



## HIPPO

### 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

#### Introduction

GLOBAL INPUT and GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION are organising **4<sup>th</sup> International Competition in English Language**. The competition is open to students 9 - 19 years old from schools in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. Students wishing to participate will take tests at either closest registered LCCI centre or in one of the competition approved venues.

#### Competition Regulations

##### 1. Dates and Venues

The competition will be run in **three** rounds: preliminary round, semi-final round and final round. The preliminary round will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in registered LCCI centres or state schools/ approved venues. *State schools enrolling a group of candidates will be required to host the preliminary round of the competition. If they wish to enrol a group of candidates and run the preliminary round of the competition on their premises, state schools need to contact GLOBAL INPUT - LCCI Reps ([globalinput@hippo-competition.org](mailto:globalinput@hippo-competition.org)) directly for venue approval.*

The regional semi-finals will be held in bigger towns in each of the participating countries, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016. The network of semi-final venues will be based on the geographic origin of the semi-finalists.

The final round will be held in Lido di Jesolo (Venezia), Italy, on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016. **60 finalists** as well as a school representative (chosen by the school), e.g. the student's teacher, will be invited to the final round of the competition.

***GLOBAL INPUT - LCCI Reps keep the right to increase the number of finalists if the number of applicants exceeds 10,000, all in accordance with the competition regulations.***



## 2. Candidate Application and Fees

Every LCCI centre participating in the competition as well as state school needs to appoint one of their staff as the competition responsible/contact person. The person will be in charge of applications and will need to ensure that all the LCCI rules and regulations are followed.

The contact person needs to send the completed application forms<sup>1</sup> to one of the following email addresses, depending on the country of origin:

Albania: [info@yesalbania.al](mailto:info@yesalbania.al)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: [bih.reg@hippo-competition.org](mailto:bih.reg@hippo-competition.org)

Bulgaria: [hippo-bulgaria@mbox.contact.bg](mailto:hippo-bulgaria@mbox.contact.bg)

Croatia: [cro.reg@hippo-competition.org](mailto:cro.reg@hippo-competition.org)

Italy: [ita.reg@hippo-competition.org](mailto:ita.reg@hippo-competition.org)

Macedonia: [mak.reg@hippo-competition.org](mailto:mak.reg@hippo-competition.org)

Montenegro: [mon.reg@hippo-competition.org](mailto:mon.reg@hippo-competition.org)

Serbia: [srb.reg@hippo-competition.org](mailto:srb.reg@hippo-competition.org)

Slovenia: [slo.reg@hippo-competition.org](mailto:slo.reg@hippo-competition.org)

The application form needs to be sent by 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the latest. No applications will be accepted after this date. For **group applications**, payment instructions will be sent by email upon the receipt of the application. Application fee payment needs to be made within 5 working days of the application submission. In case Global Hippo Association does not receive the payment within 5 working days of the application submission, the application will be cancelled.

**Individual candidates** need to complete the HIPPO Individual Candidate Application Form<sup>2</sup> and send it **together with the payment slip / proof of payment**. After the enrolments are closed, the list of venues, competition start time as well as candidates will be available on the competition website.

The application fee per candidate is:

Albania: 7 EUR

Bosnia and Herzegovina: KM 10

Bulgaria: BGN 10

Croatia: HRK 40

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<sup>1</sup> Application forms can be downloaded from: [www.hippo-competition.org](http://www.hippo-competition.org)

<sup>2</sup> Available on [www.hippo-competition.org](http://www.hippo-competition.org)



Italy: 7 EUR

Macedonia: 310 MKD

Montenegro: 5 EUR

Serbia: RSD 600

Slovenia: 5 EUR

Payment instructions for each of the countries can be found on the competition website.

