

The Canadian Math Challengers Society (CMCS) Contest Instructions for Contestants, Coaches, and Invigilators for the 2024 Online Competition

Applicability of this Document

This document applies to the 2024 year only.

Summary

In addition to the in-person (“normal”) Competition, CMCS will be hosting an online competition. Schools that find it difficult to travel to their in-person Regional Competition location are welcome to participate in the Online Competition instead. Schools that prefer the online format, are also welcome to participate. There is no fee to compete in the Online Competition.

Format for the Regional Competition (the “Contest”)

The Online Competition will be held at separate locations and can also be at separate times as required for each competing school, grade, team and/or contestant to allow for proper physical distancing between contestants. The location(s) and time(s) for each contestant will be chosen by the contestant’s coach. The Contest will be invigilated by any responsible adult, but preferably a principal, vice-principal, or department head of an accredited school in BC. The contest will be written using a paper exam that will be distributed via email to, printed by, and marked by principals, vice-principals, department heads, teachers, or coaches, and the marks entered in an online form.

Invitations to Provincial Finals

Contestants that do well in the Online Competition will be invited to the in-person Provincial Final.

Contest Details

Written Contest Dates and Times

See the Events page of the Math Challengers website for dates and times (<http://mathchallengers.ca>).

Coaches or their designate(s) will choose the date(s) and time(s) when each contestant writes the three stages of the Contest: (1) Blitz, (2) Bull’s Eye, and (3) Co-op. The date(s) should be

chosen so that they fall between the Contest Open and Contest Close dates and times, and preferably near to or within the Preferred Time and Day. The Blitz and Bull's Eye stages of the competition must be written with the Blitz stages first and separated in time by no more than 30 minutes from the end of the Blitz to the beginning of the Bull's Eye stage. Preferably, all members of the same team and school will write at the same time to prevent unfair communications among contestants.

Face Off Date and Time

There will not be an online Face-Off this year.

Contest Locations

The location(s) at which each contestant participates in the Math Challengers contest will be chosen by the coach of the contestant. Typically, this location will be a school, but it can be any location deemed suitable by the coach that meets all the other requirements of the Contest. A contestant's home is considered appropriate if invigilation can be accomplished via a video link or by direct supervision.

Contest Invigilation

The Contest can be invigilated by any responsible adult – but preferably a principal, vice-principal, or department head of an accredited school in BC, and that invigilation will be accomplished by a video link between each contestant and their invigilator if the two are remote from each other.

Distribution of Contest Materials

Math Challengers will distribute a PDF copy of the Contest materials via email approximately 3 days before the first day of the Contest. Coaches will be responsible for printing or getting the PDF printed. If there is a prohibitive cost for printing, coaches are encouraged to contact Math Challengers.

Description of Paper Contest Materials and Contest Stages

The Math Challengers Contest is governed by the Rules given on the Math Challengers website (<http://mathchallengers.ca>).

The contest questions are to be printed on one side of each page only.

The Contest materials are typically printed on white paper for the Blitz stage of the contest. Contestants are given 40 minutes to complete all the 26 questions on four pages of this stage. Contestants can work on the questions in any order they wish.

For the Bull's Eye stage of the contest the cover page is typically printed on white paper, and each of the next three pages are printed on a different and distinctly coloured pages. The reason that each page is printed on a different colour of paper is because during the Bull's Eye stage, the contestants only have 12 minutes to complete each page, for a total of 36 minutes. During each of the 12 minutes they can only work on the page number assigned to that 12 minutes. During the first 12 minutes contestants work only on the first page of questions, during the second 12 minutes contestants only work on the second page of questions, and during the third 12 minutes

contestants only work on the third page of questions. Math Challengers recommended colours are as follows: cover page is white, the first page of questions is a shade of yellow or buff, the second page of questions is a shade of blue, and the third page of questions is a shade of green. However, coaches are free to use the paper colour(s) they choose, in order to save time, expense, or the environment, while still meeting the intent of the Contest.

