Name of Competition: National Round of the Olympiad in Mathematical Linguistics.

Area: Linguistics.

Scale: National.

Venue: a different centre of school linguistics each year.

Time: the last weekend of April or the first (or second) weekend of May.

Target Group: forms 8–12 (usually divided into two groups, <u>forms 8–10</u> and <u>forms 11–12</u>, for the purposes of ranking), sporadically <u>forms 5–7</u>. There is an **individual** and a **team** contest (at the latter teams of 3 or 4 students compete). The national round is **exclusive** (open to those who score 75% of the maximum at the regional round).

Number of Participants in the Last Three Years:

year	forms 5–7	forms 8–12	total
2005	31	117	**148**
2006		101	**101**
2007		60	**60**

Style: classical (problem-solving). At the individual contest the set, for which 4 hours are given, consists of three problems. Typically the problem set is the same for the two senior groups; for the junior group there is a different one. At the team contest one large project is assigned, and 2 to 2½ hours are given for work. Both problem sets are composed by the Chairman of the National Committee.

Marking: performed on the spot after the contest by the National Committee.

History: Held annually since 2003. Superseded the Republican Competition in Mathematical Linguistics (Ruse, 2001–2002), which had a similar format except that at the team contest a regular set of three problems was assigned, and was inclusive (open to all who wished to participate). That in turn was a successor of the experimental olympiad in linguistics held in 1982 within the First National Youth School in Mathematics and Linguistics, whose principal organiser was the Institute for Mathematics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and the National Competition in Mathematical Linguistics held annually in 1984–2002.

Financial Basis: Supported by the Ministry of Education and Science, the contestants' schools and municipalities and local sponsors.

E-mail for Contacts: `iad58g@gmail.com` (Ivan Derzhanski).

Additional Information: Guest participants were received from Moscow in 2001.

Problem (2003; Ivan Derzhanski). The 'women's language' *Láadan* was developed by US linguist and writer Suzette Haden Elgin. The creator's idea was that it should be able to express women's sensations perceptions more completely and more precisely than natural languages do, having evolved under the conditions of male social domination.

Here are some words of Láadan and their translations:

1.	*rulenal*	'as a cat'
2.	*womilemath*	'cattle-shed, cow-house'
3.	*with*	'person, woman'
4.	*eháwáan*	'because of the (female) professional'
5.	*éezheda*	'for the goat'
6.	*háarul*	'kitten'
7.	*mudanal*	'as a pig'
8.	*éeshid*	'ram'
9.	*ewomil*	'animal husbandry, zootechnics'
10.	*háahéezh*	'kid (young goat)'
11.	*thilida*	'for the fish'
12.	*emath*	'architecture'
13.	*mudahá*	'(female) pig-breeder'
14.	*háawith*	'child, girl'
15.	*mudahidewáan*	'because of the boar'
16.	*éeshematheda*	?
17.	*háamuda*	?
18.	*withidenal*	?
19.	*womiláwáan*	?
20.	?	'because of the aquarium'
21.	?	'sheepman'
22.	?	'as cattle'
23.	?	'for the boy'

Fill the gaps.

<u>Note.</u> The sequence **th** is pronounced as in English *thin*, **sh** as in *shin*, **zh** as *si* in *vision*. Each of the sequences **áa** and **ée** stands for a single vowel (long and pronounced in a specific manner).

Solution. We find these meaningful components in the Láadan words:

- prefixes *e-* 'science, profession of …', *háa-* 'child/young of …';
- roots *éesh* 'sheep', *éezh* 'goat', *math* 'construction, building' (in several compound words), *muda* 'swine', *rul* 'cat', *thili* 'fish', *with* 'person', *womil* 'cattle';
- suffixes *-á* 'dealer in …, breeder of …', *-id* 'male …' (in European languages masculinity is normally the default and femininity has an overt marker such as the suffix *–ess*, but in Láadan it is the other way around);
- endings *-da* 'for', *-nal* 'as, like', *-wáan* 'because of'.

Between two vowels the consonant *h* is always inserted, as the vowel *e* between two consonants, apparently in order to ensure the strict alternation of consonant and vowel sounds (not letters!) seen in all Láadan words.

Let us translate the test examples: 16. 'for the sheep-cot', 17. 'piglet', 18. 'as a man', 19. 'because of the (female) animal breeder' , 20. *thilimathewáan*, 21. *éesháhid*, 22. *womilenal*, 23. *háawithideda*.