17th Bulgarian Creative Writing Competition

Competition rules:

1. The creative writing contest will take place on November 17 and 18, 2026, starting at 11 am on the SmarTest platform, organized as follows:

• Grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 will write on November 17

• Grades 10, 11, and 12 will write on November 18

2. Changes to the schedule by day CANNOT be made.

3. The competition takes place at school under the supervision of a teacher or proctor.

4. Contestants will write their essays on the SmarTest platform.

5. It is recommended that the competition be held in the computer lab and that students use school computers. If a computer lab is not available, students may use their own devices in a classroom or another room at school where there is Wi-Fi access and a supervising teacher.

6. Permitted devices: computer, laptop, tablet. A cell phone may also be used, but it is not recommended due to the inconvenience of typing long texts and the risk of accidentally switching screens, which could result in the participant being disqualified from the competition.

7. The organizers will send links to the exam form for each grade to the coordinating teacher in advance. There will be a separate link for each grade (link for 6th grade, link for 7th grade, etc.). The links will also be posted on the competition website. They will be accessible on the day and at the time of the exam.

8. It is the coordinating teacher's responsibility to share the links with the contest participants.

9. The school does not need to be registered with SmarTest, nor do students need to have a profile on the platform. The competition will be accessible to anyone with the link.

10. After clicking the link for their grade level, students will need to enter their full name and select their city and school from a drop-down menu. A window will then open with a text box, where the essay topics for that grade level will be displayed. Students choose one of the topics and write it in the text box, then they start writing.

11. Students will not be able to exit the writing form. One exit from the form is permitted; in this case, the student will be warned and must return to the exam within 30 seconds. Any subsequent attempt will result in immediate disqualification.

12. It is recommended that students use an English (ENG) keyboard when accessing the link.

13. The form will remain active for 60 minutes of writing time. If necessary, additional time will be provided for technical issues, and you will be notified accordingly.

14. After finishing the writing task, the student will click the submit button and see a confirmation screen indicating that their work has been submitted. The teacher will not be responsible for collecting and forwarding students' work—it will be automatically submitted to the organizers. It is recommended that the students make a screen shot and keep the file in case any issues occur.

15. A detailed description of the entire procedure, as well as an instructional video covering the process from opening the link to submitting the work, will be prepared and sent to all coordinating teachers, and will also be uploaded to the competition website.