



BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

3RD BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD
SHAPE DISCIPLINES
BRAINIACS ENGLISH SYLLABUS
CATEGORY I | GRADES 3–4



Category 1 (Grade 3-4) - A1

Papers stay inside the world a young child already has words for — the house, the classroom, animals, weather, meals, the street outside. Sentences are short and a story is told in the order it happened.

1. Grammar and Sentence Structure

- Nouns and articles — singular and plural, including the plurals that break the rule
- Pronouns — subject, object and possessive forms
- The present simple and the present continuous, and knowing which one a sentence needs
- The past simple of the verbs children meet first
- have got, and there is against there are
- Questions and negatives built with do and does
- Adjectives and adverbs, and comparing one thing with another
- Prepositions of place and time
- Quantity — some and any, and nouns you cannot count
- can for what you are able to do, must for what you have to do
- Joining two ideas with and, but, because, or, so
- and other structures within A1, reaching A2 in the hardest questions

2. Vocabulary Development

- Everyday topic vocabulary — family and home, school, food, clothes, colours and numbers, animals, weather, the body, the town, and free time
- Numbers, days, months and seasons, times and dates
- Opposites, and words that mean nearly the same thing
- Knowing what a word means, not only recognising it — a question may offer four short definitions of an everyday word
- Word building with prefixes and endings that leave the root unchanged, of the kind that turns teach into teacher or sun into sunny
- The words that go together — the verb that belongs with a common noun
- and other vocabulary within A1, reaching A2 in the hardest questions

3. Reading Comprehension

- Read short stories, short factual passages, and a notice or poster
- Picking out what a text states: who, what, where, when, how many
- Deciding what a story is mainly about, and choosing the best name for it
- Working out why something happened, and how somebody feels, when the text does not say so directly
- Giving each paragraph of a short factual text the heading that fits it
- Putting a sentence that has been taken out of a story back where it belongs
- Deciding which of four children a statement belongs to
- and other reading at this level

4. Listening Comprehension

- Understand short spoken exchanges between two people on everyday subjects
- Understand a short announcement or a set of instructions
- Catch specific information — names, places, times, numbers, prices and objects
- Complete notes while listening, writing one word, a number or a time
- Work out how a speaker feels when they do not say so directly
- Understand a recording played only once, taking notes as it runs
- and other listening within A1, reaching A2 in the hardest questions

5. Written Expression

- Write a short notice or message that covers four content points you are given
- Describe a person, a place, or what you do in a day
- Begin sentences with a capital letter and close them with a full stop
- Join simple ideas with and, but, because and so
- Choose words that suit the person you are writing to
- Keep to the length you are given
- and other writing within A1, reaching A2 in the hardest questions

6. Question Types in the Olympiad

- Multiple choice — four options, one of them right
- Multiple response — you choose every right answer. Two of four options are right in a 2-point question, three of five in a 3-point question
- Multiple-choice cloze — a passage with gaps, four words offered at each gap
- Open cloze — a passage with gaps and no options at all. You type one word
- Word formation — a word is printed in capitals beside the gap and you type the form the sentence needs
- Multiple matching — headings against paragraphs, and statements against the people who said them
- Gapped text — sentences have been lifted out of a passage and you put them back
- Note-taking gap-fill — you complete a set of notes while the recording plays, one word, number or time per gap
- Two writing tasks — the first sets you content points to cover, the second leaves the shape to you
- At this category, Listening Parts 1 and 3 offer three answers to choose from. Every other multiple-choice question offers four

7. Recommended Focus Areas

- Read short stories out loud. Nearly every question is answered by one or two sentences of the text, so reading each line properly is worth more than reading quickly
- Work through the A1 vocabulary lists
- Practise hearing something twice and writing down one word, a number or a time
- Practise a notice and a short description, then count the words