)** and **Top 5 First Additional Language (FAL)** candidates will be invited to attend the **National Schools Festival** in July in Grahamstown free of charge. The English Olympiad Prize Giving is held at the end of the Festival, where the winners are awarded on stage.

### **Top 20 HL**

Candidates ranked between 4<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> positions in the Home language exam receive cash and/or book prizes.

### **Top 10 FAL**

Candidates ranked in the Top 10 for the First Additional language exam receive cash and/or book prizes.

### **Rhodes University scholarships**

The **Top 42 Home Language** candidates and the **Top 8 First Additional Language** candidates will be offered **free tuition scholarships for their first-year of any course of study at Rhodes University** immediately upon successful completion of their matriculation examination subject to their meeting the University's entry requirements.

### **HL Top 100 and FAL Top 20**

In July 2019, the names of the HL Top 100 and FAL Top 20 in rank order are available on the English Olympiad website (after the Prize Giving).



2018 English Olympiad Top 15 winners at Prize Giving with SACEE National Chairperson, Dr Malcolm Venter.