FEMSSISA JUNIOR ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:

GUIDE

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GRADE 5

ENGLISH HOME 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 like include narrative extracts that children can relate to. Newspaper articles, myths, and diary entries are all covered in grade 5 and can be used as comprehension passages.

Question 2: Language-related concepts

Opt for a simple exercise on homophones/ homonyms. This tests spelling and vocabulary understanding.

The poem, “I’m All Mixed Up,” is an excellent poem to use for inspiration when setting this section.

Question 3: Rearrange words to form sentences

This requires logical thinking and ability to problem solve.

- Learners need to know that words that begin sentences start with capital letters.
- You could also include concord rules in this section.

Question 4: Plurals/ spelling

Testing plurals and the spelling of words is important. If you ask learners to formulate the plural forms of words, you are killing two birds with one stone.

Question 5: Punctuation

Punctuation is core and should be tested at a Grade 5 home language 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: Crossword puzzle

A crossword puzzle can be used to test concepts taught during the year like the different tenses including:

- Perfect tense

- Continous tense

B. How it aligns with the curriculum?

Question 1: Comprehension

As per CAPS, the home language text passage should be 200-250 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

This covers language concepts revisited in terms 1 to 3 as per CAPS curriculum and concepts that were taught in the foundation phase.

Question 3: Rearrange sentences

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

Question 4: Plurals/spelling

Spelling is covered on page 21 in the CAPS document.

Question 5: Punctuation

Punctuation has been covered from term 1 to 3 in the CAPS curriculum. This section entails the recall of commonly used punctuation marks and the functions that they play.

Question 6: Crossword puzzle

The cross puzzle should test language concepts taught. For grade 5 learners, when tenses become more intricate, it is also great to test tenses in the form of a crossword puzzle.

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.

It tests core Home Language common knowledge such as spelling, basic vocabulary, and simple language concepts.

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

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

Propose figures of speech questions:

What is the figure of speech in the following sentence:

The clouds were heavily pregnant.

Question 2: Homophones/ homonyms/ antonyms/ synonyms/ root words

2.1 Underline the correct word:

I want to go to school to/ too/ two.

2.2 Find the root word below:

unfriendly

Question 3: Rearrange sentences

delivers Postman letters Pat many

Question 4: Plural/ spelling

4.1 One butterfly, many _____

Choose plurals that are slightly more difficult to form

Question 5: Punctuation

5.1 Fill the correct punction mark in the sentence:

Pat delivers letters parcelss and products around town.

Question 6: Crossword Puzzle

6.1 Complete these continuous tense words:

I was (walk) _____ to the mall.