

HIPPO 2020

8th International English Language Olympiad

Closing Date For Preliminary Round Registration

10th January 2020 (Ms Chitra/Ms Jiraashiny)

Student Participation Fee

Ringgit Malaysia Sixty (RM60.00) per student to enter preliminary round. No extra participation fee for semi-final and final round.

Introduction

The International English Language Olympiad is organized by GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organisation founded in 2012 with the purpose of promoting the importance of English language knowledge and bringing together children from different countries. The competition is open to students from 6 – 19 years old around the world.

The 1st International English Language Olympiad was held in 2013, with about 5,000 participants from 6 countries and 43 finalists. In 2019, 35,500 candidates from 40 countries participated, with 150 students competing in the final round in Italy.

The Olympiad is aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), Internationally recognised and Ofqual regulated English language qualifications are used throughout the Olympiad. The qualifications are intended for candidates who are not native speakers of English and who wish to achieve a high quality, internationally recognised qualification in English that is available and recognised worldwide.

Competition Regulations

The competition will be run in three rounds: preliminary, semi-final and final rounds. Preliminaries and semi-finals will be held in the

students' respective countries (for Malaysian students, in Malaysia). Final round will be held in Italy.

The **preliminary round** will be held on **14th February 2020** (for those take part in their respective schools), **15th or 16th February 2020** (for private candidates) in the registered schools in Malaysia, as well as selected venues in Selangor, Johor Bahru, Penang and Kota Kinabalu for private or independent candidates.

The **semi-finals** will be held in approved venues in Malaysia, on **14th March 2020**. The top 10% from the preliminary round will be invited to participate in the semi-finals.

The **final round** will be held in Lido di Jesolo (Venezia), Italy, from **15th to 17th May 2020**. 150 finalists will be selected from the semi-finalists worldwide as well as a school representative per finalist (chosen by the school), e.g. the student's teacher, will be invited to the final round of the Olympiad. Three-day half-board accommodation will be provided for all the final round candidates and their teachers free of charge.

Competition Level (Regular Category) - For Students from Government/Private School (Majority subjects are taught in non-English) OR English Medium International School (less than 2 years)

Born **2013** and younger (Primary 1) Grade 1 Level "**Little Hippo**"
Born **2012** (Primary 2) Grade 1 Level "**Little Hippo**"
Born **2011** (Primary 3) Grade 2 Level "**Little Hippo**"
Born **2010** (Primary 4) Grade 3 Level "**Little Hippo**"
Born **2009** (Primary 5) Grade 4 Level "**Hippo 1**"
Born **2008** (Primary 6) Grade 5 Level "**Hippo 1**"
Born **2007** (Secondary 1) Grade 6 Level "**Hippo 2**"
Born **2006** (Secondary 2) Grade 7 Level "**Hippo 3**"
Born **2005** (Secondary 3) Grade 8 Level "**Hippo 3**"
Born **2004** (Secondary 4) Grade 9 Level "**Hippo 4**"
Born **2003** (Secondary 5) Grade 10 Level "**Hippo 4**"
Born **2002** (Lower 6) Grade 11 Level "**Hippo 5**"
Born **2001** (Upper 6) Grade 12 Level "**Hippo 5**"

Preliminary Round

The tests for the preliminary round of the Olympiad will consist of three parts: a test of reading comprehension (multiple choice questions), a test of listening comprehension and a Use of English test. The maximum allowed time per part is shown below. The tests are the same for all the participants of a category. (Q - questions, M - maximum allowed time in minutes)

LITTLE HIPPO - Reading (30 Q in 20 M), Listening (20 Q in 20 M) and Use of English (20 Q in 20M)

HIPPO 1 - Reading (30 Q in 30 M), Listening (20 Q in 20 M) and Use of English (20 Q in 20M)

HIPPO 2 - Reading (34 Q in 30 M), Listening (22 Q in 20 M) and Use of English (20 Q in 20M)

HIPPO 3 - Reading (34 Q in 35 M), Listening (22 Q in 20 M) and Use of English (20 Q in 20M)

