English First Additional Language Results

Grades 1 – 9 • 2026 Olympiad

SA Olympiads produced the English First Additional Language Olympiads for grades 1 – 9 in 2026. This report covers every grade in one document: Table 1 sets out the primary phase and Table 2 the high-school phase.

An Olympiad asks a learner to do more than recall what has been taught. It sets unfamiliar problems in a familiar subject, and rewards the learner who reads carefully, reasons clearly and is willing to attempt a question whose method is not obvious.

That is a different skill from writing a school test, and it is one that grows with practice. Learners who sit Olympiads tend to approach their own examinations more confidently, because they have met questions that cannot be answered by memory alone. The habits it builds – structured reasoning, persistence, checking your own work – carry well beyond the subject itself.

Our thanks to every school that entered this year, and to the teachers who prepared learners and ran the sittings.

A. Overall Results

More than 11 110 learners and 121 schools participated in the English First Additional Language Olympiads across all grades in 2026. Grade 1 was the strongest grade in the primary phase, with 44% of learners achieving gold and only 7% finishing in the participation band. Grade 2 and Grade 3 also placed more than a third of their learners in gold. Against 2025 the junior grades improved markedly: Grade 1 lifted gold from 23% to 44% and Grade 2 from 12% to 34%, while Grade 3 rose from 31% to 37%. The senior primary grades were more mixed. Grade 4 lifted gold from 14% to 21% and Grade 6 from 6% to 13%, and Grade 5 improved its gold share from 1% to 5% while cutting participation from 64% to 40%. Grade 7 remains the weakest grade of the primary phase, with 3% gold and almost half the grade in the participation band. Both high-school grades performed strongly. Grade 8 led the subject with 13% gold and 20% silver, and only 9% of learners in the participation band – the lowest of any subject this year. Grade 9 was close behind at 9% gold and 18% silver. At a high level there are key areas of development which need to be addressed, particularly in Grade 7. Where your school has performed better than below, these educators must be applauded for their outstanding work.

A summary of the performance in terms of the gold, silver, bronze and participation categories is detailed below:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Participation
Grade 1	44%	25%	24%	7%
Grade 2	34%	32%	26%	8%
Grade 3	37%	12%	34%	17%
Grade 4	20%	21%	31%	28%
Grade 5	5%	11%	44%	40%
Grade 6	13%	13%	42%	32%
Grade 7	3%	12%	36%	49%
Overall	**17%**	**16%**	**36%**	**31%**

Table 1

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Participation
Grade 8	13%	20%	58%	9%
Grade 9	9%	18%	51%	22%
Overall	**11%**	**19%**	**54%**	**16%**

Table 2

B. Top Learners per Grade

The lists below show the top 5 for grades 1 – 3, and the top 10 for grades 4 – 9, being the learners with the highest marks for that grade-specific Olympiad. Where several learners from one school placed in the leading positions, a maximum of three learners per school is listed, so that the table reflects the spread of performance across schools. These learners will receive medals and discounted fees on the digital courses at www.saolympiads.co.za, and those shaded in gold will receive cash prizes.

Grade 1

Position	Name	School
1	Radebe Smukelo	Maqongqo PS
1	Mgojana Sinothando	Mkankomo FSS
2	Ntuli Ayandiswa	Bhokweni PS
2	Imthande Selwane	Hilltop PS
2	Mabhanti Alwande	Mkankomo FSS

Grade 2

Position	Name	School
1	Milisuthando Soli	Hilltop PS
1	Sithole Ayabonga	Nsiwa PS
1	Cee-Jay Arries	William Lloyd PS
2	Joshua Boshoff	Drakensberg PS
2	Miya Asiphile	Emahhashini Primary School

Grade 3

Position	Name	School
1	Alunamda Selwane	Hilltop PS
2	Madikizela Esona	Meje PS
3	Jano Jordaan	Laerskool Zeerust
3	Duku Yamihle	St Martin’s Private School
4	Suzé van Greunen	Amarantus Akademie

Grade 4

Position	Name	School
1	Engelbrecht Mienke	Laerskool Kruinpark
1	Wandrè Jordaan	Laerskool Zeerust
1	Gumede Ntethelelo	Maqongqo PS
2	Mapitsing Blessing	Barapodi
2	Mohammed Afsana Musta	DRC Primary School
2	Du Plessis Zian	Laerskool Kruinpark
2	Silindokuhle Mthembu	Toyota - Zenzele PS
2	Madikizela Indiphile	Zamilizwe Primary
3	Omhle Mathokazi	Kopjeng
3	Eben van Zyl	Laerskool Oranje-Noord

