English Home Language Results

Grades 1 – 10 • 2026 Olympiad

SA Olympiads produced the English Home Language Olympiads for grades 1 – 10 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 25 750 learners and 252 schools participated in the English Home Language Olympiads across all grades in 2026. In the primary phase, Grade 1 was by some way the strongest grade, with 57% of learners achieving gold and only 7% in the participation band. Grade 5 was the strongest of the senior primary grades at 30% gold and 29% silver. Against 2025 the picture is mixed. Grade 1 lifted gold from 31% to 57% and Grade 3 from 13% to 27%, while Grade 5 rose from no gold at all to 30% and cut its participation band from 69% to 15%. Grade 6 doubled its gold share from 5% to 10% and Grade 7 rose from 1% to 11%. Grade 2 moved the other way, its gold share falling from 23% to 16%, though silver rose to 43%. Grade 4 remains the weakest grade of the primary phase, with 3% gold and almost two thirds of the grade in the participation band. Within the high-school phase, Grade 9 was clearly the strongest year group: 11% of learners achieved gold and a further 16% silver, a marked improvement on 2025. Grade 8 also improved, with the participation band falling from 58% to 47%. Grade 10, offered at this level for the first time, was the most demanding: just one learner in the grade achieved a gold grading and almost half the grade fell into the participation band. At a high level there are key areas of development which need to be addressed, particularly in Grade 4 and Grade 10. 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	57%	24%	12%	7%
Grade 2	16%	43%	27%	14%
Grade 3	27%	22%	33%	18%
Grade 4	5%	4%	27%	64%
Grade 5	30%	29%	26%	15%
Grade 6	12%	22%	43%	23%

Grade 7	11%	24%	39%	26%
Overall	**20%**	**23%**	**31%**	**26%**

Table 1

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Participation
Grade 8	2%	5%	46%	47%
Grade 9	11%	16%	44%	29%
Grade 10	1%	6%	44%	49%
Overall	**6%**	**10%**	**45%**	**39%**

Table 2

B. Top Learners per Grade

The lists below show the top 10 for grades 1 – 10, and the top 20 for grades 4 – 7, 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	Rakefa Motswagole	Acudeo College Thornview
1	Aakira Singh	Curro Douglasdale
1	Rajon Chikezie	Curro Douglasdale
1	Asante Ndimande	Faithlynn College
1	Titi Alakhe	Umtata Christian School
1	Gia Roux	William Lloyd Primary
1	Zayd Adams	William Lloyd Primary
1	Zandile Msibi	Yellowwood Park Primary School
1	Khaalid Kajee	Zakariyya Muslim School
1	Tanvika Huripursad	Zakariyya Muslim School

Grade 2

Position	Name	School
1	Joshua Boshoff	Drakensberg Primary
1	Kgato Petja	Redcliff Ventures Primary
2	Rikhotso Brooklyn Amari Oresiametse (Brooklyn)	Curro Roodeplaat Primary
2	Langa Mpanza	Greenside Primary School
2	Gorataona Mothupi	Laerskool Zeerust
2	Inamandla Wanda	Maidstone Primary School
2	Aleah Balwanth	Pinnacle College Waterfall
2	Alanna Moodley	Sunnyvale PS
2	Isa Kambali	The Guardian Institute
2	Muhammad Umair Tadia	The Learning Legacy

Grade 3

Position	Name	School
1	Phoenix Woltge	Curro Vanderbijlpark
2	Langa Mayisela	Curro Douglasdale
2	Rey Padayachee	Curro Douglasdale
2	Kyla-Rose Welcome	Curro Roodeplaat Primary
2	Kagiso Mohale	Curro Vanderbijlpark
2	Onjengaye Maliwa	Kidlands Primary School
2	Mvikweni Lumile	Libode
2	Kataliya Gounden	Sunnyvale PS
2	Nicholas Wormald	Umhlali Prep
2	Lehlogonolo Mmathere	Woodhill College

Grade 4

Position	Name	School
1	Ciaran Steyn	Capella House
1	Grace Mackenzie	Capella House
2	Isabella Ferrari	Curro Aurora
2	Thapedi Maimela	Royal Mount College Riversideview
3	Lily Glass	Capella House
4	Gumede Nkwenkwezi	Good Shepherd School
4	Declan Dlamini	Royal Mount College Riversideview
5	Thingo Ngcobo	Grantham Park
6	Angel Kamurai	Dalpark
6	Khano Munzhedzi	Royal Mount College Riversideview
6	Jack Booyens	St Stithians Boys' Prep
6	Alu Jele	Vaal Triangle Academy
7	Joanna Mtambo	Curro Aurora
7	Liyema Soboyise	Didi PS
7	Fayo Lubanzi	Good Shepherd School
7	Soni Sameeha	Houghton Muslim School
7	Zara Naidoo	Pinnacle College Linden
7	Kyrin Balwanth	Pinnacle College Waterfall
7	Dihya Vahed	The Learning Legacy
7	Sithole Enzokuhle	Yellowwood Park Primary School

