

## Media Release – 08 July 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WINNERS OF THE 2010 DE BEERS ENGLISH OLYMPIAD ANNOUNCED

The Grahamstown Foundation has announced the rank order of the top 100 De Beers English Olympiad winners at an official prize giving ceremony held in Grahamstown on Thursday 8 July.

The De Beers English Olympiad is an annual national English competition that drew more than 6 300 entries this year from high schools throughout the country. The competition is organised jointly by the Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE).

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March this year, entrants from Grade 10 to 12, wrote the three-hour examination. The theme this year was “**Character: Analysis and Motivation**” and the anthology, entitled “**Under their skin and in their shoes**”. The Olympiad text was made up of prose and focused on different characters, some strange, some unique and what motivates people to do certain things. The anthology was compiled by the South African Council of English Education.

In 1976 the Eastern Cape branch of SACEE implemented the first English Olympiad. The competition was open only to candidates in the Eastern Cape and drew 119 entrants, with a first prize of R50. In 1977 the English Olympiad was opened to the whole of the Cape Province and by 1978 it went national. De Beers came on board as the main sponsor in 1985.

**Notes De Beers Consolidated Mines stakeholder practitioner Judy Nkuna:** “The English Olympiad stimulates English language use along with the development of critical thinking and creativity among thousands of young South Africans. This is critical not only to the life chances of the beneficiaries of this programme, but also to the national good, by assisting to connect our economy with others, and through that, increasing the opportunities for personal and national growth in South Africa”.

Andrew Renard, the Chief Examiner made the following comments about the exam. “The candidates certainly seemed to enjoy this year's Olympiad. The standard of writing was very pleasing as the entrants showcased their creative skills. While some of the writers produced macabre and sinister responses to the question asking them to write an autobiography for one of the characters from the anthology, there were also writers who showed they could create superb humorous responses.”

Renard used the example of a question in which candidates were asked to re-write the ending of a story by Guy du Maupassant as told through eyes of Schalk Lourens (Herman Charles Bosman's famous narrator), and said it “ produced some hilarious answers”.

He went on state that” the 2010 Olympiad examination proved that there is no shortage of talented pupils in Southern Africa. The top candidates wrote with flair and switched genres with ease.”

Prizes awarded in rank order are as follows:

- a. The top three candidates are treated to a literary tour of the United Kingdom in December 2010
- b. The top 15 candidates are invited to attend the National Schools Festival in Grahamstown free of charge. The De Beers English Olympiad prize-giving ceremony is held during this Festival, and the top 100 winners is announced in rank order
- c. Learners who are ranked between the fourth and 20th positions will receive cash prizes or book vouchers
- d. The Top 50 candidates receive free-tuition scholarships for their first year of study at Rhodes University immediately upon successful completion of the matriculation examinations and subject to the university's entry requirements, and
- e. All candidates who complete the paper will receive certificates indicating a classified evaluation.

### 2010 De Beers Top 20 Rank Order

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Shannon	Basson	St Mary's DSG, Pretoria
2	Kerstin	Hall	Chesterhouse
3	Kajal	Tulsi	Edenvale High School
4	Francois	Kassier	Hilton College
5	Sulette	De Villiers	St Mary's DSG, Pretoria
6	Claire	Stubbings	Pietermaritzburg GHS
7	Murray	Polkinghorne	Kearsney College
8	Lyndal-Lee	Pallozzi	Marist Brothers, Linmeyer
9	Emma	Hathorne	Reddam House
10	Chris	Grose	St John's College
11	Nadika	Jewnarain	Westville Girls' High School
12	Alex	Knight	St Mary's DSG, Pretoria
13	Christiaan	Bronkhorst	St Andrews School, Bloemfontein
14	Tshegofatso	Khunou	Redhill School
15	Melissa	Da Costa	Rhenish Girls' High School
16	Emma	Atkinson	Pietermaritzburg GHS
17	Chanelle	Duley	St Teresa's Mercy School
18	Jarred	Thompson	Sacred Heart College
19	Reshard	Kolabhai	St John's College
20	Gabriela	Connell	Sacred Heart College

**ENDS**

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*A Complete list of the top 100 in alphabetical order is available on the following website:*  
<http://schoolfest.foundation.org.za>

