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KEY DATES

Closing date for registration:	2 December 2018
Preliminary Round:	19 December 2018, 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Grand Finals:	19 December 2018, 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Venue:	Suntec Singapore, Hall 401 (Stage Area)

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT

By submitting the registration form to us, you agree that POPULAR may collect, use and disclose your personal information to inform you via direct mails, emails and/or text messages about POPULAR's products and services, upcoming promotions or events organised or co-organised by POPULAR. It also constitutes permission to POPULAR and its agencies to use the winner's names and/or photographs for purposes of publicity, advertising and/or trade without further compensation or notice.

FORMAT OF COMPETITION

1. Preliminary Round

The Preliminary Round consists of 2 segments, each segment lasting about 40 minutes. Each segment will take in 80 participants. Participants are required to take a pen-and-paper spelling test. Participants will spell 30 words that will be read out to them by writing each word on paper. Each word that is read out will be followed by its definition and contextualisation with an example so that the meaning and form of the word are clearly understood. The top 30 participants from the two segments combined will be invited to take part in the Grand Final. There is no restriction on the number of participants selected from each segment and the top 30 finalists will be selected based on merits and/or ballot.

2. Grand Finals

In the Grand Final, participants will be invited to take their seats on the stage. They will be divided into groups of 10 and take turns at a pen-and-paper spelling test. Similar to the Preliminary round, each word given by the Pronouncer will be followed by its definition and contextualisation with an example. At the end of 1 min, the 10 participants will reveal their answers. Participants with the incorrect spelling will be eliminated. This continues for each of the other 2 groups of 10, until the last 3 spellers are left standing.

The final 3 spellers will then step forward to a microphone to spell aloud the words read to them by a Pronouncer.

A new word will be given to each participant each time. A participant who spells the word incorrectly or is unable to spell the given word within a time limit of 1 minute will be eliminated. In the event that the participant changes his response mid-way in the spelling of the given word, or utters intelligible sounds, he/she will be considered to have spelt the word incorrectly and will be eliminated from the competition.

The elimination process continues until the Champion, 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up are determined.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES: TERMS & CONDITIONS

A) Eligibility

Participant must age between 10 -12 years old (born between the years 2006 – 2008) in any Primary School or Primary Section of a Full School under the MOE.

B) Dress Code

- Participants must be in full school uniform. Participants who are sloppily or inappropriately dressed will not be allowed to participate in the competition.

C) Official Dictionary

- The official dictionary used in this competition is The Oxford Dictionary of English (2010), 3rd edition.

- The official dictionary will serve as the final authority for word spelling and pronunciation.
- Some words may not appear directly in the dictionary (plurals, possessives, etc.).
- Accepted rules for these words will apply.

IMPORTANT: Please note that due to the 'live' nature of the competition at the Grand Finals, only words found in the official reference dictionary (print version) will be accepted by the judges.

D) Conduct Code

During the competition, pupils, parents, teachers and spectators present are required to observe the following code of conduct described here at all times. Those who fail to adhere to the code of conduct may face immediate disqualification, the loss of winner status, forfeiture of prizes, and expulsion from competition venue with immediate effect.

- Participants and spectators must demonstrate sportsmanship by being friendly, polite and respectful to other participants, other spectators and competition officials at all times, until the conclusion of the competition and award ceremony.
- Participants and spectators must not act in any way that might constitute distraction to another participant or disruption to the progress of the competition while it is taking place.
- There should be no talking or gesturing among participants or between participants and spectators.
- Flash photography or videography is not allowed throughout the competition in order to avoid distracting the participant.
- **No distraction from the audience is allowed. If a participant receives assistance from anyone in the audience, be it verbal or non-verbal, he/she will be disqualified.**

F) Challenge Officials

The officials consist of a Pronouncer, 2 Judges and a Timekeeper.

- The **Pronouncer** pronounces the word to be spelled and interacts with the participants. The Pronouncer will also be the one who will announce whether the participant has spelled the word correctly after conferring with the judges.
- The **Judges** will listen as the contestant spells and determine whether the words are spelled correctly or not. They will also check that the participant does not execute multiple attempts in the spelling of each word.
- The **Timekeeper** ensures that the participant spells the word within the time limit.

