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THE INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD (I.E.L.O) REGULATIONS 2024

CHAPTER I - *GENERAL PROVISIONS*

ART. 1

(1) The main objective of the International English Language Olympiad is to encourage students with remarkable academic achievements in the study of English as a foreign language to further develop their linguistic and intercultural competences. The reference levels of I.E.L.O. correspond to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

(2) The I.E.L.O. aims to assess communicative competence, namely oral/written message reception and production skills, as well as intercultural communication.

(3) The I.E.L.O. is open to high school/upper secondary school students in the public, private or confessional education systems.

ART. 2

(1) The I.E.L.O. is organized at high-school/upper secondary school level. The reference levels correspond to the C.E.F.R.

(2) High-school/upper secondary school competitors should register for the I.E.L.O. according to their age and C.E.F.R. levels, as follows:

Age 14-15	B1 - B1+
Age 15-16	B2 - B2+
Age 17-18	C1 - C1+

(3) Competitors shall take full responsibility for their choice of level.

ART. 3

(1) Competitors do not need to pay any participation/registration fee.

(2) All transport expenses for students and teachers from the country of origin up to the venue of the I.E.L.O. are to be incurred by competitors.

(3) All the accommodation and meal expenses during I.E.L.O. will be incurred by the organising country.

CHAPTER II - *REGISTRATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS*

ART. 4

(1) Competitors must meet the following requirements:

- They are between 14-18 years old (at the time the Olympiad is held);
- They are non-native students who study/have studied English as a foreign language.

ART. 5

(1) Each country team consists of:

- min. 2- max. 4 students per team;
- one accompanying teacher;
- one assessor;
- one representative of the Ministry/Department of Education (optional).

(2) A country can enter a maximum of 3 teams and no more than 12 students.

(3) The selection criteria for the competitors shall be established by the participating school(s)/ Departments of Education, according to the specific laws/procedures of each country, provided that the conditions in articles 2 and 4 are met.

ART. 6

(1) (a) The deadline for the preliminary country registrations is March 31, 2024. An on-line form is available on the I.E.L.O website.

(b) The deadline for the confirmation form will be May, 15, 2024. The list of individual competitors will be published on the I.E.L.O platform/website.

(2) (a) In 2024, the I.E.L.O will take place in Constanța, Romania, between the 1st to the 8th of September.

(b) Information regarding the venue and the programme of the I.E.L.O will be available on the website and sent to the coordinators of each team upon receipt of the confirmation form.

CHAPTER III - *PAPERS AND STRUCTURE OF THE QUESTIONS*

ART. 7

(1) The International English Language Olympiad consists of two categories of compulsory papers, individual papers and the team project.

ART. 8

(1) (a) The individual papers of the I.E.L.O. are:

- Use of English;
- Integrated Skills (comprehension of an audio-video material and essay writing);
- Speaking.

(b) Each individual paper is awarded a maximum number of points, as follows:

- **a** – Use of English – 40 points;
- **b** – Integrated skills – 60 points;
- **c** – Speaking – 100 points.

(c) The final grade for the three individual papers is calculated as the average between the sum of the points awarded for Use of English (**a**) and Integrated skills (**b**) (**a + b** = grade X, 100 points maximum) and the number of points awarded for Speaking (**c**), according to the formula

$$\frac{(a+b)+c}{2}$$

(2) (a) The team project consists in creating a digital/multimedia/dramatized presentation of a scene which the team consider of particular relevance for the action of the novel specified in the bibliography for the respective level.

(b) Each team is made of at least three students of the same level, which will be the team's level.

(c) The project will be completed before the beginning of the I.E.L.O., as a team project.

(d) The project will be presented during the I.E.L.O.

(e) The team project is awarded a maximum of **100 points.**

ART. 9

(1) The scientific board of the I.E.L.O. is made up of ECML experts, University of Bucharest professors and other partner experts.

(2) The scientific board is in charge of designing the competition written and oral tasks.

ART. 10

(1) The structure of the written papers is the following:

B1-B1+

Use of English: Objective/semi-objective items which test reading skills, grammar structures and vocabulary **40 points**

Integrated Skills: comprehension of an audio-video material and essay writing - *narrative-descriptive essay* **60 points**

B2-B2+

Use of English: Objective/semi-objective items which test reading skills, grammar structures and vocabulary **40 points**

Integrated Skills: comprehension of an audio-video material and essay writing - *article* **60 points**

C1-C1+

Use of English: Objective/semi-objective items which test reading skills, grammar structures and vocabulary **40 points**

Integrated Skills: comprehension of an audio-video material and essay writing - *for-and-against essay* **60 points**

ART. 11

(1) The written part of the competition, which consists of *Use of English* and *Integrated Skills* is allotted three hours. *Use of English* lasts for 90 minutes, is followed by a 30-minute break and by *Integrated Skills*, which lasts for another 90 minutes.

(2)(a) The *Speaking paper* consists in a presentation/speech on a topic based on the included bibliography. The time allotted for preparation is 20 minutes. The presentations/speeches should last:

- B1 – B1+ – 3 - 5 minutes
- B2 – B2+ – 4 - 6 minutes
- C1 – C1+ – 6 - 8 minutes

(b) Competitors will extract a question for the Speaking paper for each level in alphabetical order, and they will have a designated room to prepare for it. They are not permitted to substitute a different question for the one they have extracted. Next, in groups of five, competitors will enter the examination room. Each competitor will deliver his/her presentation/speech in front of the other four members of the group.

