Regulations of the Singapore Linguistics Olympiad (SLO)

1 Introduction

(1) This document contains the regulations of the Singapore Linguistics Olympiad (hereinafter SLO).

(2) The SLO is the official selection mechanism for students in the Republic of Singapore to participate in the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) – it is a national Linguistics Olympiad (LO). Candidates may only participate in one national LO in the world each year.

(3) The official language of the competition will be in English, the primary language of education and working language of Singapore. All problem sets will only be available in English.

(4) The aims of the SLO include:

    (a) promoting students' and the general public's awareness of languages and linguistic diversity,

    (b) enhancing pre-university students' logical thinking and problem-solving skills,

    (c) encouraging friendly relations and a spirit of sporting competitiveness amongst young people interested in linguistics.

(5) The SLO is organised by the Nanyang Technological University's National Institute of Education, led by an Organising Committee (OC) whose contact details and members may be found listed on the official SLO website (see (7)). As the National Organisation responsible for organising and regulating the SLO, the duties of the OC include:

    (a) advertising and publicising the competition and its details to all eligible students,

    (b) facilitating registration for contestants,

    (c) devising the problem set for competition,

    (d) marking the contest scripts and compiling the competition results.

(6) The competition is open to all pre-university students from Secondary 1 to Junior College 2 (or equivalent) who are enrolled in a pre-university educational institution physically located in Singapore and are less than 20 years old as of the first day of the IOL of the respective competition year.

    (a) This includes students who have completed their pre-university studies in Singapore but have yet to matriculate in a university.

    (b) This includes students enrolled in, but taking a leave-of-absence from, such pre-university educational institutions.

(7) The official website of the SLO is https://www.ntu.edu.sg/nie/SLO-2025.

2 Format of the competition

(8) The SLO will respect the format of established and accredited international linguistic olympiads such as the IOL, APLO, and HKLO. The competition will last 4 hours and will consist of 4 problems. Each problem will have a maximum score of 25 points, with the maximum score of the competition being 100 points.

(9) An LO problem consists of a corpus (data set) in an unfamiliar language and a list of questions. The solver's task is to answer the question by using their logic and critical thinking skills to decipher different aspects of the given language (e.g., word meanings or grammar rules). In solving the problem, participants do **not** need to use specialised linguistic terms or knowledge, and need only have familiarity with fundamental concepts from the study of language and languages as are typically present in school curricula.

(10) The competition has only **one** level of difficulty (i.e., all students will have to solve the same problems, regardless of the academic year they are in).

(11) Training materials can be found online in the form of past papers from other (inter)national competitions, as follows:

   (a) International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL)

   (b) Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad (HKLO)

   (c) United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO)

   (d) Panini Linguistics Olympiad (PLO)

   (e) Asia-Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO)

   (f) North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO)

3 The Competition

(12) Information about the SLO, including eligibility requirements, the date and venue of the competition, registration link, and contact details of the OC will be made available on the official website (7) no less than **two months** prior to the competition.

   (a) The OC has the right to make any changes to the competition and its regulations, with requisite updates as posted on the official website (7) and communicated via email.

(13) Interested students (i.e., candidates) are to sign up individually by registering via the link posted on the official website (7). This will be the only means to register for the competition.

   (a) Candidates must provide an email address during the registration process. Where necessary, the OC will contact registered participants through this email address.

(14) Registration for the SLO will remain open until **two weeks** before the competition day, or when the maximum number of candidates has been reached (200 individuals), whichever is earlier.

(15) There is a participation fee of $12 SGD to help offset the costs of running the event. (a) No refunds of the participation fee will be provided.

(b) Candidates will only be considered registered once receipt of this fee has been confirmed.

(16) The problem set will be created by the SLO OC in collaboration with committee members of other national and international LOs.

(17) The OC is also responsible for grading the papers and compiling the final results of the competition.

(18) Candidates receiving awards from the competition will be identified at most **two months** after the conclusion of the competition via email as well as through updates on the official website. Individual candidates' raw scores will not be made known.

4 Awards

(19) All students who take part in the competition will receive a certificate of participation.

(20) Certificates of merit (gold award, silver award, and bronze award) will be awarded to the top scorers in the SLO according to the following specifications:

(a) Let **m** be the mean score of all participants who have scored more than 3 points.

(b) Let **s** be the standard deviation of all participants who have achieved a score of more than 3.

(c) All participants who achieve a score equal to or more than **m+s** will be awarded a gold medal.

(d) All participants who achieve a score equal to or more than **m** will be awarded a silver medal if not already awarded a gold medal.

(e) All participants who achieve a score equal to or more than **m-s** will be awarded a bronze medal if not already awarded a silver or gold medal.

(21) The actual cut-off scores may be adjusted at the OC's discretion based on the distribution of the scores.

5 Representation at the IOL

(22) The **top 15** performers at the SLO (in descending order of scores) will qualify for participation in the Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO), in which Singapore is accredited as an official delegation.

(23) The APLO will take place in accordance with the APLO regulations, which can be found on the official website as linked in (22).

(24) All students who have qualified for **and** participated in the APLO will be eligible to represent Singapore at the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) of that respective academic year.

    (a) The SLO OC may officially recognise **one team** comprising **four participants** as the representatives of Singapore to the IOL.

    (b) Students who would like to represent Singapore at the IOL should make this known to the SLO OC **within two weeks** after the official date of release of APLO results.

    (c) In the case that there are more than four students interested in forming a team, preference will be given to students in descending order of their scores at the APLO.

(25) Student representatives to the IOL will need to self-fund all costs associated with participating in the IOL (registration fee, flight tickets, etc.).

    (a) The team will also need to independently secure a team leader, whose costs must also be self-covered.

Approved by the SLO OC – 14 October 2024