

HIPPO

7th INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD

ENGLISH WITHOUT BORDERS

Introduction

GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION is organising *7th 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.

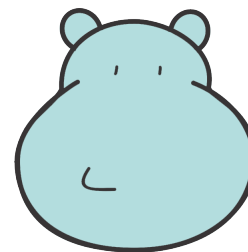
Olympiad Regulations

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 **15th and 16th February 2019 outside Europe and in Greece and Cyprus, and 22nd and 23rd February 2019 in Europe**, in approved venues. The participating schools enrolling a group of candidates will be required to host the preliminary round of the Olympiad and choose from one of the two potential dates. *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 **29th and 30th March 2019**. 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, on **11th and 12th May 2019**. 90 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 20,000, all in accordance with the Olympiad regulations.

2. Candidate Application and Fees

Every participating school needs to appoint one of their staff as the Olympiad responsible/contact person (the details should 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.

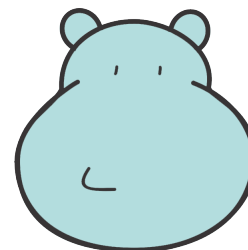
HIPPO 2019 Online Applications. Upon venue approval, all schools will receive login details for the Hippo Online Platform (<http://soa.hippo-olympiad.org/>) where they will register the candidates by entering the required details. The system/database will be open until **3rd February 2019** for all amendments. 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).

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 is **3rd February 2019**. No applications will be accepted after this date. For **group applications**, payment instructions will be sent by email upon the receipt of the application. Application fee payment needs to be made within 5 working days of the application submission. In case Global Hippo Association does not receive the payment within 5 working days of the application submission, the application will be cancelled.

For Olympiad fees, please visit the Registration page of the Olympiad website: <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org>.



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.

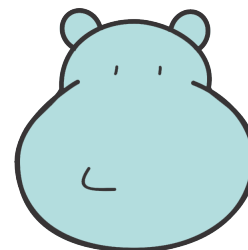
In order to assign a new zone, the minimum number of applied candidates per category must be **90**.

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 the Monday after the preliminary round date and must be delivered within 5 working days. The deadline for the return of materials is **1 March 2019**. 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 considered.**



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

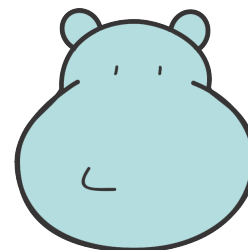
The participants will compete in 8 categories (6 regular and 2 special) based on the Common European Framework and will be taking *Gatehouse Awards* exams.

Category	Age	Preliminary Round Level	Semi-final & Final Round Level
LITTLE HIPPO	Students born in 2009 and younger	CEFR Pre A1 Young Learners	CEFR A1 Young Learners
HIPPO 1	Students born in 2007 and younger	CEFR A1 Young Learners	CEFR A2 Young Learners
HIPPO 2	Students born in 2006 and younger	CEFR A1	CEFR A2
HIPPO 3	Students born in 2004 and younger	CEFR A2	CEFR B1
HIPPO 4	Students born in 2002 and younger	CEFR B1	CEFR B2
HIPPO 5	Students born in 2000 and younger	CEFR B2	CEFR C1

N.B. Students who reached Hippo 2018 final round, cannot compete in the same category in Hippo 2019.

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. 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 school. Should a student, who is to be considered bilingual according to the above, applies for a regular category through another 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 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 S1	Students born in 2005 and younger	CEFR B2	CEFR C1
HIPPO S2	Students born in 2000 and younger	CEFR C1	CEFR C2

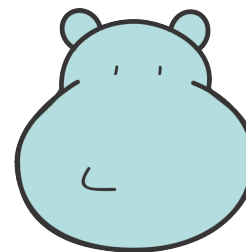
7. Olympiad – Preliminary Round

The tests for the preliminary round of the Olympiad will consist of **two parts**: a test of reading comprehension (multiple choice questions) and a test of listening comprehension. The Little Hippo Reading test includes 6 questions that require one-word answers. 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 accredited 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 both the reading and the listening test.**



	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)

*the 30 questions include 6 questions that require one-word answers

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

Maximum allowed times per category and part:

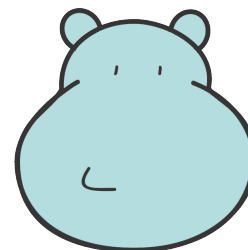
	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5 & SPECIAL 1	HIPPO SPECIAL 2
READING	20 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes
LISTENING	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes

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 **15 April 2019**. 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). The semi-final round Hippo 1 Reading test includes 8 questions that require one-word answers.

