

8th INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD

ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS

Introduction

GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION is organising **8th International English Language Olympiad** (hereinafter the Olympiad). The Olympiad is open to students 6 – 19 years old from the whole world. Students wishing to participate will take tests at one of the Olympiad approved venues (state schools and schools that are part of the formal education system, as well as private schools).

Hippo and its Aims

The Olympiad is an international event which promotes English language, challenges students around the globe to compete in English language knowledge, and improves the co-operation between teachers. The Olympiad encourages the development of a shared sense of identity and integration, serves as a role model for young people living together as one community.

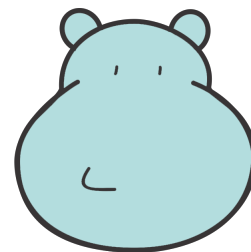
The main goal is to create and nourish friendly relations, international understanding and a spirit of sporting competitiveness between young people interested in English language from all around the world.

Olympiad Regulations

1. Dates and Venues

The Olympiad will be run in **three** rounds: preliminary round, semi-final round and final round.

The preliminary round will be held on **21st and 22nd February 2020** in approved venues in Europe and **7th and 8th February 2020** in the Rest of the World. The participating schools enrolling a group of candidates will be required to host the preliminary round of the Olympiad. *If they wish to enrol a group of candidates and run the preliminary round of the Olympiad on their premises, the schools need to contact Global Hippo Association (info@hippo-olympiad.org) directly for venue approval.*



Hippo semi-finals will be held in bigger towns in each of the participating regions/zones, on **27th and 28th March 2020** in Europe and **13th and 14th March 2020** in the Rest of the World. The network of semi-final venues will be based on the location of the semi-finalists.

The final round will be held in Lido di Jesolo (Venezia), Italy, from **15th to 17th May 2020**. 150 finalists (plus wildcards for details please see **10. Marking and Ranking**) as well as a school representative (chosen by the school), e.g. the student's teacher, will be invited to the final round of the Olympiad.

Global Hippo Association keep the right to increase the number of finalists if the number of applicants exceeds 40,000, all in accordance with the Olympiad regulations.

2. Candidate Registration and Fees

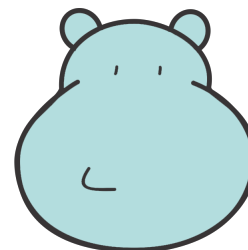
Every participating school needs to appoint one of their staff as the Olympiad responsible/contact person (the details need to be provided in the submitted *Venue Approval Form*). This person will be in charge of applications and will need to ensure that all the Olympiad examination regulations are followed.

HIPPO 2020 Online Applications. Upon venue approval, all schools will receive login details for the **Hippo Online Platform** (<http://soa.hippo-olympiad.org/>) where they need to register the candidates by entering the required details. The registration deadline varies from one country to another, and ranges from 20th December 2019 to 1st February 2020. After the application end date, no further amendments can be made. The system will automatically assign candidate numbers to applicants. The lists of candidates will remain available for printing the Preliminary Round attendance lists.

NB: School coordinators are required to print the attendance registers for the preliminary round of the Olympiad. They are also kindly requested to double check the accuracy of candidate details. Candidate entries can only be made in Latin letters (A - Z, no language specific letters).

NEW: No candidate can be registered without the DOB and grade. School coordinators need to have the data ready before they start registering the candidates.

Some of the participating zones accept individual candidates. To find out whether your zone accepts individual candidates, please visit the Registrations page of the Hippo website and



contact the local coordinator. In the zones where individual candidates are accepted, they will be given the opportunity to compete in the nearest possible approved venue. The full list of venues will be known after the application end date. Candidates will then be contacted and assigned to the nearest approved venue.

Registration end date varies from a country to another, and ranges from 20th December 2019 to 1st February 2020. Schools are advised to contact the local coordinator for details. No applications will be accepted after the deadline. For **group applications**, payment instructions will be sent by email upon the receipt of the application.

For Olympiad fees, please contact the local coordinator. The list of participating countries and coordinators is available on the Registrations page of the Hippo Olympiad website.

NB: Children, family or relatives of organisers, coordinators or anyone involved in the Olympiad organisation cannot compete in the Olympiad.

3. Definitions of Hippo Olympiad Zones

The Olympiad participants will be divided into Olympiad regions (hereinafter **zones**). The number of zones will depend on the number of participants.

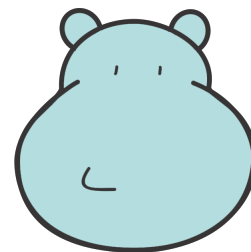
The International HIPPO Board in consultation with the Local Organisers will decide on the final number of zones after the applications are finished, all in accordance with the regulations.

