

2019 - English Olympiad Results

This year the English Olympiad drew 5712 candidates from 334 national and international schools. These included schools from throughout South Africa in addition to schools in Lesotho, and Botswana. This prestigious competition has run since 1976 and is organized jointly by the Grahamstown Foundation and SACEE. It has been generously sponsored by De Beers since 1985.



Winners of the 2019 English Olympiad

On the 5th of March this year, entrants from Grade 10 to 12 wrote the three-hour examination. Of the 5712 entrants, 4241 wrote the Home Language paper, and 582 wrote the First Additional Language paper.

The theme of the anthology studied for the examination this year was “**Hidden Truths**”. The anthology, compiled by SACEE and entitled, ***A Twist in the Tale***, consisted of a collection of short stories that had surprise endings. Both HL and FAL candidates studied from the same anthology and study guide provided. FAL candidates were not required to study all short stories and wrote a slightly different paper than the HL candidates. There was also a section on language in the examination that involved punctuation and how it changes meaning.

The English Olympiad also focuses on assisting and enriching learners from communities where De Beers operates through the Olympiad English Development Initiative (EDI). This year, 340 learners from 9 EDI schools entered the Olympiad.

EDI is an expansive and inclusive component of the Olympiad, practically helping learners in schools in the mining communities associated with De Beers enjoy the benefits of the Olympiad and increasing confidence in the use of English in these communities. Importantly this support is also adding some fun by providing an opportunity for learners to compete at a national level.



1st Place Winners – 2019 English Olympiad

Prizes for the English Olympiad awarded are as follows:

1. The Top 3 HL candidates receive R33 000, R30 000 and R27 000 respectively.
2. The Top 10 candidates in the FAL exam receive cash prizes from SACEE.
3. The Top 15 HL candidates **and** Top 5 FAL candidates were invited to attend the Grade 12 National Schools Festival in Grahamstown/Makhanda. Their participation is sponsored by De Beers. The English Olympiad prize-giving ceremony is held during this Festival where the rank order of the top winners is announced.
4. The Top 42 candidates in the HL exam and the Top 8 candidates in the FAL exam receive free tuition scholarships for their first year of study at Rhodes University, immediately upon successful completion of the matriculation examinations, and subject to meeting the university's entry requirements.
5. All candidates who complete the paper with sufficient comment receive certificates indicating a classified evaluation ranging from Participation to Gold.

'To be placed in the top 50 is no mean achievement,' said Dr Malcolm Venter, National Chairperson of SACEE, which is responsible for the English Olympiad together with the Grahamstown Foundation. 'The Olympiad demands a considerable amount of preparation on the part of the candidates, and they have to face a three-hour examination which requires answers that show original thinking and an ability to express themselves in a creative style, while at the same time substantiating their views from the prescribed text.'

The Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE) announced the rank order of the Top 20 Home Language (HL) Exam and the Top 5 First Additional Language Exam (FAL) winners at an official prize giving ceremony held in Grahamstown/Makhanda on Saturday 29 June 2019.

2019 English Olympiad TOP 15 Home Language (HL) winners in RANK ORDER

RANK	Title	First name	Surname	Grade	School
1	Ms	Shannon	Morrison	12	Cornwall Hill College
2	Mr	Sean	Cameron	12	Cornwall Hill College
3	Ms	Katherine	Duvenage	12	Roedean School South Africa
4	Ms	Emily	Barnes	12	Parktown High School for Girls
5	Ms	Yunan	Liu	12	Maru-A-Pula School Botswana
6	Ms	Ilana	Jacobs	12	St Mary's DSG Pretoria
7	Ms	Kerin	Stead	11	York High School
8	Ms	Caitlyn	Venter	12	St Dominics Priory School
9	Ms	Amira	Karstaedt	10	King David High School Victory Park
10	Mr	Max	Milella	12	St John's College
11	Ms	Caitlin	Honeywell	12	Durban Girls' College
12	Ms	Marcelle	Rademeyer	12	St Cyprian's School
13	Ms	Michaela	Scholtz	12	Durban Girls' High School
14	Ms	Bianca	Jardim	12	Rhenish Girls' High
15	Ms	Caro	Botha	12	Parel Vallei High School

2019 English Olympiad TOP 5 First Additional Language (FAL) winners in RANK ORDER

RANK	Title	First name	Surname	Grade	School
1	Ms	Lethokuhle	Khumalo	11	Port Shepstone High School
2	Ms	Heleen	Pretorius	12	Hoërskool Garsfontein
3	Ms	Bianca	Nel	12	Oudtshoorn High School
4	Mr	Dewan	Barnard	12	Oudtshoorn High School
5	Ms	Mieke	van den Berg	12	Hoërskool Garsfontein

To download the complete results list in rank order please click on the following link:

[Top 100 \(Home Language\)](#)

[Top 18 \(First Additional Language\)](#)