



HIPPO2021

## 9<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD

ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS

### Introduction

GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION is organising **9<sup>th</sup> 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 in one of the Olympiad approved venues (state schools and schools that are part of the formal education system, as well as private schools, and venues arranged by country coordinators).

### 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 first two rounds are held on different dates in different countries. Country coordinators can choose one of the three options:

**Option 1** Preliminary Round 5-6 February 2021, Semifinal Round 5-6 March 2021



**Option 2** Preliminary Round 26-27 February 2021, Semifinal Round 26-27 March 2021

**Option 3** Preliminary Round 1-2 April 2021, Semifinal Round 14-15 May 2021

The dates for each of the countries will be published on the Registration page of the Hippo Olympiad website.

***N.B. Dates are subject to change in accordance with the COVID-19 situation in the world and respective countries.***

Every school, independent of the type and country, can participate in the Olympiad. Schools that wish to enrol a group of candidates are required to host the preliminary round of the Olympiad, even in the countries that accept individual enrolments.

Schools that wish to participate in the Olympiad need to apply through the country coordinator. If there is no country coordinator in the country, the school needs contact Global Hippo Association directly ([info@hippo-olympiad.org](mailto:info@hippo-olympiad.org)) got venue approval.

The semi-final round will be held on one of the aforementioned dates. 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 (Venice), Italy, **from 19 to 21 September 2021**. 200 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 school coordinator and contact person (the details need to be provided in the *Venue Approval Form*). This person will be in charge of student enrolments and will need to ensure that all the Olympiad examination regulations are followed.

***HIPPO 2021 Online Enrolments.*** 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 will be published per country on the Registration page of the Hippo Olympiad website. After the enrolment



deadline, 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).***

***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 countries accept individual candidates. To find out whether your country accepts individual candidates, please visit the Registrations page of the Hippo website and contact the local coordinator.** In the countries 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 enrolment deadline. Candidates will then be contacted and assigned to the nearest approved venue.

No venue approval forms or enrolments will be accepted after the deadline. For detailed information about deadlines, schools need to contact the country coordinator. For **group enrolments**, payment instructions will be sent by email upon the receipt of the application.

For Olympiad fees, please contact the country coordinator. The list of participating countries and coordinators, as well as some country specific details, are 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. Each zone comprises one of the categories only.

In order to assign a new zone, the minimum number of applied candidates per category must be **200**.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 9 categories (**6 regular and 3 special**) based on the Common European Framework and will be taking **Gatehouse Awards** exams.

Category	Age	Preliminary Round Level	Semi-final & Final Round Level
<b>LITTLE HIPPO</b>	<b>Students born in 2011 and younger</b>	<b>CEFR Pre A1 Young Learners</b>	<b>CEFR A1 Young Learners</b>
<b>HIPPO 1</b>	<b>Students born in 2009 and younger</b>	<b>CEFR A1 Young Learners</b>	<b>CEFR A2 Young Learners</b>
<b>HIPPO 2</b>	<b>Students born in 2008 and younger</b>	<b>CEFR A1</b>	<b>CEFR A2</b>
<b>HIPPO 3</b>	<b>Students born in 2006 and younger</b>	<b>CEFR A2</b>	<b>CEFR B1</b>
<b>HIPPO 4</b>	<b>Students born in 2004 and younger</b>	<b>CEFR B1</b>	<b>CEFR B2</b>
<b>HIPPO 5</b>	<b>Students born in 2002 and younger</b>	<b>CEFR B2</b>	<b>CEFR C1</b>

**NB: Students who reached Hippo 2020 final round, cannot compete in the same category in Hippo 2021.**

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 an 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, and should one of the abovementioned schools apply as a regular school, Hippo Association reserves the right to disqualify them from the Olympiad.

**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 Round Level
HIPPO S10	Students born in 2009 and younger	CEFR B1	CEFR B2
HIPPO S15	Students born in 2006 and younger	CEFR B2	CEFR C1
HIPPO S19	Students born in 2002 and younger	CEFR C1	CEFR C2

***N.B. Global Hippo Association keeps the right to check the school's curriculum, the language of instruction and number of hours of English taught.***

## 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. **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 are 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 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5	HIPPO
--------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------



	HIPPO				& S10	& S15	S19
<b>READING</b>	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)
<b>USE OF ENGLISH</b>	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)
<b>LISTENING</b>	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)

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 & S10	HIPPO 5 & S15	HIPPO S19
<b>READING</b>	20 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes
<b>USE OF ENGLISH</b>	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
<b>LISTENING</b>	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 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 semi-finalists will be published on the Olympiad website within three weeks



of the preliminary round date. The network of semi-final venues will be based on the location of the semi-finalists.

**Wildcards** are available for the countries where no student qualifies for the semi-final round and will be granted to the best candidate in each category from the country.

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.**

	<b>LITTLE HIPPO</b>	<b>HIPPO 1</b>	<b>HIPPO 2</b>	<b>HIPPO 3</b>	<b>HIPPO 4 &amp; S10</b>	<b>HIPPO 5 &amp; SPECIAL 15</b>	<b>HIPPO S19</b>
<b>READING</b>	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)
<b>WRITING</b>	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:**

<b>LITTLE HIPPO</b>	<b>HIPPO 1</b>	<b>HIPPO 2</b>	<b>HIPPO 3</b>	<b>HIPPO 4 &amp; S10</b>	<b>HIPPO 5 &amp; S15</b>	<b>HIPPO S19</b>
---------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	------------------





<b>READING</b>	30 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	50 minutes
<b>WRITING</b>	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 take 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.

In addition to the four-skill GA examinations, candidates take a Use of English test consisting of 30 questions. The results of this test will be used for final round ranking purposes and will not affect the GA examination qualification score.

### 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 or in case of suspected cheating or malpractice.

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> within three weeks of the preliminary round



date.

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> by the end of June.

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

**Top 190 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 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.**

The finalists will have to confirm their participation in the final round by **6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. 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 **19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021**. 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.

Finalists are expected to arrive on 19<sup>th</sup> September, while examinations will be done on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September. The proclamation of winners and awarding ceremony will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> September in the evening.

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 55% 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.