- Different zones have separate and independent governments or education systems, with independent Ministries of Education, or potential funding bodies which treat those different zones separately.
- Different zones have a historical, linguistic divergence.

Based on the number and location of the participants in previous Hippo years, the pre-set zones have been established.

In order to assign a new zone, the minimum number of applied candidates per category must be **150**.

In case of unexpectedly high number of applicants, zones can be further divided into two or more



smaller zones.

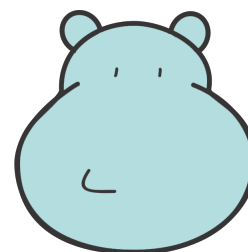
Also, in case of small number of participants in certain Hippo categories in established zones, the zone with a small number of participants in a specific hippo category will be merged with another zone.

4. Olympiad Materials

Tests for the preliminary round of the Olympiad will be delivered to the approved venue 2 days before the Olympiad date and need to stay closed until the preliminary round start time. They need to be sent back on the Monday after the preliminary round date and must be delivered within 5 working days, unless the Country Coordinator has provided another deadline. The return address will be provided with the materials. Where the return address is not provided with the materials, schools need to contact either the local coordinator or coordination@hippo-olympiad.org for instructions. **The materials delivered after this date will not be marked.**

5. Schedules and Inspections

Each approved venue decides on the start time of the test depending on the number of participants per category. All approved venues must send their schedules to info@hippo-olympiad.org by the Wednesday before the Olympiad date for possible inspections. Olympiad Examination Regulations will apply throughout the Olympiad.



6. Olympiad – Regular and Special Categories

The participants will compete in 8 categories (**6 regular and 2 special**) based on the Common European Framework and will be taking *Gatehouse Awards* exams.

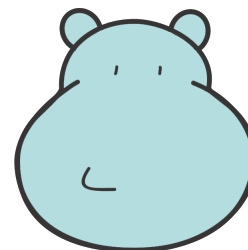
Category	Age	Preliminary Round Level	Semi-final & Final Round Level
LITTLE HIPPO	Students born in 2010 and younger	CEFR Pre A1 Young Learners	CEFR A1 Young Learners
HIPPO 1	Students born in 2008 and younger	CEFR A1 Young Learners	CEFR A2 Young Learners
HIPPO 2	Students born in 2007 and younger	CEFR A1	CEFR A2
HIPPO 3	Students born in 2005 and younger	CEFR A2	CEFR B1
HIPPO 4	Students born in 2003 and younger	CEFR B1	CEFR B2
HIPPO 5	Students born in 2001 and younger	CEFR B2	CEFR C1

NB: Students who reached Hippo 2019 final round, cannot compete in the same category in Hippo 2020.

The students of lower grades than the ones in the table can also compete if they feel prepared for the level. The age limit for the Olympiad is 19 or as long as the students are in high school.

Bilingual students will not be admitted to the Olympiad. Students that are considered bilingual are the ones who were born or have lived and attended school for at least 3 years in an English-speaking country as well as those who live in a non-English speaking country but attend English/American International or a specialized school. Should a student, who is to be considered bilingual according to the above, apply for a regular category through another school, Hippo Association reserves the right to disqualify them from the Olympiad.

Little Hippo category students compete in the regular category independent of the type of school



they come from.

Special categories are aimed at students who are considered bilingual according to the Hippo Olympiad regulations (see above) as well as for the international schools and the schools where the majority or all subjects are taught in English (except for the countries where English is the only official language, e.g. UK). These students can compete in one of the following two categories:

Category	Age	Preliminary Round Level	Semi-final Final Level	& Round
HIPPO S1	Students born in 2006 and younger	CEFR B2	CEFR C1	
HIPPO S2	Students born in 2001 and younger	CEFR C1	CEFR C2	

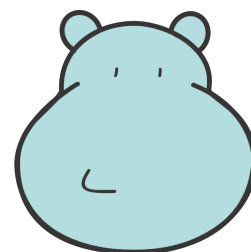
7. Olympiad – Preliminary Round

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 in the table below. The tests are the same for all the participants of a category. **It is strictly forbidden to open the Olympiad materials before the exam date. The school coordinator can open the parcel to check that all the materials have been received. The transparent envelopes with the tests however need to stay sealed and be opened in front of the students, right before the start of the preliminary round tests.**

The links to the listening test audios will be available on the .soa portal on the Wednesday before the preliminary round date. The Hippo coordinator needs to log in with their log-in details in order to download the audios and have them ready for the preliminary round tests. At least one of the school staff approved by Hippo Association must be present during the tests.

