

REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION is organising 11th 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 motivates the teachers to cooperate. 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 healthy competition between young people interested in English language from all around the world.

Apart from that, by participating in such an Olympiad, students get a chance to measure their level of English against international standards and get used to the concept of examination. Schools will more easily understand the level of English of their pupils and challenge them to learn more.

OLYMPIAD REGULATIONS

1. ROUNDS, DATES & VENUES

The Olympiad is run in four stages: preliminary round, semi-final round, regional qualifiers (for more information on the qualifiers, see 3. REGIONAL QUALIFIERS) and World Finals.

The first two rounds are held on different dates in different countries:

Option 1 Preliminary Round 17-18 March 2023, Semi-final Round 21-22 April 2023 or *28-29 April 2023.

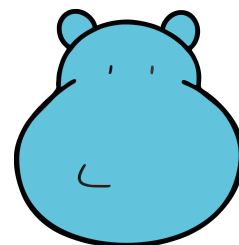
*semi-final date not available for European Countries.

Option 2* Preliminary Round 21-22 April 2023, Semi-final Round 12-13 May 2023

*dates not available for European Countries.

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

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 (venue@hippo-olympiad.org) for 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 World Finals will be held in Rome, Italy, from 27th to 30th September 2023. 140 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 67,500, in accordance with the Olympiad regulations.

2. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION AND FEES

Each 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 2023 Online Enrolments. Upon venue approval, each school 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.

N.B. 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 contact the local coordinator. In the countries where individual candidates are accepted, they will be 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. REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

The Olympiad participants will be divided into Olympiad regions (hereinafter regions) for the purpose of organising regional qualifiers. Based on the number and location of the participants in previous Hippo years, the pre-set regions have been established.

Pre-set regions as follows:

Europe

Middle East

Central Asia

India & Southeast Asia

China & Far East

Africa

Central & South America

The 2023 Qualifiers will be held in:

1. Venice, Italy, on 23-25 May 2023 for Europe;
2. Istanbul, Turkey, on 20-23 June 2023 for Centra Asia, Middle East and Africa);
3. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 6-7 July 2023 for India & Southeast Asia, China & Far East).

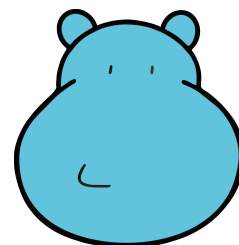
Where the number of enrolments in a specific region reaches 10,000 students in the 2023 edition, with a minimum of 1,000 candidates per Hippo Category, HIPPO association will organise an additional round of the Olympiad, called Qualifiers.

Students with the best ranking among those not qualified for the World Finals will be admitted to the Qualifiers. The number of students admitted to the Qualifiers per category and country will be proportional to the number of preliminary round participants in each category per country. No more than three students per category per country will be admitted to the Qualifiers.

The Qualifiers will be held IN PERSON. There will be NO online option.

If a student does not confirm their participation within 7 days of the invitation to the Qualifiers, the next student in the ranking list from the same country will be invited.

Students invited to the Qualifiers will be requested to pay a participation fee of €50-€100, depending on the location. Students and accompanying teachers or parents will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and cover the costs themselves. The participation fee will cover the costs of insurance, merchandising (given to the participants upon arrival), participation



in the organised activities and examination preparation material that Global Hippo Association will send to the students upon confirmation of participation.

Students and one accompanying teacher or parent are expected to arrive at the venue one day before the examination date. The examinations will take place on the morning after while the proclamation of winners will take place in the evening.

The winner of each category will proceed to the World Finals.

4. OLYMPIAD MATERIALS

In the preliminary round schools can choose between online and paper-based examinations.

ONLINE

In the Preliminary Round schools will be provided with login details. Students will need to take the test in their approved HIPPO Venue or be invigilated remotely. Different regulations apply.

PAPER BASED

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.

The semi-final round examinations will need to be taken either paper-based or online in the approved Hippo Venue. Semi-final round examinations CANNOT be invigilated remotely.

5. SCHEDULES & 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 venue@hippo-olympiad.org by the Wednesday before the Olympiad date for possible inspections. Olympiad Examination Regulations¹ will apply throughout the Olympiad.

¹ Olympiad Examination Regulations are detailed in Appendix 1.

6. OLYMPIAD – REGULAR & SPECIAL CATEGORIES

The participants will compete in 9 categories (6 regular and 3 special) based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and will take Gatehouse Awards exams.

CATEGORY	AGE	CEFR LEVEL PRELIMINARY	CEFR LEVEL SF & FINAL
LITTLE HIPPO	Students born in 2013 & younger	CEFR Pre A1 YL	CEFR A1 YL
HIPPO 1	Students born in 2011 & younger	CEFR A1 YL	CEFR A2 YL
HIPPO 2	Students born in 2010 & younger	CEFR A1	CEFR A2
HIPPO 3	Students born in 2008 & younger	CEFR A2	CEFR B1
HIPPO 4	Students born in 2006 & younger	CEFR B1	CEFR B2
HIPPO 5	Students born in 2004 & younger	CEFR B2	CEFR C1

N.B. Students who reached Hippo 2022 final round, cannot compete in the same category in Hippo 2023.

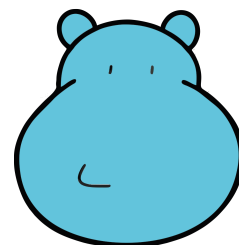
The students of lower grades than the ones in the table can also compete if they feel prepared for the level. The age limit for the Olympiad is 19 or as long as the students are in high school.