The officials uphold the rules of the competition and have the authority to disqualify any participant from the competition should the rules of the competition not be met. A participant will be disqualified if he/she

- fails to start spelling upon the Pronouncer's request after the time limit has lapsed;
- displays unsportsmanlike behaviour;

- alters the letters or sequence of letters which are different from those he/she first uttered;
- Utters unintelligible sounds in the process of spelling.

All officials share the responsibility for making decisions. Their decision is final in all the rounds of the competition.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

Spelling Procedure

The Pronouncer will pronounce the word, define the word and read out a sentence that shows how the word is used in context before asking the participant to spell it. The participant must:

a) Speak clearly and loudly throughout the competition

The participant has the responsibility to ensure that any word given to him is pronounced clearly and loudly. In his attempt to spell any given word, the participant is expected to spell clearly and loudly. Any unintelligible spelling will be deemed as incorrect.

b) Pronounce the word before spelling

The participant must pronounce the word and wait for confirmation from Pronouncer that he has pronounced the word correctly (to ensure that the participant has heard the correct word). Time begins immediately after the Pronouncer confirms the above and asks the participant to spell the word.

c) Spell the word orally

Once the Pronouncer has informed the participant that he/she has pronounced the word correctly, the participant must spell the word orally.

d) Pronounce the word again after the word is spelt.

1. Participants are required to say the word once **after** they have spelt it so as to inform the judges that they have completed their spelling of the word.

2. The participant may request for any of the following to be repeated, up to a maximum of two times after the word is first given by the Pronouncer, before spelling:

- **Pronunciation of the word**
- **Definition of the word**
- **Contextualisation of the word, ie example sentence**

The time taken to ask and receive the answers to any of these questions must be done within the 60 seconds allocated before having to spell the word.

3. Once the participant has started to spell a word, he may not stop and start over from the beginning. In the event of such occurrences, the participant in question will be disqualified immediately.

4. The participant will be informed if he has spelt the word correctly by the Pronouncer after the Pronouncer has conferred with the Judges. The officials' decision is final in determining the correctness of the spelling.

Timing

The participant has **1 minute** to complete spelling the word. The timekeeper will start keeping time immediately after the pronouncer has informed the participant that he/she has pronounced the word correctly and asked the participant to spell the word.

Elimination Procedure

General

When a participant misspells a word, he is eliminated from the competition and will leave the stage to join the competitors' seating area. The next word is given to the next participant.

Special circumstances

A. The elimination procedure changes when there are **only two contestants left** on the stage. Each participant will be given a word to spell until one of the contestants misspells a word. The following scenarios then apply:

1. If the first contestant (according to order determined before the start of the competition) misspells his word, the second contestant must spell that same word and the next word on the list correctly in order to be declared the champion.
2. If the first contestant has spelled his word correctly and the second contestant misspells his word, the same word is given to the first contestant. If the first contestant succeeds in spelling the word, then he shall be declared the champion.

To be declared the champion in this situation, a contestant must be able to spell the new word that was given to him and the word that was misspelled by the other contestant.

INTERACTION WITH THE PRONOUNCER – AN EXAMPLE

An example of a word read out to a participant during the Grand Final of POPULAR Spelling Challenge 2017.

Pronouncer: Spell 'sesquipedalian'.

"Sesquipedalian" refers to having many syllables, or characterised by the use of long words.

Because he loved words, the etymologist often used many sesquipedalian words in his daily vocabulary.

Spell 'sesquipedalian'.

Participant: Ses – Kwi – Pi – Dei – Lien

Pronouncer: That is correct. Spell 'sesquipedalian'.

The timekeeper starts timing. (60 secs)

Participant: Can I have the definition of the word again?

Pronouncer: "Sesquipedalian" refers to having many syllables, or characterised by the use of long words.

Please spell 'sesquipedalian'.

Participant: (after 5 seconds)

Sesquipedalian, s-e-s-q-u-i-p-e-d-a-l-i-a-n, sesquipedalian***

Judges indicate to pronouncer that the spelling of the word is correct.

Pronouncer: That is correct!

*It is not compulsory for participants to ask questions. They may choose to proceed to spell immediately. Questions may be asked in any preferred order, according to the needs of the participant.

** If the participant remains silent, the Pronouncer will check if the participant has any question before proceeding to instruct the participant to begin spelling the word.