Grade 5

Position	Name	School
1	Yash Munien	Northdene Preparatory School
1	Yogendra Sudhasen Deonath	Pinnacle College Linden
2	Kraig Levi Pillay	Bay PS
2	Milo Van Der Walt	Capella House
2	Zaine Moyo	Curro Edenvale
2	Kamogelo Malope	Curro Pretoria
2	Bokamoso Nyeleti Matjeke	Curro Protea Glen
2	Lily Carr	Howick Preparatory School
2	Rorke Warren	Howick Preparatory School
2	Vuyelwa Makhubu	Howick Preparatory School
2	Linshuang Dong	Eduplex
2	Delubom Kuyintando	Libode
2	Metin Gul	Nizamiye School Mayfair
2	Zoe Govender	Northdene Preparatory School
2	Leila Jordaan	Pinnacle College Linden
2	Lisakhanya Mavundla	Sodwana Bay Private School
2	Samar Arora	St Stithians Boys' Prep
2	Diana Rowsell	Summerwood Primary School
2	Similile Mxoli	Umtata Christian School
2	Chiliza Awande	Yellowwood Park Primary School

Grade 6

Position	Name	School
1	Ibenathi Ngwenya	Grantham Park
1	Arthur Kurebwa	St Stithians Boys' Prep
1	Bibi Fatima Russool	Sunnyvale PS
1	Rania Maharaj	Valbonne College
1	Zeke Adams	William Lloyd Primary
2	Sayishan Doorsamy	Maidstone Primary School
2	Amila Gongwane	Merlin Park PS
2	Brielle Jugnath	Sunnyvale PS
2	Nihal Mohideen Mohan	Swanvale Primary School
2	Mangerah Humayraa Siraaj	Zakariyya Muslim School
3	Liam G. Chetty	Bay PS
3	Hope Mhangani	Curro Pretoria
3	Skylar De Ruiter	Curro Pretoria
3	Jordan Narayadoo	Curro Rivonia
3	Adithi Maharajh	Curro Vanderbijlpark
3	Nikhira Roy Govender	Curro Vanderbijlpark
3	Luncedo Majokweni	Good Shepherd School
3	Saron Tesfaye	Grantham Park
3	Ziningi Mlambo	Grantham Park
3	Kader Maryam	Houghton Muslim School

Grade 7

Position	Name	School
1	Zian Vorster	Glenwood House School
2	Wavhudi Ndonyana	Royal Mount College Riversideview
3	Aman Bisunder	Curro Vanderbijlpark
3	Harry Wickens	Howick Preparatory School
3	Nabeeha Patel	Pinnacle College Linden
3	Landon Cupido	William Lloyd Primary
4	Grace Tibamwenda	Curro Pretoria
4	Kelsey Cloete	Curro Pretoria
4	Luyanda Mthunzi	Curro Pretoria
4	Nkazimulo Luphoko	Curro Protea Glen
4	Alexia Kondiah	Curro Rivonia
4	Nonsikelelo Ngubane	Durban East Primary
4	Dannique Reddy	Grantham Park
4	Odwa Ngcobo	Grantham Park
4	Fahima Zondi	Hillbrow PS
4	Mika'il Maula	Independent Candidate
4	Luhle Lupondwana	Libode
4	Treydin Reddy	Northdene Preparatory School
4	Stephné Swanepoel	Summerwood Primary School
4	Maqoma Olethiwe	Umtata Christian School

Grade 8

Position	Name	School
1	Sahashra Harinarain	Eden College
2	Sonali Stevens	Danville Park Girls HS
2	Emily Govender	Northlands Girls HS
2	Sayuri Chetty	Reddam House College Waterfall Estate
2	Adam Ubaydullah	Zakariyyah Muslim School
3	Priyasha Naidoo	Danville Park Girls HS
3	Onubogu Nwando Michelle	Gonzaga Jesuit College
3	Iviwe Amahle Mfinci	Libode
4	Emogan Daniels	Hoërskool Silverton
4	Liyabona Owam Mpemba	Soneike

Grade 9

Position	Name	School
1	Tumisang Hazel Nkosi	Teneo
2	Ammaarah Peeroo	Independent Candidate
2	Mahdiyya Pattel	Maritzburg Muslim School
2	Keira Von Maltitz	Waterfall College
3	Zibula Mondi	Queen's College Boys' High School
4	Thandoluhle Ndlangisa	Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy
4	Njabulo Madonsela	Cornerstone College
5	Mphahlele Tumisho	Curro Vanderbijlpark
5	Declan Harwood	Northwood School
6	Jesnay Pieterse	Soneike

Grade 10

Position	Name	School
1	Manqoba Mfusi	Upington HS
2	Mlindi Lento	Brylin Independent Learning Centre
2	Nelmari Maass	Upington HS
3	Monthati Bogatsu	Upington HS
4	Mangisa Lilitha	Umtata Christian School
5	Tshiamo Mashabela	Advanced College
5	Snethemba Siphokazi Ntuli	Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy
5	Msomi Okuhle	Durban Girls' Secondary School
5	Madikiza Rethabile	Umtata Christian School
5	Sinae Naidoo	Werda School

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 six of the seven primary grades, and in both Grade 8 and Grade 9. 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.