HIPPO 4 - Reading (34 Q in 40 M), Listening (22 Q in 20 M) and Use of English (20 Q in 30M)

HIPPO 5 & HIPPO S1 - Reading (40 Q in 45 M), Listening (22 Q in 20 M) and Use of English (20 Q in 30M)

HIPPO S2 - Reading (40 Q in 45 M), Listening (22 Q in 30 M) and Use of English (20 Q in 30M)

Semi-final Round

After the preliminary round tests have been marked, the top 10% of participating students from Malaysia will be invited to the semi-final round. The list of semi-finalists will be expanded to include all the students whose number of points is the same as the number of points of the last students in the first 10%. The list of finalists will be published on the official website 6th April 2020.

The exam level for the semi-final round will be one CEFR level higher than the one in the preliminary round. The tests for the semi-final round of the Olympiad will consist of: a reading test, a writing test (30 questions) and an essay (except for Little Hippo). (Q - questions, M - maximum allowed time in minutes)

LITTLE HIPPO - Reading (30 Q in 30 M) and Writing (30 Q in 45 M)

HIPPO 1 - Reading (40 Q in 30 M) and Writing (essay + 30 Q in 45 M)

HIPPO 2 - Reading (34 Q in 35 M) and Writing (essay + 30 Q in 45 M)

HIPPO 3 - Reading (34 Q in 40 M) and Writing (essay + 30 Q in 45 M)
HIPPO 4 - Reading (40 Q in 45 M) and Writing (essay + 30 Q in 45 M)
HIPPO 5 & HIPPO S1 - Reading (40 Q in 45 M) and Writing (essay + 30 Q in 45 M)
HIPPO S2 - Reading (40 Q in 50 M) and Writing (essay + 30 Q in 45 M)

Final Round

In the final round of the Olympiad, the candidates will be taking a Gatehouse Awards exam, all 4 skills included. The test samples / past papers are available on <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org>. The exam level for the final round will be one CEFR level higher than the one in the preliminary round that is the same as the semi-final round test.

The final round of the Olympiad will be held in Lido di Jesolo, Italy, from 15th to 17th May 2020. All candidates need to be accompanied by their English language teacher, or an English language teacher from their school. Parents who wish to accompany their children, need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements as the hotels where the students are accommodated are booked exclusively for the Olympiad participants. Three-day half-board accommodation will be provided for all the candidates and their teachers free of charge.

Marking and Ranking

Tests of reading and listening are marked by an OMR device and for that reason need to be properly filled in. Candidates are required to use a pen while completing the OMR form. An OMR sample form will be available on the website two weeks before the preliminary round of the Olympiad at the latest.

Considering that in the semi-final round, candidates complete the reading and writing tests only and not the listening test, the OMR will be used for the reading test only.

In case an OMR form is not properly filled in (e.g. incorrect or missing candidate number) and the OMR device cannot read it, Global Hippo Association keeps the right to disqualify the candidate if the identity of the candidate cannot be established.

In the semi-final round, the essay will be marked only if two or more candidates have the same number of points on both the reading and the writing test.

The ranking list for all categories as well as the names of the candidates who qualified for the semifinal round will be available on <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org> on 28th February 2020.

The ranking list for all categories as well as the names of the candidates who qualified for the final round will be available on <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org> 6th April 2020.

The final round places will be assigned in the following way:

Top 150 finalists will be admitted directly from the semi-final ranking list. The number of finalists per category will be proportional to the number of preliminary round participants in each category.

Additional 10 places will be assigned to the regular categories with the highest number of enrolments independent of the zone and in accordance with the ranking list.

In order to promote a multicultural environment, wildcards will be granted to the best participant from each of the countries that failed to produce finalists.

GLOBAL INPUT keeps the right to increase the number of finalists if the number of applicants exceeds 40,000, all in accordance with the Olympiad regulations.

The finalists will have to confirm their participation in the final round by 30th April 2020. In case a candidate is unable to travel to the finals, the next one on the ranking list will be invited.

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