LANGUAGE EXPLORER COMPETITION
2023

LANGUAGE EXPLORER COMPETITION

COMPETITION DAY

11TH FEB

INTRODUCTION

Language Explorer Competition is an annual, online national school-level competition that introduces language and linguistics knowledge to primary school, secondary school and pre-university students in Malaysia. This competition aims to introduce the world of Language and Computational Linguistics as early as possible to the younger generations. The winners in secondary categories from this competition will be selected for the Malaysian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (MyCLO), and also Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO). Students will also have an opportunity to be trained by professionals in the linguistics field. MyCLO is a platform to choose the best eight students to represent Malaysia in the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) that will be hosted by Bansko, Bulgaria on July 21 - 29, 2023.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

PRIMARY CATEGORY
Public School : Year 4, 5, & 6
International School : Year 4, 5, & 6

SECONDARY CATEGORY
Public School : Form 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5
International School : Year 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11

STAGES

Malaysian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (MyCLO)
The top students from secondary category in Language Explorer Competition will be selected for the next stage, the Malaysian Computational Linguistics Olympiad

National Training Camps
The best students from MyCLO will be invited to join the National Training Camp. Students will then be further trained and tested during the online and offline training camps and homework assignments

Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO)
Students who were trained in the National Training Camps will be tested in APLO. APLO is a regional linguistics olympiad with the aim of escalating attention to language and linguistics in the Asia Pacific region, which will held on April 9, 2023

International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL)
Four or eight best students at the national training camp and Asia Pacifics Linguistics Olympiad (APLO) will be chosen to represent Malaysia in the International Linguistics Olympiad

COMPETITION FORMAT

Method
Online

Languages
English
Bahasa Melayu

Format
5 subjective questions

Answering Time
1 hour 30 minutes

Grading
20 marks for each questions

Necessity
Stable internet connection

SYLLABUS

All the data you need to crack the whole puzzle is in the question itself, thus, you are expected to **sharpen your logical thinking skills.**

- -

Questions can usually be answered using **creative and critical thinking skills**, so participants do not need to be multilingual.

- -

Computational Linguistics Competition can be describe as **interesting puzzles** using languages.

- -

No explanation is required in the first round.

BENEFITS

○ Each student will receive a certificate according to your achievements:

TOP 10%
GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE AWARD

SUBSEQUENT 40% HONORABLE MENTION

REMAINING 50% CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIFATION

○ Top students from secondary category will get an opportunity to attend the Malaysian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (MyCLO) and if selected to the National Training Camps, they will be trained by professional and experienced trainers in this field

○ Top students in APLO and National Training Camps will have a chance to represent Malaysia in the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) and Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO) 2023
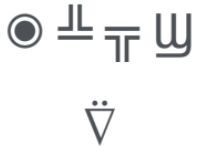
"Conquer the world with the power of language"

▶ ▶ ▶

Easy

A *rebus* (pronunciation: ree-buhs) is a combination of pictures or symbols representing a certain meaning when read together. These are some rebuses and the English sentences they represent:

	The dog ate the food so mother scolded the dog
	Father is working
	Mother told the children not to fight
	The children said they did not want food
	Father is eating an apple
	The children hid above and below the couch

Task

Write the English sentences for the following rebuses:

A.	◉ ╦ ⛩ ⊘	4 marks
B.	⩾ ⋓ ◉ †⩖ ⩔	4 marks
C.	◠̊ ⸫	4 marks
D.	⩾ x ◠̊ †⊘	4 marks
E.	x ⸫ ⋓ ◠̊⸫ ⩔ ⊘	4 marks

Answer & Explanation

A. The dog hid below the couch
B. Father scolded the children so the children hid
C. Mother is eating
D. Father told the dog not to eat
E. The children did not want food so the dog ate the food

Look closely from the table, each symbols representing a certain meaning when read together, for example:

⊘	dog
◠̊	ate/eat
⸫	food

⋓	so
⸱⸱>	mother
⩾	said/scolded

Medium

There are names of some countries in South America, written in the Georgian language, together with their translations to English:

ბრაზილია	**Brazil**
პერუ	**Peru**
ურუგვაი	**Uruguay**
არგენტინა	
კოლუმბია	

Task 1

What are the alphabets, in English, of the Georgian alphabets?

A.	რ	2 marks
B.	ა	2 marks
C.	უ	2 marks
D.	ე	2 marks
E.	ი	2 marks

Task 2

What are the names, in English, of the two untranslated countries?

