

THE FIRST JUNIOR HISTORY OLYMPIAD 1996

The Junior Olympiad is for Std 6 and 7 pupils. It is aimed at providing promising young talent with an opportunity to test their knowledge and understanding of a particular aspect of South African history that they have thus far studied in school. The two papers set are based on the skills approach. The first paper of 45 minutes is a computerised set of 50 questions with multiple-choice answers. The questions are designed to test factual knowledge, insight and understanding.

The top 100 candidates are invited to participate in the second round when a $\frac{3}{4}$ hour paper for 50 marks must be completed. The written answers require well-phrased sentences or paragraphs aimed at evaluating the ability of the candidates to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and concisely, to display their thinking and analytical skills, and their command of historical facts.

The questions are simple but challenging. Junior pupils should have no problem in recognising the questions as of a suitable level. It is not a quiz, but it is aimed at rewarding excellence. By participating in the Junior Olympiad candidates will be able to compare their abilities and standard with a non-official national standard that will hopefully stimulate their interest in the subject and reward their potential. It would provide teachers with an excellent opportunity to compare their standard and system of evaluation with an informal national norm. This should help the teaching of South African history to achieve a balanced and mature approach to a complex and sensitive past.

The 100 candidates promoted to the second round will each receive a certificate. The first five candidates will be ranked. A further 15 top candidates will be listed alphabetically.

The 1996 Junior Olympiad will cover South African history in the 19th century with particular attention to:

- Migrations and settlement in the interior of Southern Africa
- Mining and minerals and their influence on South Africa
- British imperialism in South Africa to 1902.

The papers will not be based on a particular set of text books.

Further enquiries:

Mrs J. Wasserman
South African Academy for Art and Science
P.O. Box 538
PRETORIA
0001

Tel.: 012-328-5082
Fax: 012-328-5091