(c) The questions for the Speaking paper are based on the novel included in the bibliography for the respective level, as well as on similar contexts from everyday life.

ART. 12

(1) The questions for the written and oral papers, as well as the respective answer keys/marking schemes, are provided by the scientific board appointed by the organizing country.

ART. 13

(1) In the case of the written papers, the assessment of subjective items (text/essay) will be performed according to a general marking scheme, which includes descriptors for each criterion. The questions, answer keys, and marking schemes, including descriptors, for the written papers, will be made public upon completion of the respective written paper.

(2) Competitors' performance in the oral test will be assessed according to a specific marking scheme. Each candidate will be assessed by two teachers (one assessor from the organising country and the other of a different nationality), both appointed as members of the assessment commission.

ART. 14.

(1) Prior to the assessment, the teachers will participate in a training session with the view to standardizing the assessment.

(2) Each written paper will be assessed by a pair of teachers (one assessor from the organising country and one of a different nationality), appointed as members of the assessment commission by the scientific board of the olympiad, who have neither qualified students at the respective level, nor relatives up to the third degree including among candidates.

(3) Assessors will be divided into sub-commissions, one for each level (each sub-commission will consist of at least two assessors), coordinated by vice-presidents appointed by the president of the Central Commission of the I.E.L.O.

(4) When assessing the written papers, the assessors will underline the mistakes in terms of content, vocabulary and grammar structures. Each assessor will fill in a signed individual marking sheet.

(5) In case of a difference of more than 10 points between the two assessors, the vice-president of the respective commission/sub-commission will appoint two other members of the respective commission, who will re-assess the paper(s) in question.

(6) Before announcing the initial results, the vice-president of each sub-commission will give feed-back to the competitors at the respective level in terms of the expected answers and of the frequent mistakes, based on the observations collected from the assessors.

ART. 15

(1) For the team project, presentations will be assessed according to the following criteria:

(a) – 50 points

i. relevance – 10 points
ii. grammar structures – 5 points
iii. lexis– 5 points
iv. discourse management – 10 points
v. pronunciation – 5 points
vi. creativity (digital/multimedia format included) – 15 points

(b) Delivery and clarifying answers – **50 points**

(2) Each presentation will last 10 –15 minutes.

ART. 16 Once all papers have been assessed, the Central Commission of the I.E.L.O. will display the initial results following the GDPR rules (using codes), before any reassessment applications can be filed.

CHAPTER IV - *REASSESSMENT CONDITIONS*

Art. 17
(1) Competitors can apply for reassessment of their own results in the written papers only.
(2) Reassessment will be performed by different assessors than those who assessed the papers initially.
(3) The provisions of art. 14 of the present regulations apply to the stage of reassessing papers.
ART. 18
(1) Prior to applying for reassessment, competitors can demand to view their own paper, in the presence of a member of the Central Commission of the I.E.L.O. While viewing the paper, they will not be issued any copies of it, will not be allowed to take photographs or videos of it and will not be given explanations about the assessment process.
(2) If, after viewing their written paper, a competitor decides to apply for reassessment, they will fill in, sign and file with the secretary of the Central Commission a reassessment application. The deadline for reassessment applications is three hours after the display of the initial results.
(3) Competitors can apply for reassessment only in the presence of the accompanying teacher of their respective team.
(4) The result after reassessment is final.
ART.19
(1) Final results will be issued and displayed no later than 24 hours after the deadline for submitting applications.

CHAPTER V – *PRIZES*

ART. 20
(1) Prizes and honourable mentions in the I.E.L.O. are awarded by the Ministry of Education of the organizing country by means of a registered certificate, according to the final results.
(2) In case of equal number of points for competitors who are eligible for prizes and honourable mentions, tiebreaker criteria will be applied, in the following order:

- **For individual papers**

- The number of points in *Use of English*;
- The number of points in the writing part of *Integrated Skills*;
- The number of points in *Speaking*;
- The number of points in *Integrated Skills – listening and watching* (comprehension questions)

If, after applying the four criteria above successively, competitors still tie, the points awarded for the following criteria in the evaluation of the essay will be used as additional tiebreakers:

a) content;
b) organisation and cohesion;
c) effect on target reader.

(3) If equality still stands, the *Central Commission of the I.E.L.O.* will organize a tiebreaker exam, identical in structure with the *Use of English* paper.

(4) For each part of the Competition and section, the organizers will award, as a rule, for each section/age group, three prizes (one First prize, one Second prize and one Third prize) and a number of honourable mentions corresponding to 15% of the number of competitors (rounded up to the next superior number, if it is a fraction). In exceptional cases, when two or more competitors are awarded the same number of points after tiebreakers have been exhausted, the commission can decide to award the same prize for equal numbers of points.
ART. 21 At the 2024 edition, the Ministry of Education in Romania will award prizes according to the Romanian legislation in force.

CHAPTER VI - *FINAL PROVISIONS*

ART. 22
(1) For the entire duration of the Olympiad, the competitors will have their ID/passport upon them.
(2) Competitors, accompanying teachers and assessors will sign a GDPR consent form.
(3) The accompanying teacher shall be responsible for the safety and security of each team member.
ART. 23
(1) All competitors in the I.E.L.O. will be presented with a certificate of participation designed and issued by the organizers.
ART. 24
(1) The country whose team wins the largest number of prizes and honourable mentions is the main candidate for organising the following edition of the I.E.L.O.
ART. 25
(1) The International Olympiad can exceptionally be organised by the same country in consecutive years.
ART. 26
At the end of each edition, the representatives of all the countries present will decide on the next organizing country.