A.	არგენტინა	5 marks
B.	კოლუმბია	5 marks

Answer & Explanation

Task 1

A. r   **B.** a   **C.** u   **D.** e   **E.** i

Task 2

A. Argentina   **B.** Colombia

In this question, one has only to decipher a different alphabet. For that, one can note that "Peru" and "Uruguay", in Georgian, have the same amount of characters as their translations; furthermore, the repetition of U in Uruguay assures us that Georgian is written left-to-right. So we can do the relation one-to-one. "Brazil", nevertheless, has more letters than the version in English, but thanks to the two other names, we already know some letters:

```
_ R A _ I _ I A
```

This should probably be "Brasilia" or "Brazilia". With those letters, we can guess the names of the other two countries:

```
A R G E _ _ I _ A
_ _ L U _ B I A
```

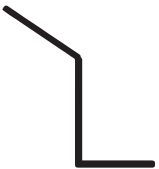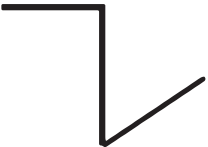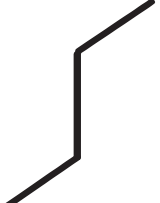which can only be Argentina and Colombia (which is spelled K'olumbia in Georgian)
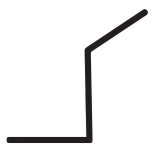
Easy

In the history book *Chronica Majora*, written in the 13th century by the English monk Matthew Paris, there is mentioned a system of writing numbers less than 100. The system was brought to England from Greece.

Here is an example of how to write four numbers in the writing system:

81	72	19	38

Task

What are the numbers represented by these symbols?

A.		4 marks
B.		4 marks
C.		4 marks
D.		4 marks
E.		4 marks

Answer & Explanation

A. 0   **B.** 7   **C.** 18   **D.** 46   **E.** 53

Notch on the right represents the ones digit & notch on the left represents the tens digit. No notch means digit 0.

Notches for 1-9 can be explained as:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
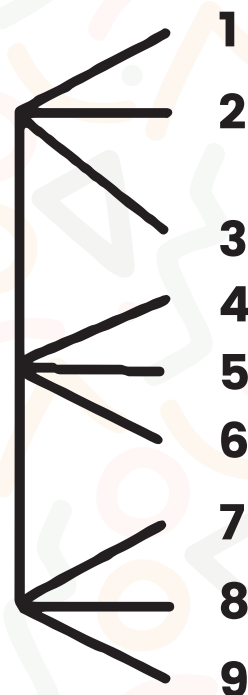
IMPORTANT DATES

Registration Open	**Registration Close**
27th DEC 2022	31st JAN 2023
COMPETITION DAY	**Result Announcement**
11th FEB 2023 ⭐	1st MAR 2023
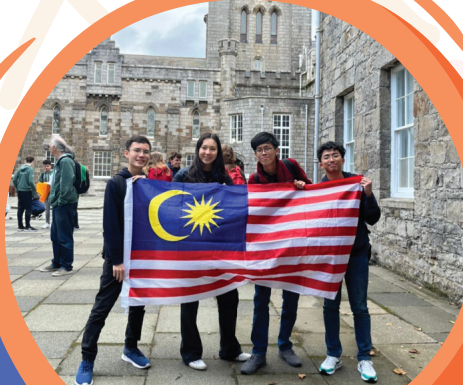
ACHIEVEMENT

The 4th Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO 2022) was held on April 10, 2022. A total of 213 contestants participated virtually, and 22 Malaysian students took part in APLO 2022.

We successfully obtained 4 Silver Awards, 3 Bronze Awards and 1 Honorable Mention certificate. All Silver Award winners were selected to the IOL 2022.

IOL 2022 were hosted in Castletown, Isle of Man from July 24 - 30, 2022. The Olympiad was participated by 184 participants from 36 countries. The Malaysian representative consists of 4 best students named Chew Jia Sheng, Mia Tan Li Shen, Muhammad Hafizuddin Akhtar Mohd Zainal Abidin and Wong Jer Ren, and is led by professional Team Leader, Ms Deborah Chow who possessed a Masters Degree in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, from University of Oxford, UK.

The jury of IOL awarded our student, Wong Jer Ren a Honorable Mention, while other students are awarded the certificate of participation. Congratulations to all members of the team! We are so proud of them!

REGISTRATION FEE

JOIN UNDER A SCHOOL : RM35 *per student*

JOIN AS INDIVIDUAL : RM50 *per student*

HOW TO REGISTER?

Registration can be made at
www.contesthub.my

CONTACT US

LANGUAGE EXPLORER COMPETITION SECRETARIAT
100-1, Jalan 2/23A, Off Jalan Genting Klang, Taman Danau Kota, 53300 Setapak, Kuala Lumpur.

T. 018 392 0204   **E.** myclo.info@gmail.com   **W.** www.myclo.my