FEMSSISA JUNIOR ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:

GUIDE

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GRADE 4

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

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A. Paper structure for the olympiad

Question 1: Comprehension

Choose a passage that will be easy to read.

- Opt for a passage that has words that learners are familiar with.
- Make the text interesting by including recipes, directions, instructions or a friendly letter.

Question 2: Language-related concepts

Join two sentences using a specified conjunction.

Punctuate a sentence using a certain punctuation mark.

Question 3: Parts of speech

By Grade 4, learners will be familiar with common parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, articles, etc.

- Test only on a single part of speech so either nouns and adverbs.

Question 4: Plurals

Testing plurals and the spelling of words put in plural form is important.

Question 5: Punctuation

Punctuation is core and should be tested at a Grade 4 level. Learners should be able to know the following punctuation marks and understand their respective functions:

- Full stops
- Question marks
- Exclamation marks
- Apostrophes
- Commas
- Capital letters

Question 6-8: Language concepts

Test homophones, concord error, or prepositions by asking learners to choose or fill in the correct answer.

Question 9: Crossword puzzle

This would include testing: Tenses or antonyms and synonyms.

B. How it aligns with the curriculum?

Question 1: Comprehension

As per CAPS, the text passage should be between 100-159 words.

- The passage should contain words already learned and encourage independent reflection on the text read.
- Choose passages with commonly understandable words.

Question 2: Language-related concepts

Language concepts taught from term 1 to 3 as per CAPS curriculum should be tested.

Question 3: Parts of speech

Recap concepts by testing some of the concepts covered on pages 18-21 of the CAPS curriculum.

Question 4: Plurals

Spelling of words need to be known by FAL learners so spelling can be tested by asking learners to form plurals for certain words.

Question 5: Punctuation

Punctuation has been covered from term 1 to 3 in the CAPS curriculum.

Question 6-8: Language concepts

Revisit the CAPS curriculum and base questions on certain topics covered.

Question 9: Crossword puzzle

Test language concepts taugt.

C. How it goes beyond?

The olympiad includes a few logical thinking and general knowledge questions. This is to allow for a fair chance for learners who have general knowledge and can think logically.

It also provides a fair amount of challenge for the learners who are book smart but are unable to problem solve.

The olympiad tests core First Additional language concepts like spelling, basic vocabulary and simple language concepts.

D. Sample questions

Question 1: Comprehension

1.1 Ask level one questions: who, what, where, when, why?

- Where is the story taking place?
- Who is the author?
- What can happen according to the text?

1.2 Choose the sentence with the correct grammar: me and my mum or my mum and I.

1.3 Provide a synonym/ antonym for the following word/s.

1.4 The story stated that the man was sick. Choose between true or false.

Question 2: Language-related concepts

2.1 Join these two simple sentences below using “and”

I walked to school. I walked home from school.

Question 3: Parts of speech

3.1 Place the underlined word in the correct parts of speech column in the table:

Mary hears about the witch.

Proper noun	Verb	Preposition	Article	Common noun

Question 4: Plural

4.1 One cat, many _____

Question 5: Punctuation

5.1 Fill in the correct punctuation mark in the sentence below:

jonny went to get ice cream sweets and chocolates

Question 6-8

6.1 Circle the subject below:

Jody went to the wedding.

7.1 Fill in the appropriate preposition.

Jody placed the painting _____ the wall.

8.1 Complete the sentence by adding the right pronoun:

Mary did _____ homework.

Question 9

9.1 In the form of a crossword puzzle:

- Provide the past tense of the word jump
- Provide the past tense of the word skip