BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

3RD BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

SHAPE DISCIPLINES

BRAINIACS ENGLISH SYLLABUS

CATEGORY I | GRADES 5–6

Category 2 (Grade 5-6)- A2

Papers widen out from the family and the classroom to the town, travel, sport and simple science. More than one thing happens at a time, and texts begin to carry opinions as well as facts.

1. Grammar and Sentence Structure

- The present simple against the present continuous
- The past simple and the past continuous, used together
- The present perfect for what has happened at some time
- The future with will and with going to
- Comparison of every kind, including irregular forms
- The first conditional
- Modal verbs for ability, permission, obligation and advice
- Possessive and reflexive pronouns
- Adverbs of frequency, and where they sit in a sentence
- Prepositions of time and place
- Quantity — much, many, a lot of, a few, a little
- Joining and contrasting ideas across a sentence
- and other structures within A2, reaching B1 in the hardest questions

2. Vocabulary Development

- Topic vocabulary — school life, journeys and travel, sport, hobbies, shopping, health, jobs, and the natural world
- Synonyms and antonyms
- Word families — how a root changes across its forms
- Prefixes and endings that change what a word means or what part of speech it is
- Collocation — the words that habitually travel together
- Multi-word verbs in their commonest uses
- Choosing what a word means from four definitions
- and other vocabulary within A2, reaching B1 in the hardest questions

3. Reading Comprehension

- Read stories, factual articles and notices
- Finding the main point, the details that support it, and the order things happened in
- Working out a word you do not know from the sentence it sits in
- Seeing what caused what, and telling a fact apart from an opinion
- Choosing the best title for a text
- Matching a heading to each paragraph, and putting removed sentences back in their gaps
- Deciding which of four people a statement belongs to
- and other reading at this level

4. Listening Comprehension

- Understand conversations and short talks on familiar subjects
- Catch both the main point and the particular details
- Recognise what a speaker prefers, and the reason they give for it
- Complete notes while listening, writing one word, a number or a time
- Recognise how a speaker feels about what they are describing
- Understand a recording played only once, taking notes as it runs
- and other listening within A2, reaching B1 in the hardest questions

5. Written Expression

- Write a message or short email that covers four content points you are given
- Write a short account of something that happened to you
- Hold ideas together with and, but, because, although and so
- Order a piece so that it has a beginning and an end
- Choose words and a tone that suit the reader
- Keep to the length you are given
- and other writing within A2, reaching B1 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
- Every multiple-choice question at this category offers four answers to choose from

7. Recommended Focus Areas

- Read a page of a graded reader or a short article each day, then say in one sentence what it was about.
- Work through the A2 Vocabulary lists
- Practise taking notes as you listen — two of the four listening parts are played only once
- Practise a message and a short account of something that happened, and check the length