Oxford German Olympiad 2026, Round 2: Tasks and Guidelines

Note that the closing date for submissions is 12 noon, Thursday, 26 March 2026

Entries should be submitted via the online form at German Olympiad 2026: Round 2.

Any queries or questions should be directed to the Olympiad Coordinator at olympiad@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk.

Round 1 and Round 2 are separate competitions. You can enter both, but do not need to have completed Round 1 in order to enter Round 2.

Prize: The winner will be awarded a cash (bank transfer) prize (see individual tasks for amount) and invited to a prize-giving ceremony at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, in June 2025.

1. Entries should be the work of the entrant alone. Any additional assistance given by teachers or others should be noted in the space provided in the submission form (not applicable for Camden House Prize).

2. Entrants must be resident in the United Kingdom. All entrants must indicate how long they have been learning German and/or if they are native speakers of German.

3. All text included in the entries should be in German except where stated in the task instructions.

4. Entrants must enter the competition individually. Entries from more than 1 person will not be considered.

5. Please note that we cannot accept postal or e-mail entries. Entries received after the deadline at 12 noon on Thursday 26 March 2026 will not be considered.

6. Files must be named in the following way: **CompetitorSurnameCompetitorInitialOGO2026-Round2** (e.g. BloggsJOGO2026-Round2). Note that correct file naming is the responsibility of the entrant.

7. Entries should be submitted in one of the following formats only:
- Microsoft Word document
- PDF
- Audio and film entries should be uploaded to www.youtube.com and a copy of the link submitted via the online form. The link must be entered in the relevant box in the online form AND copied into and saved as a Word or PDF document (the document should only contain the link). Original work in the form of a website link should also be submitted via the online form in the relevant box AND copied into and saved as a Word or PDF document. Note that many schools have their own YouTube channel which you may be able to use. YouTube also allows you to set up a private channel so that the only people who can see

your video are those to whom you have sent a link. Please ensure that the link is enabled for the Olympiad judging team to view it. **Make sure you have discussed this with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and your teacher before you upload anything to the internet! You must also make sure that you do not upload any material that is subject to third-party copyright.**

8. (not applicable to Camden House Book Proposal) Every submission must include a completed Olympiad Teacher Form (see last page of this document or https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/mml_apps/community/public/uploads/ogn-olympiad-2024-teacher-form.pdf). If no teacher form can be supplied, please send an email to olympiad@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk with the subject line 'Olympiad Teacher Form' providing an explanation. Any questions should be sent to the OGN Coordinator at olympiad@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk.

THE TASKS
You can enter a maximum of <u>two</u> of the tasks below. Please note the respective age restrictions.

Task I: 125 Jahre Wuppertaler Schwebebahn

Competition open to pupils in years 8 - 12 (age 12-18)
First Prize: £100 **Second Prize:** £50.

Entrants should choose one of the following three topics:
1) In October 1900 - shortly before the official opening in 1901 - Kaiser Wilhelm and his wife went on a test ride of Germany's newest invention: the *Schwebebahn* in Wuppertal. Write a fictional diary entry about this experience, from the viewpoint of Kaiser Wilhelm, his wife, the conductor, or a spectator. (300-400 words).

2) Find out about Tuffi the elephant and discuss the following question in essay or podcast form: "War der Auftritt von Tuffi in der Wuppertaler Schwebebahn eine harmlose Werbeaktion oder ein unverantwortlicher Umgang mit Tier und Technik?" (300-400 words or max. 5 min).

3) "Warum war der Bau der Wuppertaler Schwebebahn um 1900 sowohl ein technischer Fortschritt als auch ein Risiko?" Write an essay or create a video presentation (300-400 words or max. 5 min).

Enter using the online form.

Task II: Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1907)

Competition open to pupils in years 8 - 12 (age 12-18).
First Prize: £100 **Second Prize:** £50.

Draw or paint a self-portrait in the style of portraits by the German artist Paula Modersohn-Becker. Describe what is typical of her portraits and include a comment on your own painting. (100-200 words).

Enter using the online form.

Task III: Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)

Competition open to pupils in years 8 - 12 (age 12-18).
First Prize: £100 **Second Prize:** £50.

Rilke wrote several poems about animals, including Der Panther, Die Gazelle, Die Flamingos and Papageien-Park. Write a poem in German about an animal (or animals) and EITHER create a video of yourself reading both one poem by Rilke AND your own poem, OR write a commentary in German (100–200 words) comparing your poem with ONE of Rilke's animal poems.
For full details of the competition, download the entry guidelines. Enter using the online form.

Camden House Book Proposal

Competition open to postgraduates and early-career researchers at a UK university
Prize: £300 and consideration of the book proposal for publication with Camden House.

Task: Submit a proposal for a book that would be suited to the profile established by Camden House in German studies. In association with Camden House.

You should provide a **description of the proposed book in c. 200 words** (in simple and direct language, avoiding jargon and technospeak). It should include a **rationale for the book and why it is significant and timely**. Please additionally provide **brief bullet points describing the key contributions** you expect your book to make, and a proposed **table of contents**.

Entries are welcome from **postgraduates at all stages of their studies and early-career researchers**. The judges may take account of the entrant's year of study or career stage.

Enter using the online form.

OLYMPIAD TEACHER FORM
Thank you for encouraging your pupils to take part in the Oxford German Olympiad. Each entrant (or, for groups, the nominated entrant) must upload a completed Olympiad Teacher Form.
For individual entries
Full name of student entering the prize: ....…....
• The entrant has been learning German for .... years
For group entries (2+ entrants)
Full name of nominated entrant:
....…......
• The entrants in the group have been learning German for.............. to ....years.
Teacher
Full name: …...
Job title: ....
School name: ....
School address: ....
Email address: ....
Teacher's statement – please tick as appropriate:
◯ The assignment has been completed by the student(s) without any additional help from staff.
◯ The student(s) was/were given the following assistance by staff:
The information you have supplied will be held by the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford for the purpose of administering the competition. It will be held securely and will not be passed on to any third parties. Your details will be deleted from our records once the competition and associated events have finished. You have the right to request it be deleted sooner by emailing us at olympiad@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk or writing to us at Oxford German Network, Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, 41 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JF. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email us at ogn@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk
Signature... Date......................

PRIVACY POLICY

When you submit your entry, you will see a link to the privacy policy for outreach activity at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford. When you submit an entry to the competition you provide us with some personal data, which allows us to process your submission. Please tick the box on the submission page to confirm you have read the privacy policy and consent to your data being used in this way. If you are under the age of 13, please discuss this with your parent or guardian.

HEAT agreement

The Oxford German Olympiad is part of the University of Oxford's outreach activity, which means that it is part of a programme of activities the university undertakes with schools to increase knowledge about Higher Education and to widen access. As part of this outreach activity, we collect some personal data and record it in the Higher Education Access Tracker ('HEAT'). The University of Oxford uses the HEAT service and database (www.heat.ac.uk) to record information about its outreach activities and the students who take part in these activities. HEAT helps us identify which activities are most helpful in preparing students for higher education and progressing to employment. HEAT is, or may be, used by different parts of the University, including colleges, faculties, departments or administrative units, as well as by other entities associated with the University. When you submit your entry to the Olympiad you will see a link to the HEAT agreement, which gives full details of how your data may be stored and used. If you are comfortable with our recording your personal details in HEAT, please tick the appropriate box. This is entirely optional and whether or not you agree has no bearing on the outcome of the competition, nor on University admissions. If you are under the age of 13, please discuss this with your parent or guardian.