Grade 5

Position	Name	School
1	Sibiya Lulonke	Emahhashini Primary School
2	Orefemetse Tsibogo	Laerskool Zeerust
2	Botya Isiphile	Ngxaza PS
2	Damons Rosne	Riviersonderend
3	Aurora Visagie	P S Fourie
4	Erwee Jessica	Laerskool Kruinpark
4	Philane Wathen	P S Fourie
5	Mmadi Tracee Mathabatha	Barapodi
5	Jo-Dean Ayton	Kuruman PS
5	Lana du Plessis	Laerskool Tygerpoort

Grade 6

Position	Name	School
1	Latham Erasmus	William Lloyd PS
2	Calata Olunje	Vulithuba PS
2	Calata Onako	Vulithuba PS
3	Zelri Claassens	Kirstonia
3	Marno Liebenberg	Laerskool Tygerpoort
4	Wm Britz	Amarantus Akademie
4	Lefika Kamogelo	Chokwe PS
4	Botha Lilian	Laerskool Kruinpark
4	Lara Laubscher	Laerskool Tygerpoort
4	Mogoane Kamano	Ntlhatlole Science and Commercial College

Grade 7

Position	Name	School
1	Haarhoff Joshua	Laerskool Kruinpark
2	Van Den Heever Caileigh	Laerskool Kruinpark
2	Nkosibusise Sibiya	Phalane PS
3	Pedri Saayman	Laerskool Tygerpoort
3	Mamosebo Victoria	Maijane PS
4	Mialé van Rooyen	Laerskool Oranje-Noord
5	Melindri Lombaard	Jacobsdal PS
5	Liezl Westermann	Laerskool Tygerpoort
5	Luca Smit	Laerskool Tygerpoort
5	Hlabe Oyintando	Mndela PS

Grade 8

Position	Name	School
1	Mabokachaba Tshepisang	Fedile
2	C Griezel	HTS Pretoria Tuine
3	Makoba Swelihle	Ntabezulu SS
4	Carlos Links	Upington HS
5	Masungulo Nkateko Maluleke	Khanyisa Education Centre
5	Gcaleka Olwethu	Ntabezulu SS
5	Ncwane Imange	Ntabezulu SS
6	Mongoai Bopaki	Magobanye HS
7	Khubani Bila	Khanyisa Education Centre
8	Botshelo Monyama	Khanyisa Education Centre

Grade 9

Position	Name	School
1	Njoku Christian	Motubatse Secondary
2	Mabelane Keneilwe	Ntlhatlole Science and Commercial College
3	Ramadikela Lerato	Fedile
4	Selaledi Lerato	Matshediso
5	Kgaditsi Rejoy	Motubatse Secondary
6	Dlamini Sinolwazi	Ntabezulu SS
6	Nonqane Inam	Ntabezulu SS
6	Mokgadi Gontse	Reipuseng Senior Secondary School
7	Mhiko Botshelo	Reipuseng Senior Secondary School
8	Maphutha Kabelo	Motubatse Secondary

C. Concluding Remarks

An Olympiad exists to find the learners who think well under an unfamiliar question, and to give schools a measure of where their learners stand against the country rather than against one another.

The performance in the 2026 Olympiads is an improvement on 2025 in every primary grade, and more than eight in ten learners in Grade 8 and Grade 9 earned a bronze grading or better. Schools should not be disappointed if the results did not meet their expectations. They should rather see this as an opportunity to improve learners in the gaps identified.

The learners listed above will participate in the qualifying rounds for an international competition in 2027.

Past papers and guides are available on **www.saolympiads.co.za** which should help you prepare for the Olympiads.

Digital courses for learners are now available on **www.saolympiads.co.za** as well, provided by our partner the Virtual School of Africa.

D. Important Dates to Diarise

Registration:	Open now at saolympiads.co.za
2026 prices held until:	31 March 2027
Written – 3-term schools:	Last school week before Term 2 closes
Written – 4-term schools:	August 2027, on the published subject dates

Register and pay before 31 March 2027 to hold 2026 prices – from R35 per learner per subject; every price rises by R5 from 1 April 2027. Papers are emailed to your school one week before the write date.