FEMSSISA JUNIOR ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:

GUIDE

E-mail : Info@saolympiads .co.za website: www.saolympiads .co.za

GRADE 4

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

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A. Paper structure for the olympiad

Question 1: Comprehension

Choose a passage that will be of interest to readers. **Example:** The Truth About Dogs.

- The passage should contain vocabulary appropriate for grade 4 home language users.
- Include a few new words that may be unfamiliar to readers so that these readers can read these words in context.

Question 2: Language-related concepts

Pick language topics such as:

- Synonyms and antonyms
- Opposites
- Degrees of Comparisons
- Collective nouns

Question 3: Parts of speech

Learners will be familiar with common parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, articles, etc.

- You can underline words and allow learners to write the respective part of speech underneath.
- You can also tabulate words and add the respective parts of speech.

Question 4: Rearranging words

Perhaps allow learners to formulate logical sentences by rearranging words. This entails a fair amount of common sense.

- Idioms and proverbs.
- Similes or rhyming words.

Question 5: Punctuation

Punctuation is core and ought to 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: Logic question

Try to provide a logical question as well so learners can get thinking.

Question 7: Crossword puzzle

This is a fun way to test a language concept that had already been learned.

The crossword puzzle can test concepts like synonyms and antonyms, opposites, gender, plurals, pronouns, or the like.

B. How it aligns with the curriculum?

Question 1: Comprehension

As per CAPS, the text passage must be 150-200 words.

The passage should contain words already learned and encourage independent reflection on the text read.

Question 2: Language-related concepts

Test language concepts taught from term 1 to 3 as per CAPS curriculum.

Question 3: Parts of speech

Recap concepts covered on page 20-22 of the CAPS curriculum.

Question 4: Rearranging words

Tests learners understanding of sentence structure and vocabulary.

Question 5: Punctuation

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

Question 6: Logic question

Can relate to other CAPS subjects

Question 7: Crossword puzzle

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

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 learners who are book smart but unable to problem solve.

D. Sample questions

Question 1: Comprehension

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?
- Choose the correct setting of the story.
- Provide a synonym/ antonym for the following word/s.

Question 2: Language-related concepts

2.1 Synonyms and antonyms. Provide a synonym for huge.

2,2 Opposites. What is the opposite of full.

2.3 Degrees of Comparisons.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Big		

Collective nouns. A _____of sheep. A _____ of stars.

Question 3: Parts of speech

3.1 Write the part of speech for the underlined words:

Mary hears about the witch.

3.2 Place the words in the sentence below in the table to show you know what part of speech each word is:

Mary hears about the witch.

Proper noun	Verb	Preposition	Article	Common noun

Question 4: Rearranging words

4.1 Rearrange the words below to form a logical sentence:

doctor went to visit I the

Question 5: Punctuation

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

jonny went to get ice cream sweets and chocolates

5.2 What is the purpose of the full stop in the sentence below:

Sally heard a noise.

5.3 Fill the table below:

Punctuation mark	The function of the punctuation mark
Full stop	
Comma	

Question 6: Logic question

6.1 Provide the meaning of the idiom, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.”

Question 7: Crossword puzzle

7.1 Provide a synonym for remove

7.2 Plural of baby