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)

*the 40 questions include 8 questions that require one-word answers

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

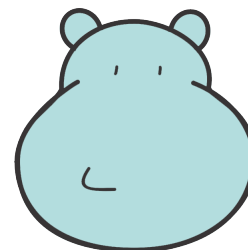
The writing test will consist of a free-writing task (100 – 200 words depending on the category) and 30 questions. The level of difficulty of all the questions will be one level higher than the one in the preliminary round. The essay will be assessed only in case two or more candidates have the scores 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 will be 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 **11 March 2019** at the latest.

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 **15 April 2019** at the latest.

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

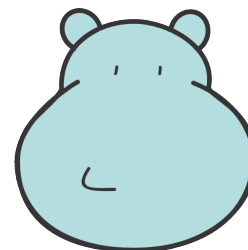
Top 80 finalists will be admitted directly from the semi-final ranking list. The number of finalists per category will be proportional to the number of preliminary round participants in each category.

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 20,000, all in accordance with the Olympiad regulations.

The finalists will have to confirm their participation in the final round by **19 April 2019**. 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, on **11th and 12th May 2019**. 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.**

Two-day half-board accommodation will be provided for all the candidates and their teachers free of charge. Three-day accommodation will be provided for the non-European participants.

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 organizing 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.

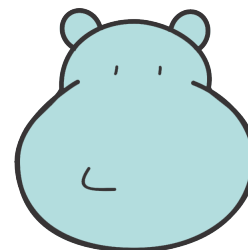
The final round winners of each category will receive a Mizzou K-12 Online High School course.

The Hippo 5 winner will get a two-week stay at the Missouri University, Columbia, as part of the Mizzou International Experience Summer Program (<http://mie.missouri.edu/>).

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.



ANNEX 1

Hippo Online Platform

Instructions for School Coordinators

1. Login

Use your unique user name and password for school login on <http://soa.hippo-olympiad.org/> or by selecting the LOGIN button on the official Hippo website: www.hippo-olympiad.org.

2. Registering candidates

After logging in, you will be able to fill in student details in the ADD NEW STUDENT section. After completing the required fields, click on the ADD NEW button.

Hippo Olympiad
Welcome sneschool | Log out

[Home](#)

Students Overview

Student ID:
Name And Surname:
Grade:
Level:

OR

School: sneschool	hippo little	hippo 1	hippo 2	hippo 3	hippo 4	hippo 5	hippo S1	hippo S2
Country: Italia		0	0	0	0	0	0	

DOWNLOAD: [HIPPO Little Listening](#) | [HIPPO 1 Listening](#) | [HIPPO 2 Listening](#) | [HIPPO 3 Listening](#) | [HIPPO 4 Listening](#) | [HIPPO 5 Listening](#) | [HIPPO S1 Listening](#) | [HIPPO S2 Listening](#)

* To download an audio file, please click on the link above with the right mouse button, and then click on "Save link as..." ("Save Target as") option and select a folder to save the file.

Add New Student

First and Last Name
Date of Birth
School
Grade
Level

DD.MM.YYYY
 sneschool

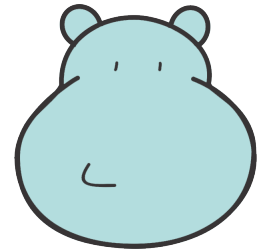
use standard latin letters ONLY DD.MM.YYYY

Student ID	First/Last Name	Date of Birth	School	City	Grade	Level	Read	Listen	Score
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3. Amendments

Left-click on any of the data columns (name, date of birth, Hippo category) to change the details.

