



Regulations of the Olympiad

Edition in force from the 2024 olympiad onwards. Supersedes all earlier editions.

1. Purpose and scope

- 1.1** Exam Trainer (“the Olympiad”) is an annual English language olympiad for school pupils in grades 1 to 11 or the equivalent years of schooling in the participating country.
- 1.2** The purpose of the Olympiad is to give pupils regular experience of the format, instructions and marking of international English examinations, and to give schools an external measure of the reading and language skills of each class.
- 1.3** These Regulations govern the conduct of the Olympiad in every participating country. A national partner may issue supplementary local rules, which must not contradict these Regulations.

2. Organisation

- 2.1** The Olympiad is set and owned by Exam Trainer, an educational initiative based in the United Kingdom.
- 2.2** In each country the Olympiad is delivered by one accredited national partner (“the Partner”), which is responsible for registering schools, supplying papers, marking under the Exam Trainer marking scheme, and issuing diplomas and the analysis of results.
- 2.3** Exam Trainer does not register schools or pupils directly and does not correspond with schools or families about individual participation. Such enquiries are handled by the Partner.
- 2.4** Papers are written and reviewed by the Exam Trainer editorial group, which consists of practising teachers and examiners. Each paper is checked against the current format of the examination it is modelled on and trialled with pupils of the relevant age before use.

3. Grades and papers

- 3.1** There is one paper for each grade from 1 to 11. A pupil sits the paper for the grade in which they are enrolled. A school may enter a pupil for a higher grade’s paper with the Partner’s agreement, but not for a lower one.
- 3.2** The grades, the level of each paper and the examinations on which it is modelled are:

Grade	Level	Modelled on	Points
1	Pre A1	Cambridge English Starters; TOEFL Primary Step 1	20
2	Pre A1	Cambridge English Starters; TOEFL Primary Step 1	22
3	Pre A1 / A1	Cambridge English Starters and Movers; TOEFL Primary Step 2	25
4	A1	Cambridge English Movers; TOEFL Primary	32
5	A2	Cambridge English Flyers; TOEFL Primary	30
6	A2	Cambridge English Key for Schools; TOEFL Primary	29
7	A2	Cambridge English Key for Schools; TOEFL Primary and Junior	27
8	A2+ / B1	Cambridge English Preliminary for Schools; TOEFL Junior	24
9	B1	Cambridge English Preliminary for Schools; TOEFL Junior	22
10	B1+ / B2	Cambridge English First for Schools; TOEFL ITP and iBT	21
11	B2	Cambridge English First; IELTS Academic; TOEFL ITP and iBT	23

3.3 Every paper tests reading and language use; in grades 1 to 3 the tasks are built on pictures. The papers for grades 8 to 11 also contain one short piece of writing, an e-mail or a story, worth 5 points.

3.4 Listening and speaking are not tested.

3.5 Each paper is designed to be completed in 30 minutes. Answers are written on the paper itself; there is no separate answer sheet.

3.6 The number of questions and points in each grade's paper may change from year to year. The current numbers are published in the Marking Scheme before the Olympiad.

4. Entry

4.1 Schools enter pupils through the Partner. The Partner sets the registration period and the sitting window for its country and communicates them to schools.

4.2 Entry is by class or by named list of pupils. A school may enter any number of classes.

4.3 Pupils cannot be entered individually by parents or guardians.

4.4 Any participation fee is set and collected by the Partner and is not part of these Regulations.

5. Conduct of the sitting

5.1 The Olympiad is sat on paper, in the school, during a normal lesson, under the supervision of a teacher of the school ("the Supervising Teacher"). No external invigilator is required.

5.2 Papers are supplied by the Partner for each grade entered. They are not to be shown to pupils before the sitting.

- 5.3** Before the sitting begins each pupil writes their surname, first name and school in the boxes at the top of the paper.
- 5.4** The Supervising Teacher reads the standard instructions aloud from the Teacher's Instructions and does not paraphrase, translate or explain any task.
- 5.5** Pupils have 30 minutes from the moment the instruction "You may begin" is given. The Supervising Teacher announces when ten minutes and when five minutes remain.
- 5.6** Answers are written on the paper in pen: a circled letter, a letter in the box, or a word on the line, as each part instructs. Every question has one correct answer.
- 5.7** Dictionaries, notes, telephones and any other aids are not permitted.
- 5.8** A pupil who is absent on the day does not sit at another time unless the Partner has arranged a second sitting for the school.
- 5.9** Pupils with additional needs may be given extra time or other adjustments agreed in advance with the Partner, in line with the practice of the examination on which the paper is modelled.
- 5.10** At the end of the sitting all papers are collected. Papers are not retained by the school or by pupils.

6. Marking

- 6.1** Every question is worth one point and is marked against the answer key issued by Exam Trainer. Where a word is to be written, the spelling must be correct; accepted alternatives are listed in the key.
- 6.2** The piece of writing in grades 8 to 11 is marked by the Partner on the five-point guide in the answer key.
- 6.3** A sample of scripts from each Partner is second-marked by the editorial group each year for standardisation.
- 6.4** Results are reported as points for each part of the paper and a total.

7. Awards

- 7.1** Every pupil who sits the Olympiad receives a diploma.
- 7.2** Diplomas of the first, second and third degree are awarded to the best results in each grade within each country. The Partner determines the thresholds so that, as a guide, about 5 per cent of participants in a grade receive a first-degree diploma, a further 10 per cent a second-degree diploma and a further 15 per cent a third-degree diploma.
- 7.3** Every entered class receives an analysis of results showing the points of the class by part of the paper and by pupil, with the marker's notes.
- 7.4** Diplomas are printed by the Partner on Exam Trainer templates and bear the Olympiad year.
- 7.5** No other material, prize or gift is part of the Olympiad.

8. Irregularities

- 8.1** If the Supervising Teacher observes copying, use of aids or any other breach of section 5, the pupil's paper is marked in the usual way but is reported to the Partner, which may withhold the result and any award.
- 8.2** If papers are found to have been shown to pupils before the sitting, the Partner may declare the sitting void for that school and arrange a second sitting with a replacement paper.
- 8.3** Decisions of the Partner under this section may be referred to Exam Trainer by the Partner only.

9. Papers and materials

- 9.1** Papers remain the property of Exam Trainer. Papers from previous years are published on the Exam Trainer website for use in teaching once the Olympiad year has ended.
- 9.2** Schools may reproduce published past papers for use with their own pupils. Any other reproduction requires the written permission of Exam Trainer.

10. Data

- 10.1** The Partner holds the names, grades and results of pupils for the purpose of marking and issuing awards, under the data protection law of its country.
- 10.2** Exam Trainer receives from each Partner anonymised results by grade and part of the paper for the purpose of standardisation and the improvement of future papers. It does not receive the names of pupils.