**Additional details on candidate enrolment for different countries are available on the website.**

### 3. Competition Materials

Tests for the preliminary round of the competition will be sent to the LCCI centre/school by 2<sup>nd</sup> March and need to stay closed until the preliminary round start time. They need to be sent back on 6<sup>th</sup> March and must be delivered no later than 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The return address will be provided with the materials. **The materials delivered after this date will not be considered.**

### 4. Schedules and Inspections

Each centre decides on the start time of the test depending on the number of participants per category. All centres must send their schedules by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 for possible inspections. Pearson LCCI Examination Regulations will apply throughout the competition.<sup>3</sup>

### 5. Competition - Categories

The participants will compete in 5 categories based on the Common European Framework and will be taking Pearson LCCI JETSET exams.

Category	Grade	JETSET Level	CEF Level
HIPPO 1	Students born in 2004 and younger	Level 1	Below Scale
HIPPO 2	Students born in 2003 and younger	Level 2	CEF A1
HIPPO 3	Students born in 2001 and younger	Level 3	CEF A2
HIPPO 4	Students born in 1999 and younger	Level 4	CEF B1
HIPPO 5	Students born in 1997 and younger	Level 5	CEF B2

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<sup>3</sup> Addendum 1



The students of lower grades than the ones in the table can also compete if they feel prepared for the level. The age limit for the competition is 19. Bilingual students will not be admitted to the competition.

## 6. Competition - Preliminary Round

The tests for the preliminary round of the competition will consist of three parts: test of reading comprehension (multiple choice questions), test of listening comprehension and test of writing. The maximum allowed time per part is shown in the table below. The tests are the same for all the participants of a category and each centre will get a CD with the listening test audio. **It is strictly forbidden to open the competition materials before 5<sup>th</sup> March.** The listening test CD will be outside the envelopes with the tests so that the competition coordinator can make sure it works. At least one of the school staff accredited by Hippo Association must be present during the tests.

The reading and the listening test samples are available on the competition website.

There is only one correct answer to every question. **There are no negative marks. Ranking is based on the average number of marks achieved on both the reading and the listening test.**

	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5
<b>READING</b>	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	60 questions (1 point each)
<b>LISTENING</b>	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 questions (1.5 points each)	30 questions (1.5 points each)
<b>WRITING</b>	free-writing task + 20 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task + 20 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task + 20 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task + 20 questions (1.5 points each)	free-writing task + 20 questions (1.5 points each)

Answers (reading and listening) are given on an answer sheet (OMR form) and not in the test booklet.



The writing test will consist of a free-writing task (100 - 200 words depending on the category) and 20 questions. 10 out of those will be the same level as the test, and other 10 will be a level higher. The 20 writing test questions will be marked only in case two candidates have the same score or there are suspected competition irregularities. In case the candidates still have the same score, the essay will be assessed.

**Maximum allowed times per category and part:**

	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5
<b>READING</b>	30 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes
<b>LISTENING</b>	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	45 minutes
<b>WRITING</b>	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes

## **7. Competition - Semi-final Round**

After the preliminary round tests have been marked, **the top 10% of participating students from each participating country** will be invited to the semi-final round. The list of finalists will be published on the competition website by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The network of semi-final venues will be based on the geographic origin of the semi-finalists.

The exam level for the semi-final round will be one CEF level higher than the one in the preliminary round.

The tests for the semi-final round of the competition will consist of: a reading test, a writing test (30 questions) and an essay.

There is only one correct answer to every question. **There are no negative marks. Ranking is based on the average number of marks achieved on both the reading and the listening test.**



	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5
<b>READING</b>	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	40 questions (1 point each)	60 questions (1 point each)	60 questions (1 point each)
<b>WRITING</b>	free-writing task (essay)+ 30 questions  (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay)+ 30 questions  (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay)+ 30 questions  (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay)+ 30 questions  (1.5 points each)	free-writing task (essay)+ 30 questions  (1.5 points each)

Answers for the reading test are given on an answer sheet (OMR form) and not in the test booklet.