Student ID	First/Last Name	Date of Birth	School	City	Grade	Level	Read	Listen	Score
700004	<input style="border: 1px solid #add8e6;" type="text" value="ANTONIO PIACENTI"/>	04.08.2005	sneschool	Terni	8	3	0.00	0.00	0.00



- The system will automatically assign candidate numbers to registered students. Candidate numbers cannot be amended.
- Attendance Lists

Student ID	First/Last Name	Date of Birth	School	City	Grade	Level	Read	Listen	Score
700004	ANTONIO PIACENTI	04.08.2005	sneschool	Terni	8	3	0.00	0.00	0.00

Print Attendance Register: HIPPO 3

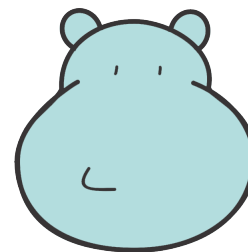
Attendance Lists per category can be found in the bottom right corner of the window.

School coordinators are required to print the attendance registers for the preliminary round of the Olympiad. Please select list by list (category by category). The selected list will appear in a new window in printable format.

The full list of candidates is available by clicking on the EXPORT TO EXCEL button.

- If you experience any technical problems or have further questions, please contact us at info@hippo-olympiad.org.

N.B. School Coordinators are kindly asked to always log out after using .soa.



ANNEX 2

Examination Regulations

Test Materials

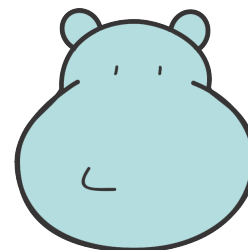
- Do not open test materials until the time of the test.
- Store all test materials in a locked safe, or cabinet, in a locked and secure room.

Invigilators

- At least one invigilator must be present throughout the test.
- At least one teacher of English must be present throughout the test. The teacher of English can also be an invigilator.
- No person who has taught any of the candidates in English may act as the sole invigilator.
- No relative of or person directly interested in a candidate may invigilate a test when this candidate is present.
- Where there are more than 25 candidates, one additional invigilator will normally be required for each additional 25 candidates, or part thereof.
- When only one invigilator is present, this invigilator must be able to contact immediate assistance without disturbing candidates or leaving the room.
- Check the attendance register (downloaded from .SOA) is available and correct. This document must be completed and returned with the completed tests.
- Only candidates whose names appear on the attendance register can be permitted to take part in the Olympiad. No tests from unregistered candidates will be accepted.

Tests

- After the tests, pack and seal the papers, sorting by level.
- Post the tests on the first working day to the address that will be provided with test materials.
- GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION can only be responsible for the tests from the point of receipt.



Instructions for Invigilators

Arranging the Room

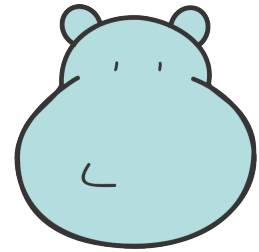
- Check that any display material that might be useful to candidates has been cleared from the walls.
- Check that desks are positioned at least 1 metre apart.
- Check that a wall clock is clearly visible to all candidates.
- Display a board showing the test start and finish times.

Identifying Candidates

- Make sure you know the identity of every candidate in the room, by checking if necessary.

Before the Tests

- Check that candidates have not brought into the examination any material they are not allowed such as revision notes, mobile phones, dictionaries, etc.
- Give out answer sheets (OMR forms). Give time to the candidates to complete the personal information part of the form. The personal information boxes need to be completed in BLOCK CAPITALS.
- Read out the instructions on the front of the question paper.
- Tell candidates when they may begin and how much time they have to complete the test.
- **One answer sheet (OMR form) needs to be used for both tests.** For that reason, in the preliminary round, the Reading test needs to be completed first and then the Listening test.. Candidates need to be given 5 minutes after the end of the listening recording to transfer their answers on to the answer sheet. In the semi-final round, the Reading test is completed first and then the Writing test
 - only the Reading test answers are to be given on the OMR form.



During the Examination

- Do not allow candidates to enter the room if the test has already started.
- Be vigilant and supervise the candidates at all times to prevent cheating.
- If you discover cheating, take away any unauthorised material and allow the candidate to continue. Make a note on the attendance register next to the candidate's name.
- Candidates can leave the room only to go to the toilet and must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Tell the candidates to stop writing at the end of the test.

After the Tests

- Collect the tests and answer sheets before candidates leave the examination room ensuring that all details on the front page have been completed.
- Sign the attendance register.
- Pack and post the answer sheets together with attendance register.