

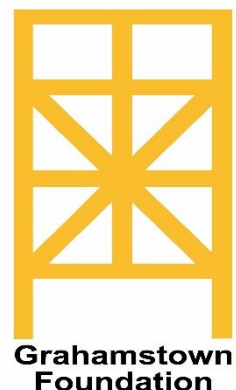
# The 2025 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Enrichment through English



## CALL FOR ENTRIES

The South African National English Olympiad  
is a joint venture of  
the Grahamstown Foundation and  
the South African Council for English Education.



## CALL FOR ENTRIES

**Entries are invited for the 50<sup>th</sup> annual National English Olympiad, to be examined on Tuesday, 4 March 2025.**

### THE PURPOSE OF THE ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

The English Olympiad aims to enrich young people's minds 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 normal school curriculum. In so doing, the English Olympiad encourages learners –

- to take responsibility for their own learning through a process of self-preparation;
- to become empowered through the rigours of academic writing;
- to think critically and creatively;
- to see the relevance of what they study – both to themselves and to the world around them;
- to question their assumptions and to explore alternative ways of thinking and of experiencing the world in which they live;
- to express those experiences in critically and creatively written responses to the English Olympiad examination questions; and
- to substantiate their opinions with relevant references to the texts prescribed for the Olympiad.

### THE SYLLABUS FOR 2025

The theme of the 2025 English Olympiad will be **“Celebration”**, and the examinations will be based on an anthology of literary works and a study guide compiled by Chief Examiner Malcolm Venter and Co-Examiner Yvette Morgan.

### THE DATE & TIME OF THE EXAMINATIONS

There will be two examinations – one for candidates entering the English Home Language (HL) competition, and another for English First Additional Language (FAL) candidates.

Both examinations will be written simultaneously at all participating schools on **4 March 2025**.

On 4 March the examination session may commence **at any time between 11:00 and 14:00**, at the discretion of each school, provided candidates are allowed 3 hours to write. All schools are asked to ensure that the date and the time of the examination are included in their 2025 school calendars.

Please note that the date of the examination is determined by the time needed to assess the scripts, moderate the marking and process the results, so that the top candidates may be invited to attend the midyear National Schools' Festival. For this reason, we regret that requests for alternative dates cannot be considered.

### THE FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

Candidates are required to prepare for a **3-hour, open-book examination**.

They may use the Olympiad anthology during the examination, but **the study guide may NOT be taken into the examination venue**. Candidates should be advised that, although the Olympiad is an open-book examination, they should prepare thoroughly and make sure that they are well-acquainted with the prescribed texts.

The examination will require answers to the following:

- one question from Section A – a discursive essay (60 marks)
- one question from Section B – a creative response (40 marks)

Each candidate must be enrolled for either the **Home Language (HL)** or the **First Additional Language (FAL)** examination. All schools are encouraged to enter their candidates to write the HL paper, but candidates may choose to write the FAL paper **if they are studying English FAL at their school**. Teachers must indicate clearly **on the Entry Form** whether their candidates intend to write the HL paper or the FAL paper. **(Note: If there is no indication that a candidate is entering the FAL examination, it will be assumed that the candidate will be writing the HL examination.)**

## HOW TO ENTER

The competition is open to ALL learners (English HL and FAL) who will be **in Grades 9 to 12 in 2025** - that is, those learners who are in Grades 8 to 11 in 2024. Please note that entries are only accepted via schools. No individual or private entries are accepted.

**To enter its learners for the 2025 English Olympiad, a school must complete both sides of the official Entry Form, and email or fax the form (with proof of payment of the entry fees) to the Olympiad Officer before the closing date.**

### **The CLOSING DATE for entries is 30 September 2024.**

***(We regret that late entries cannot be accepted.)***

#### **ENTRY FEE: R120 per candidate (incl VAT)**

The Entry Fee covers the cost of the study materials (an anthology and a study guide) for each candidate, in addition to the costs of examination materials, assessments and certificates.

Copies of the anthology and study guide for use by teachers are available at **R20** per set (incl VAT).

The completed **Entry Forms** and **Proof of Payment** must be received by the Olympiad Officer on or before the closing date. Please note that entries cannot be processed without proof of payment.

#### **DELIVERY/COURIER FEE**

A fee of **R180 per school** is required for the delivery of study materials, examination documents and certificates to South African schools. (Schools outside South Africa must pay the full courier costs.)