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 specialised school. Should a student, who is 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 three categories:

CATEGORY	AGE	CEFR LEVEL PRELIMINARY	CEFR LEVEL SF & FINAL
HIPPO S10	Students born in 2011 and younger	CEFR B1	CEFR B2
HIPPO S15	Students born in 2008 and younger	CEFR B2	CEFR C1
HIPPO S19	Students born in 2004 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. Students who enrol in one of the regular categories but are supposed to compete in the special categories according to the regulations will be disqualified.



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 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. At least one of the school staff approved by Hippo Association must be present during the tests.

The 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 total number of marks achieved on the two tests.

	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4 & S10	HIPPO 5 & S15	HIPPO S19
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)
USE OF ENGLISH MC	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)

Both reading test and Use of English answers are given on an answer sheet (OMR).

Maximum allowed times per category and part:

	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4 & S10	HIPPO 5 & S15	HIPPO S19
READING	20 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes
USE OF ENGLISH MC	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 country 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 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 total number of marks achieved on both the reading and the writing test.

	LITTLE HIPPO	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4 & S10	HIPPO 5 & S15	HIPPO S19
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)

Reading test answers are given on an answer sheet (OMR) while the Writing test answers are given in the test booklet.

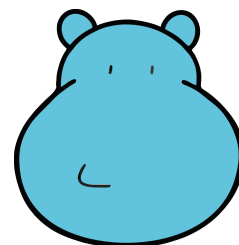
The writing test will consist of a free-writing task (100 – 200 words depending on the category) and 30 questions. The level of difficulty of all the questions will be one level higher than the one in the preliminary round. The essay will be assessed only in case two or more candidates have the scores 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 & S10	HIPPO 5 & S15	HIPPO S19
READING	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 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. QUALIFIERS EXAMINATIONS

In the Qualifiers, the candidates will take a Hippo Test of English consisting of 30 Use of English open-ended questions and a crossword. Hippo Test of English Samples are available on the official website.



10. FINAL ROUND EXAMINATIONS

In the final round of the Olympiad, the candidates take a Gatehouse Awards exam, all 4 skills included. GA Writing test will only be marked for the purpose of certification, not for the purpose of the final round ranking list.

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.

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.

11. MARKING & RANKING

The reading test answers 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.

In case an OMR form is not properly filled in (e.g. incorrect or missing candidate number) or scanned 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.

For online examinations, in case of suspected malpractice, Hippo Association keeps the right to re-test the candidates using a parallel test and under the invigilation of the Hippo staff.

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 and eventually regional qualifiers will be available on <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org> within three weeks of the semi-final round date.

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

Top 140 finalists will be admitted directly from the semi-final ranking list. The number of finalists per category and country will be proportional to the number of preliminary round participants in each category per country.

In order to promote a multicultural environment, wildcards will be granted to the best participant from each of the countries that does not have a finalist.

In addition to the above, winners of regional qualifiers will be admitted to Finals.

GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION keep the right to increase the number of finalists if the number of applicants exceeds 67,500, all in accordance with the Olympiad regulations.

The exact date of the final round as well as the participation confirmation deadline will be announced in due time.

12. FINAL ROUND

The final round of the Olympiad will be held in Rome, Italy, from 27th to 30th September 2023. All candidates can be accompanied by their English language teacher, or an English-speaking 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 the day before the examinations start; examinations will be held over two days while the proclamation of winners and awarding ceremony will be held on the evening of the second day of examinations.

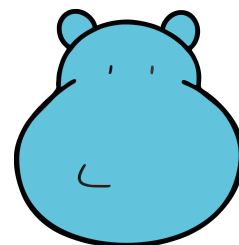
The programme of the final round will be available on <http://www.hippo-olympiad.org> one week before the final round at the latest.

Finalists will be contacted and helped with organising their travel.

13. PRIZES

QUALIFIERS. Winners of each qualifier round will proceed to the World Finals.

The second candidate in each category will get a one-week stay at the Hippo Summer Camp, fully inclusive of accommodation, meals, activities and airport transfers. It will not include the cost of travel – travel costs will be the responsibility of the winning recipient.



The third candidate in each category will receive a 50% discount coupon for the Hippo Summer Camp.

FINAL ROUND. 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 a Gatehouse Awards internationally recognised certificate in English.

Hippo 3, 4 and 5 Winners will receive Bucksmore Golden Ticket Prize, a two-week stay at one of Bucksmore Education colleges and will be fully inclusive of tuition, accommodation, excursions, meals and airport transfers. They will not include the cost of air travel – air travel costs will be the responsibility of the winning recipient.

Little, Hippo 1, 2, S10 and S15 Winners will receive a one-week stay at the Hippo Summer Camp, fully inclusive of accommodation, meals, activities and airport transfers. It will not include the cost of air travel – air travel costs will be the responsibility of the winning recipient.

Hippo S19 Winner will receive ESS Prague Golden Ticket Prize, a two-week stay in the “European Summer School” in Prague, Czech Republic, fully inclusive of tuition and accommodation. It will not include the cost of meals and air travel – these costs will be the responsibility of the winning recipient.

Second place winners of Hippo 4, 5 and S19 will receive a full Mizzou K-12 Online Diploma program. Second place winners of Little Hippo, 1, 2, 3, S10 and S15 will receive a 50% discount coupon for the Hippo Summer Camp.

Third place winners in each category will receive a Crosswords preparation book.

