



The 2025 English Olympiad

Theme: “Celebration”

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (FAL) EXAMINATION

DATE: Tuesday, 4 March 2025

STARTING TIME: Between 11:00 and 14:00, at the discretion of your school.

TIME ALLOCATION: 3 hours (plus 15 minutes reading time before candidates start writing)

TEXT/ANTHOLOGY: *Let Us Celebrate: Love, Life and Land*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS:

This examination must be written under normal examination conditions, with full invigilation.

Candidates may have the following with them in the examination venue:

- pens, pencils, rulers, and erasers
- the anthology *Let Us Celebrate: Love, Life and Land*, which may contain underlining or highlighting, but no notes
- a dictionary

During the examination, candidates may not have access to an English Olympiad Study Guide or to any other notes or documents, or to cell phones or other information systems of any kind.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

1. **Please write clearly and legibly.** Marks cannot be awarded for illegible answers.
 2. Write all your answers in your examination answer book.
 3. Start each section at the top of a new page, and **write the number of the question** above each of your answers – eg A3, B5, etc.
 4. On the cover of your examination answer book, please clearly indicate:
 - your school’s Olympiad Centre Number;
 - your personal Examination Number; and
 - the number of each of the questions that you have answered.
- Do NOT write your name, your address or the name of your school on the cover or anywhere else in your examination answer book.**
5. You are required to answer:
 - a) one question from **SECTION A** (60 marks)
 - b) one question from **SECTION B** (40 marks)

You are invited to draw from and to refer to your extended reading, but the main focus of your essay should be upon the texts contained in the Anthology.

We value your responses. Enjoy the experience.

DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE WITHOUT PERMISSION
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Select ONE of the following options and write an essay of 450 to 550 words in response to your chosen topic. ESSAYS IN EXCESS OF THE PRESCRIBED LENGTH MAY INCUR PENALTIES.

Please note: You should express your own ideas in response to the questions.
There are no model answers.

You should quote from the texts in your anthology to substantiate your ideas.

Question A1

“It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done well.”

– Vincent Van Gogh

In the text, *Love*, Julia Read delves into various forms of love and what they mean to her.

Using the text, *Love*, as a foundation for your essay, examine the theme of love in relation to people, places and objects.

Question A2

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken.”

– C.S. Lewis

Love comes with advantages and disadvantages.

In a well-structured essay, discuss the theme of love, the implications of love and whether you believe that love is worth celebrating.

Support your answer with relevant quotes from various texts in the anthology.

Question A3

“To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.” – Oscar Wilde

Using texts from the anthology as a foundation for your essay, examine the theme of ‘Life’ and what it truly means to live.

Provide examples by quoting from various texts in the anthology to support your answer.

Question A4

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

In a well-structured essay, discuss the theme of ‘Life’ and the experiences both good and bad that make life worth celebrating.

Provide examples by quoting from various texts in the anthology to support your answer.

Question A5

“When our community is in a state of peace, it can share that peace with neighbouring communities. When we feel love and kindness towards others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace.” – The Dalai Lama

Using texts from the anthology as a foundation for your essay, examine the theme of ‘Land’ in relation to the struggle and challenges faced in obtaining peace, and what it means to be proudly South African.

Provide examples by quoting from various texts in the anthology to support your answer.

Question A6

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”

– Elmer Davis, USA

In a well-structured essay, discuss and examine the courage that the characters have displayed in the texts found in the anthology.

References should be made to each of the following three texts: *Remember*, *Long Walk to Freedom*, and *I am an African*.

Question A7

“Real patriotism is a willingness to challenge the government when it’s wrong.” – Ron Paul

Patriotism is associated with the feelings of love, devotion and concern for one’s country. Factors that contribute to patriotism include the following: belonging, civic engagement (encouraging citizens to participate in democratic processes), contributing to the community and preserving national identity.

In a well-structured essay, discuss and examine the factors that contribute to real patriotism.

Provide examples by quoting from various texts in the anthology to support your answer.

Please turn over to Section B on the next page.

Select **ONE** of the following options and write a creative piece, keeping the length of your answer within the number of words indicated. Your answer will be assessed based on the appropriateness of your register and diction.

NB: In this section you may **not** answer a question based solely upon a text that you have discussed extensively in Section A. If you do, your answer will not be considered.

You **may**, however, answer a question that includes **a group of authors, one of whom** you have discussed in Section A.

Question B1: Letter / Email (250 to 300 words)

Imagine that you have compiled a collection of literary works along the lines of the 2025 English Olympiad anthology.

Write to a prospective publisher, motivating why you think the anthology is worth publishing for commercial distribution.

Question B2: Speech (250 to 300 words)

You have been asked to give a talk to the school for Freedom Day on being positive about your country. You decide to do so by speaking as if you are one of the authors in the anthology.

Write your **speech**, clearly indicating which author you have chosen.

Question B3: Song Lyrics (150 to 250 words)

Imagine that Johnny Clegg and Alan Lazar have decided to collaborate in the writing of a song entitled 'Celebration!'

Write the **lyrics** of this song which include aspects of the themes of love, life and land.

Question B4: Poem (250 to 300 words)

Write a **poem** about land as it has been portrayed in some of the works in the anthology.

You are encouraged to pay careful attention to structure, rhyme and descriptive language.

Question B5: Journal entries (250 to 300 words)

Imagine that you have been with John Gillespie Magee, sharing his experience as a war pilot.

Write **two journal entries** that capture the events described 'High Flight', paying careful attention to your use of emotive and descriptive language.

Question B6: Dialogue (250 to 300 words)

Write a **dialogue** between Nelson Mandela and Ashleigh Eichstädt in which they discuss her poem, 'If I am not a child of Africa'.

Question B7: Lyrics for the South African National Anthem (150 to 250 words)

Imagine that you have been asked to write new lyrics for the South African National Anthem.

Write the English **lyrics** for a modern day South African National Anthem.

Note: You may choose to insert expressions/lines/verses in other official South African languages, but only the English text will be assessed.

TOTAL: 100 Marks