The reading and the listening test samples will be available on the Olympiad website.

There is only one correct answer to every question. **There are no negative marks. Ranking is based on the average number of marks achieved on all three tests.**

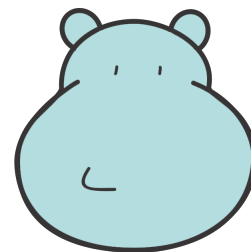


	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5 & SPECIAL 1	HIPPO SPECIAL 2
READING	30 questions (1 point each)	30 questions (1 point each)	34 questions (1 point each)	34 questions (1 point each)	34 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)
LISTENING	20 questions (1 point each)	20 questions (1 point each)	22 questions (1 point each)	22 questions (1 point each)	22 questions (1 point each)	22 questions (1 point each)	22 questions (1 point each)
USE OF ENGLISH	20 questions (1.5 point each)	20 questions (1.5 point each)	20 questions (1.5 point each)	20 questions (1.5 point each)	20 questions (1.5 point each)	20 questions (1.5 point each)	20 questions (1.5 point each)

Answers are given on an answer sheet (OMR) and **not** in the test booklet.

Maximum allowed times per category and part:

	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5 & SPECIAL 1	HIPPO SPECIAL 2
READING	20 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes
LISTENING	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes
USE OF ENGLISH	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes



8. Olympiad – Semi-final Round

After the preliminary round tests have been marked, the **top 10% of participating students from each participating zone** 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 Olympiad website on **20th April 2020** for Europe and **6th April 2020** for the Rest of the World. The network of semi-final venues will be based on the location of the semi-finalists.

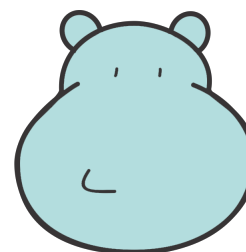
The exam level for the semi-final round will be one CEFR level higher than the one in the preliminary round. The tests for the semi-final round of the Olympiad will consist of: a reading test, a writing test (30 questions) and an essay (except for Little Hippo).

There is only one correct answer to every question. **There are no negative marks. Ranking is based on the average number of marks achieved on both the reading and the writing test.**

	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5 & SPECIAL 1	HIPPO SPECIAL 2
READING	30 questions (1 point each)	40* questions (1 point each)	34 questions (1 point each)	34 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)
WRITING	30 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay) + 30 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay) + 30 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay) + 30 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay) + 30 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay) + 30 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay) + 30 questions (1.5 points each)

Answers to the reading test questions are given on an answer sheet (OMR form) and **not** in the test booklet.

The writing test will consist of a free-writing task (100 – 200 words depending on the category) and 30 questions. The level of difficulty of all the questions will be one level higher than the one in the preliminary round. The essay will be assessed only in case two or more candidates have the scores on both the reading and the writing test.



Maximum allowed times per category and part:

	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5 & SPECIAL 1	HIPPO SPECIAL 2
READING	30 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	50 minutes
WRITING	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes

9. Olympiad – 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.

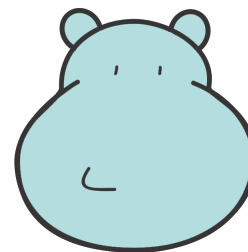
10. Marking and Ranking

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 semi-final round will be available on <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org> on **13th March 2020** for Europe and **28th February 2020** for the Rest of the World.

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> on **15th April 2020** for Europe and **6th April 2020** for the Rest of the World.

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

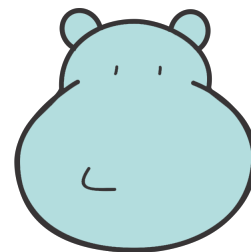
The finalists will have to confirm their participation in the final round by **30th April 2020**. In case a candidate is unable to travel to the finals, the next one on the ranking list will be invited.

11. Final Round

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.

The programme of the final round will be available on <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org> one week



before the final round at the latest and will include the Olympiad final round schedule as well as sightseeing options.

Finalists will be contacted and helped with organising their travel.

12. Prizes

All preliminary and semi-final round candidates will receive a certificate of participation.

All candidates who pass the final round tests (score 50% minimum) will be awarded an internationally recognised certificate in English.

Additional prizes will be announced closer to the Olympiad date.

13. Liability

By applying for the Olympiad, the participants accept the conditions of the Olympiad, organisation of the Olympiad, marking criteria, assessment and prizes.

The personal data of the participants will be used only for the purposes of the Olympiad and will not be disclosed to third parties except for the needs of the Olympiad.