For the Co-op stage of the contest, each of the contestants receive one copy of the Co-op questions printed on white paper and in addition each team captain receives one copy of the Co-op questions printed on coloured paper, typically a shade of yellow or buff. There are 15 questions with a time limit of 36 minutes. The reason for this arrangement of paper colours is so that each contestant gets a copy of the questions, and then only the coloured copy is marked to determine the team score. A team is assigned a score of zero if they fail to hand in all of the white copies that were distributed. Because all members of a team must be able to communicate via voice (and perhaps video) during this stage of the exam, the team captain will be able to record the answers that the team wishes to submit on the coloured copy. A team may need to select the team captain ahead of time, and coaches should make appropriate arrangements so that the team captain can receive both a white and a coloured copy of the Co-op stage. Again, coaches are free to use the paper colour(s) they choose, in order to save time, expense, or the environment, while still meeting the intent of the Contest.

Contestants are to be given as much time as required to fill in their identification information on their cover page before the start of each timed stage.

Contestants are only allowed to have pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, and the Contest paper materials while participating. Nothing else is allowed including items such as water bottles, pencil cases, food or drinks, phones, smart watches, and backpacks except for the as follows.

Non-programable calculators are allowed during the Co-op round only.

A phone, tablet, or computer is allowed for the Co-op stage only to allow for team members to communicate should they not be able to sit near enough to each other to allow good communication between members of a teams. This phone, tablet, or computer must be placed in such a way that the contestants cannot operate the device.

A contestant may have an additional device as required by the invigilator to facilitate remote invigilation.

Marking of Contest

All contestants' marks or papers must be returned to CMCS no later than one week after the close of the Online Contest.

Preferably the Math Challengers contest papers will be marked by principals, vice principals, or department heads, but can be marked by teachers as well. Coaches and invigilators unable to meet the marking requirements will be asked to return paper Contest materials to Math Challengers for marking. Instructions for returning papers will be included in the exam materials

at the start of the Contest, and papers can be returned by mail, courier, fax, or by scan/email (PDF file).

Answer keys, detailed marking instructions, and instructions for returning papers to Math Challengers for marking will be provided via email after the end of the Contest. Coaches not receiving this information by email three days after the close of the Contest should contact Math Challengers so that it can be re-sent. Once the exams have been marked, the results are to be entered into an online form. Coaches who cannot mark the Contest papers can return them to Math Challengers for marking – the address will be provided via email along with the answer keys and marking instructions.

Returning of Marked Papers to the Contestants

Unlike previous years, papers may be returned to the contestants after the papers have been marked and after the marks have been entered into the online form. Since answer keys will not be distributed until after the Contest has closed, papers cannot be returned until after the close of the Contest. Papers that are sent to Math Challengers for marking will not be returned.

Coaches who return the Contest papers to contestants should instruct them to retain their papers since they will contain a contestant number that will be used for identification purposes. Only these contestant numbers will be used when the results are published – names will not be published.

All Contest Materials to be Kept Secure Before Close of the Contest

Marked papers can be returned to contestants after the close of the Contest. However, no papers or questions should be distributed or revealed to anyone other than as required for the contestants to compete in the Contest until after the close of the Contest. This includes after the contestants have completed any stage of the Contest – until after the close of the Contest. This measure is to prevent the distribution of the Contest materials to those contestants that have not had the opportunity to compete in the Contest. Since all contestants must have completed the Contest by the close of the Contest, any Contest materials (including answer keys) may be distributed after the close of the Contest.

Issues or Unforeseen Difficulties

Math Challengers is aware that some issues or unexpected difficulties could occur. Therefore, any issues or problems, including issues with Contest delivery and marking will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Math Challengers using the Contact Us information on the Math Challengers website.

The Contest Rules and Regulations Apply

The Contest Rules and Regulations that are in effect every year still apply, and information missing from this document can be found on the Rules and Regulations page of the Math Challengers website. Please also check the Competition Information page for general information about the Contest.