

# The 2021 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Enrichment through English



## CALL FOR ENTRIES

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



**Grahamstown  
Foundation**

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries are invited for the 46<sup>th</sup> National English Olympiad to be held on 2 March 2021.

### 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;
- to become empowered through the rigours of academic writing;
- to think critically and creatively;
- to see the relevance of what they study – to themselves and to the world around them;
- to question their assumptions and to explore alternative ways of thinking and 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 close reference to the texts prescribed for the Olympiad.

### THE SYLLABUS for 2021

The 2021 English Olympiad will be based on the theme “**People and Personas**”. The prescribed mixed-genre anthology, compiled by Chief Examiner Yvette Morgan, is entitled *This is My Story*.

### THE DATE OF THE EXAMINATION

The 3-hour examination is to be written at all participating schools on **Tuesday 2 March 2021**, and may start **at any time between 11:00 and 14:00**, provided candidates are allowed **3 hours** to write the examination. Participating schools are asked to ensure that the date and the time of the examination are included in their 2021 school calendars.

The date is determined by the time needed to assess the scripts and to process the results, so that the top prize winners may be invited to attend the National Schools’ Festival. We regret that requests for alternative dates cannot be considered.

**PLEASE NOTE: If the Covid-19 pandemic causes any further changes in the official term dates for 2021, the Olympiad examination date may have to be adjusted to fit in with the revised dates. Schools will be notified of any change in the Olympiad examination date.**

### THE FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

Candidates are required to prepare for a **3-hour, open-book examination**. They may use the anthology, *This is My Story*, during the examination, but **the Study Guide may NOT be taken into the examination venue**. Although the Olympiad is an open-book examination, candidates must prepare well beforehand. No additional time will be permitted for reading the text during the examination.

The examination will require answers to the following:

- one question from Section A – a discursive essay (50 marks)
- one question from Section B – a creative response (30 marks)
- Section C – an imaginative piece of writing based upon the texts in the anthology (20 marks)

In entering, each candidate has the choice of 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 registered at their school for English FAL**. 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 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 2021** - that is, those learners who are currently in Grades 8 to 11. Entries are only accepted via schools: no individual or private entries are accepted.

**To enter the 2021 English Olympiad, a school must complete both sides of the official Entry Form, and email or fax the form to the Olympiad Officer before the closing date.**

### CLOSING DATE: 21 October 2020

(We regret that LATE ENTRIES cannot be accepted.)

#### ENTRY FEE: R90 per candidate

The Entry Fee covers the cost of the study materials (an anthology and a study guide) for each candidate, as well as the examination and assessment.

Copies of the anthology and study guide may be purchased for use by teachers at R20 per set.

**Entry Forms and proof of payment** must be received by the Olympiad Officer on or before the entry closing date. We regret that entries cannot be processed without proof of payment.

#### POSTAGE/COURIER FEE

A fee of **R100 per school** is applicable for packaging and postage of STUDY MATERIALS to be sent to schools in South Africa. Schools outside South Africa are required to pay full courier costs.

**NB - Please remember to include the postage fee of R100 when submitting your school's entries. Study materials cannot not be sent to schools that have not paid this fee.**

## DETAILED ASSESMENTS

Provision is made for candidates to apply for comment on their individual scripts. Application should be made on the Entry Form when the school sends through its entries and payment to the Olympiad Officer. **The fee for each detailed assessment is R150 over and above the entry fee. A maximum of two detailed assessments per school is allowed.** Assessments will be sent to the candidates via their schools after the Olympiad results have been released.

*Please note that 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 partial 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 that explains why he/she would like to write the English Olympiad and how he/she plans to prepare for the examination. The letter must also confirm that the candidate is committed to writing the examination on 2 March 2021. In addition, the School Principal should provide a short letter endorsing the candidate's bursary application.

Bursary application letters should be sent to the Olympiad Officer **BEFORE 30 SEPTEMBER 2020** so that a decision may be taken and the school may be notified of the outcome of the application 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, and may be further based on the commitment that the applicant school's learners have demonstrated in writing the examination in previous years.

Successful bursary applicants will pay a reduced fee of R30 per entry. **(NB - Please do not send payment until the Olympiad Officer has confirmed approval of the bursary application.)**

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

### ALL CANDIDATES

All candidates who complete the English Olympiad examination sufficiently to warrant assessment will receive certificates indicating the outcome of their examination assessments. Candidates who do not complete the paper, or whose answers are clearly insufficient to warrant classification, will not receive certificates.

### Top 3 HL

The **Top 3 English Home Language (HL)** candidates will receive cash prizes sponsored by the Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE), as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - R33 000      2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - R30 000      3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - R27 000**

### Top 20 HL

Candidates ranked in 4<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> in the Home Language examination will receive cash prizes.

### Top 10 FAL

Candidates ranked in the Top 10 in the First Additional Language examination receive cash prizes.

### Top Grade 9 Candidate

The Grade 9 candidate with the highest ranking (if in the Top 100) will also receive a cash prize.

### National Schools' Festival Tour Prize

The **Top 12 Home Language (HL)** and **Top 3 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, when the winners receive their certificates and cash prizes on stage.

### Rhodes University English Olympiad 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 undergraduate programme of study at Rhodes University** after successful completion of their matriculation examinations, subject to their meeting the University's entry requirements.

### Publication

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

## WHEN ENTERING CANDIDATES

1. Please enter your candidates as early as possible.
2. Complete **all** sections of the Entry Form to ensure that your entries are processed correctly.
3. Please indicate whether your candidates wish to write the **Home Language (HL)** or **First Additional Language (FAL)** examinations. If you do not indicate this, we will assume that they have been entered to write the HL paper.
4. Please include the **postage fee of R100** when making payment, and on your entry form **indicate the PostNet branch to be used for counter-to-counter delivery** of your study materials, or a reliable postage address for Registered Mail through the Post Office.

## CONTACT DETAILS

To enter the 2021 English Olympiad, please complete and return the enclosed Entry Form to:

**The Olympiad Officer**

Email: [olympiad@foundation.org.za](mailto:olympiad@foundation.org.za)

Fax: 086 262 6048

Tel: 046 603 1145

[www.saenglisholympiad.org.za](http://www.saenglisholympiad.org.za)