The writing test will consist of a free-writing task (100 - 200 words depending on the category) and 30 questions. The level of difficulty of all the questions will be one level higher than the one in the preliminary round. The essay will be assessed only in case two or more candidates have the scores on both the reading and the writing test.

**Maximum allowed times per category and part:**

	HIPPO 1	HIPPO 2	HIPPO 3	HIPPO 4	HIPPO 5
<b>READING</b>	30 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes
<b>WRITING</b>	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes

## **8. Competition - Final Round**

In the final round of the competition, the candidates will be taking Pearson JETSET exams, all 4 skills included. The test samples can be found on [www.hippo-competition.org](http://www.hippo-competition.org). The exam level for the final round will be one CEF level higher than the one in the preliminary round that is the same as the semi-final round test.



## 9. Marking and Ranking

Tests of reading and listening are marked by an OMR device and for that reason need to be properly filled in. Candidates are required to use a **pen** while completing the OMR form. An OMR sample form will be available on the website two weeks before the preliminary round of the competition at the latest.

Considering that in the semi-final round, candidates complete the reading and writing tests only and not the listening test, the OMR will be used for the reading test only.

In case an OMR form is not properly filled in and the OMR device cannot read it, the candidate will automatically be disqualified.

In the preliminary round, If the overall marks of two or more candidates are equal, the test of writing will be marked and if the number of marks is still the same, the younger or youngest candidate is to be ranked higher.

In the semi-final round, the essay will be marked only if two or more candidates have the same number of points on both the reading and the writing test.

**N.B. Reading test will not be timed in the preliminary round of Hippo 2016.**

The ranking list for all categories as well as the names of the candidates who qualified for the semi-final round will be available on [www.hippo-competition.org](http://www.hippo-competition.org) by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the latest.

The ranking list for all categories as well as the names of the candidates who qualified for the final round will be available on [www.hippo-competition.org](http://www.hippo-competition.org) by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the latest.

The final round places will be assigned in the following way:

70% of the places in the finals (42) will be admitted directly from the semi-final ranking list;

10% of the places in the finals (6) will be assigned to the two categories with the highest number of enrolments in accordance with the ranking list;

20% of the places in the finals (12) will be assigned in proportion to the number of enrolments per country. In case no candidate from a country qualifies for the finals, a place in the finals will be given to the country in accordance with the ranking list.

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The finalists will have to confirm their participation in the final round by 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016. In case a candidate is unable to travel to the finals, the next one on the ranking list will be invited.



## 10. Final Round

The final round of the competition will be held in Lido di Jesolo, Italy, on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016. All candidates will be accompanied by a school representative.

Half-board accommodation will be provided for all the candidates and school representatives free of charge.

The programme of the final round will be available on [www.hippo-competition.org](http://www.hippo-competition.org) two weeks before the final round at the latest and will include the competition schedule as well as sightseeing options.

Finalists will be contacted and helped with organizing their travel.

## 11. Prizes

All preliminary and final round candidates will receive a certificate of participation.

All candidates who pass the final round tests (score 50% minimum) will be awarded an internationally recognised certificate in English.

Prizes for the finalists will be announced in due course and before the start of candidate enrolment.

## 12. Certificates

The preliminary round candidates who pass the preliminary or semi-final round tests with a minimum score of 50% and do not qualify for the finals, will be given the opportunity to complete their certificate (all four skills) and take the same level exam at a discounted price. The candidates who pass the tests with a minimum score of 75% and do not qualify for the finals, can either take the same level exam or one level higher at a discounted price. These exams will have to be taken in one of the LCCI centres. The application deadline as well as exam dates will be announced in due course.

All non-final candidates wishing to obtain a certificate will need to re-take the listening and reading test too.

## 13. Liability

By applying for the competition, the participants accept the conditions of the competition, organisation of the competition, marking criteria, assessment and prizes.

The personal data of the participants will be used only for the purposes of the competition and will not be disclosed to third parties except for the needs of the competition.