

Media Release – 14 July 2011

Embargo: 11h00 Thursday 14 July 2011

WINNERS OF THE 2011 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 14 July.

The De Beers English Olympiad is an annual English competition that drew more than 6 700 entries this year from high schools throughout South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique. This prestigious competition has run since 1976 and is organised jointly by the Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE). It has been sponsored by De Beers since 1985.

On the 8th of March this year, entrants from Grades 10 to 12, wrote the three-hour examination. The theme this year was “**Morals and Ethics**” and the anthology, compiled by the South African Council of English Education, was entitled “**Confessions and Consequence**”.

Speaking to the prize-giving event, De Beers Consolidated Mines public and corporate affairs manager Abel Madonsela told the winners that: *“It is fitting that morality and ethics should be thought about seriously by young people, and fitting that they should be thought about through the medium of creative writing.*

Apart from any explicit treatment of ethical problems, writing, especially creative writing holds its own ethical power. Indeed, the power of writing lies in its ability to articulate possibility”.

For his part, chief examiner Andrew Renard noted that, *“The candidates in the 2011 -SACEE De Beers Olympiad produced work of an excellent standard. While they may not have ‘solved’ the ethical problems facing the world today, they did an excellent job of ‘wrestling’ with them. One thing that was shown was the realisation that ethical and moral arguments are seldom a matter of ‘black and white’ and that there are many grey areas. Hopefully, many life lessons were learned by the writers.*

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 2011.
- 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 are announced in rank order.
- c. Learners who are ranked between the fourth and 20th positions will receive cash prizes, books 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.
- e. All candidates who complete the paper will receive certificates indicating a classified evaluation.

2011 De Beers Top 20 Rank Order

1	Christiaan	Bronkhorst	St Andrew's School, Bloemfontein
2	Nicholas	Lock	York High School
3	Anika	Brand	St Patrick's College, CBC
4	Ethan	Chetty	Edenglen High School
5	Belinda	Banks	St Dominic's Academy, Newcastle
6	Esther	Van Zyl	Parel Vallei
7	Ian	Currie	Pretoria Boys High School
8	Trudie	Spangenberg	Pretoria High School for Girls
9	Ruth	Brain	Springfield
10	Hankyeol	Lee	Edenglen High School
11	Roxanne	Carlse	Uplands College
12	Emile	Pienaar	Somerset College
13	Emma	Atkinson	Pietermaritzburg GHS
14	Lillina	Ruiters	Westerford High School
15	Kerstin	Hall	Chesterhouse
16	Jessica	Hichens	Westerford High School
17	Muhammed Ismail	Bulbulia	St John's College
18	Samantha	Arnold	St John's DSG
19	Matthew	Field	Selborne College
20	Jolandi	Swanepoel	Pretoria High School for Girls

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>