**NB - Please remember to include the delivery/courier fee when submitting your school's entries.**  
**We regret that study materials cannot be sent to schools that have not paid this fee.**

## DETAILED ASSESMENTS

A limited number of candidates may apply for detailed written comment on their individual scripts. Application for a detailed assessment must be made on the Entry Form when the school sends its entries and proof of payment to the Olympiad Officer. **The fee for each detailed assessment is R190. This is in addition to the entry fee.** A maximum of two detailed assessments per school is permitted.

Note: Detailed assessments will be sent to candidates via their schools after the Olympiad results have been released at the end of June 2025. Answer scripts are not returned to schools or to candidates.

## ENGLISH OLYMPIAD ENTRY FEE BURSARIES

The Eastern Cape Branch of SACEE offers a limited number of bursaries to learners who cannot afford the full English Olympiad entry fee. If a candidate is not able to afford the full entry fee, he/she should write and sign a short letter of application for a bursary, explaining why he/she wishes to write the English Olympiad and how he/she plans to prepare for the examination. The letter must also confirm that the candidate is fully committed to writing the examination on 4 March 2025.

A letter from the School Principal, endorsing the candidate's bursary application and verifying that the applicant is normally not required to pay school fees, must be included with each bursary application.

Bursary applications should be received by the Olympiad Officer by **16 September 2024** so that the school may be notified of the outcome before the deadline for entries and fee payments. Bursaries will be awarded to those who satisfy the bursary qualification requirements, on a first come, first served basis. Decisions may be based on the commitment that the school has previously demonstrated in ensuring that candidates write the examinations for which they have been entered.

Successful bursary applicants will pay a reduced fee of **R60 per entry**.

**NB - Please do not send payment until the Olympiad Officer has confirmed the outcome of the bursary application.**

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

### ALL CANDIDATES

All candidates who complete the English Olympiad examination sufficiently to warrant classification will receive certificates indicating the outcomes of their examination assessments.

**Results** will be announced at the end of June 2025, after which certificates will be sent to schools.

### Top 20 Home Language (HL) Candidates

The top twenty candidates in the Home Language examination will receive cash prizes sponsored by the Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE).

Those placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the HL English Olympiad will receive prizes of R30 000, R25 000 and R20 000 respectively.

### Top 10 First Additional Language (FAL) Candidates

The top ten candidates in the First Additional Language examination will also receive cash prizes.

### Top Grade 9 Home Language (HL) Candidate

The highest-ranking Grade 9 HL candidate will receive a cash prize of R1 000, provided he/she achieves at least 80% in the examination.

### National Schools' Festival Tour Prizes

The **top twelve Home Language** and **top three First Additional Language** candidates will be offered free admission to the June 2025 **National Schools' Festival** in Grahamstown/Makhanda.

Free accommodation and meals will be provided.

These prize winners will receive their certificates and cash prizes on stage during the English Olympiad Prize Giving that is held towards the end of the Schools' Festival.

### Rhodes University English Olympiad Scholarships

The **top forty-two Home Language** candidates and the **top eight First Additional Language** candidates will be offered **free tuition scholarships for their first-year of any undergraduate programme of study at Rhodes University** after the successful completion of their matriculation examinations, subject to their meeting the University's normal entry requirements.

### Publication

After the midyear prize giving, the names of the Top 100 HL and Top 20 FAL candidates will be published on the English Olympiad website and the SACEE website.

## ENTERING CANDIDATES FOR THE OLYMPIAD

1. Please enter your candidates as early as possible.
2. Please complete **all** sections of the entry form to ensure that your entries are processed correctly.
3. Please indicate whether each candidate wishes to write the **Home Language (HL)** or the **First Additional Language (FAL)** examination. If there is no indication, the entry will be classified as HL.
4. Please include the **postage fee of R180** when making payment.
5. On your entry form please **indicate the PostNet branch to be used for counter-to-counter delivery** of study material in November 2024, exam material in February 2025 and certificates in July 2025.

Note: The organisers of the English Olympiad cannot accept responsibility for packages that are mislaid or delayed in transit.

## CONTACT DETAILS

To enter candidates for the 2025 English Olympiad, please complete and return your Entry Form to:

**The Olympiad Officer**

E-Mail: [olympiad@foundation.org.za](mailto:olympiad@foundation.org.za)

Fax: 086 262 6048 / Tel: 046 603 1115

For more information, see [www.sacee.org.za/projects/english-olympiad/](http://www.sacee.org.za/projects/english-olympiad/)