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

SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD (HL): GRADE 4

DATE: 6-20 AUGUST 2025

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 7 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the website: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	**GRADE:**

QUESTION ONE:

Read the text below and then answer the questions that follow:

SEAHORSES

The seahorse is actually a fish, but it doesn't act like one. There are twenty-five different types of seahorses. The largest grows to thirty centimetres but most are only five to ten centimetres long. They have two skeletons: one on the inside of their bodies and the other on the outside. Hard plates cover the body like a suit of armour. Seahorses are usually grey or black. Seahorses use their tails like monkeys use theirs. They wrap their tails around plants or coral to anchor themselves in place.

Seahorses often hide in the same place, often among seaweed, for hours. When they want to move, they use their dorsal fin, which is on their back. Small sea life are sucked into the seahorse's snout-shaped mouth as food. Male seahorses have pouches like kangaroos. This is part of the interesting way that they breed and care for their young. Eggs are put in the male's pouch by the female. The father seahorse gets so heavy from the weight of the babies in his pouch that he can hardly swim. The babies grow inside the pouch for forty-five days. Then about two hundred baby seahorses wriggle out of the pouch and swim away.

Babies are not cared for by their parents. They swim away and hang onto seaweed with their tiny tails. Many are eaten by sea creatures. At five months they are fully grown.

QUESTION ONE: Choose the correct answer from the questions that follow:

1. This story is about:

(a) horses (b) an unusual fish (c) an aquarium **(1)**

2. If you were to touch a seahorse, it would feel:

(a) hard (b) very hot (c) like a goldfish **(1)**

3. The seahorse:

(a) swims by wriggling its body

(b) uses his tail to hang onto things

(c) has three skeletons. **(1)**

4. What does 'anchor' mean:

(a) a ship

(b) to hold in place

(c) hard plates **(1)**

5. **You can tell that:**

(a) seahorses are fully grown after a year

(b) seahorses take good care of their babies

(c) seahorses must quickly learn to take care of themselves

(1)

6. **How many types of seahorses are there?**

(a) only one (b) twenty (c) twenty-five **(1)**

7. **How long does it take a seahorse to reach its full size?**

(a) forty-five days (b) five months (c) twenty-five days **(1)**

8. **What do seahorses feed on:**

(a) plankton (b) eggs (c) worms **(1)**

9. **Find an antonym in the text for the word "smallest".** **(1)**

10. **Find an antonym in the text for the word "outside".** **(1)**

11. **Who has more babies: people or seahorses?** **(1)**

12. **What part of the seahorse's body is important for breeding purposes:**

(a) The dorsal fin (b) The pouch (c) Snout-shaped mouth **(1)**

13. **Give two ways in which seahorses protect themselves.** **(2)**

14. **Circle the conjunctions in the sentences below:**

(a) The baby seahorses hatch and swim away. **(1)**

(b) The largest seahorse is still quite small but is very beautiful. **(1)**

15. **Similes compare one thing with another. Find two similes from the story and write them down.** **(2)**

16. Find words from the story that rhyme with the following words:

(a) features **(b) couch** **(2)**

Total: 20

QUESTION TWO:

Punctuate the following sentence:

my mom went to checkers to buy eggs bread and milk **(4)**

QUESTION THREE:

Draw a circle around the pronoun in each sentence.

(a) The boy played soccer with his friends. **(1)**

(b) The old lady knitted a jersey for herself. **(1)**

QUESTION FOUR:

Change the following sentence from the simple present tense to:

"The girl is shopping today with her Mother".

(a) simple past tense **(1)**

(b) simple future tense **(1)**

QUESTION FIVE:

Idioms: Fill in the missing word for each idiom from the word bank.

shoe	**chain**	**place**
well	**honesty**	

(a) If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing _____.

(b) There's no _____ like home.

(c) _____ is the best policy.

(d) A _____ is only as strong as its weakest link.

(4)

QUESTION SIX:

Choose the correct homophone in each sentence from the pair in brackets.

(a) Look at that (knight / night) on the horse.

(b) I got an interesting parcel in the (male / mail) today.

(c) An important quality of (steal / steel) is its strength.

(d) I bought this at a (flea / flee) market for three dollars.

(4)

QUESTION SEVEN: CROSSWORD: VOCABULARY

Fill in the missing synonyms for the words listed below in the Crossword from the clues given below:

Across:	**Down:**
3. Assembly	1. Colossal
7. Loveliest	2. Destined
10. Form	4. Watering
11. Proposal	5. Home
12. Cook	6. Conundrum
13. Hold	8. Exertion
14. Predict	9. Travel

(14)

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GRADE: 4 - 7

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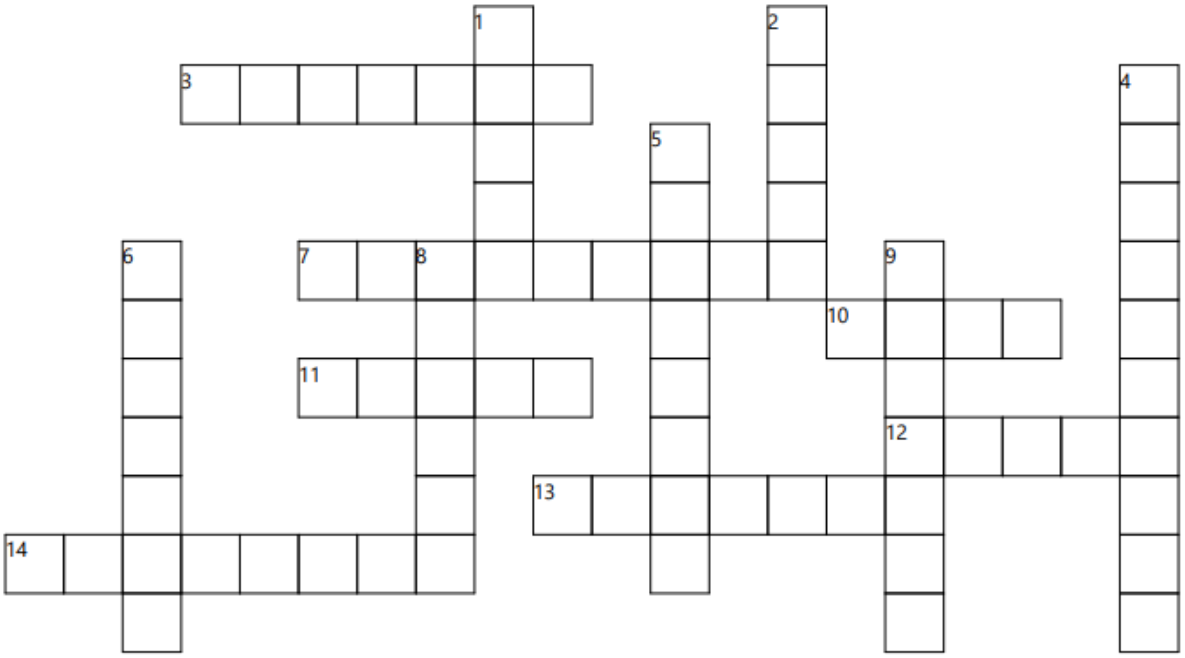

WORD BANK:

irrigation	roast	mystery	dwelling	contain	giant	effort
journey	offer	mold	council	meant	prettiest	forecast

Total for paper: 50