



British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 Thursday 2nd December 2010

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION****

The follow-on round to the Senior Maths Challenge (SMC) is the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 (BMO1). The BMO1 takes place on Thursday 2nd December 2010.

Automatic BMO1 Qualifiers

The criteria for automatic qualification are as follows; candidates must satisfy both 1 and 2:

- 1) The candidate is qualified by virtue of nationality or residency to represent the UK at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). **The normal method of qualification to represent the UK at the IMO is that a candidate is either (a) eligible for a UK passport, or (b) will have completed 3 full years of full-time secondary education in the UK by the time they leave school.**
- 2) The candidate has achieved at least the BMO threshold mark in the SMC (**96**)

Please contact us without delay if you have been allocated an automatic qualifier who does not meet these criteria, OR if a candidate who meets both these criteria has been overlooked.

If you have automatic qualifiers for BMO1 they will be clearly indicated on your SMC results sheet and BMO papers (and instructions) for these candidates will be posted to you to arrive in good time for the Olympiad date. **You do not need to take any further action in order to receive these papers.** If you have not received the papers by Thursday 25th November please email us on enquiry@ukmt.org.uk or call us on 0113 343 2339.

Discretionary BMO1 candidates

The BMO1 is an open entry competition. There is a fee of £17 per person, but **this fee is waived** for candidates who satisfy the two criteria defined above under “Automatic BMO1 Qualifiers”.

Schools may enter discretionary candidates regardless of whether or not they have automatic qualifiers. If a school has automatic qualifiers these will arrive under separate cover from the discretionary papers.

If you have candidates who **either** scored below the SMC threshold, **or** who did not take the SMC **or** who are not qualified to represent the UK at the IMO, they can be entered for the BMO1 upon payment of the £17 fee per candidate.

In the event that financial hardship prevents a non-UK qualified candidate from paying the fee, please apply to your school hardship fund for a grant. If exceptionally no local support is available, apply to the BMOS committee via the UKMT (email address below) to see if the fee can be waived.

UKMT and BMOS are mindful of the need to support young mathematicians who happen to be refugees, stateless or asylum seekers. If a candidate is in such a position, so that he or she is unable to represent any other country at an IMO, then application for UK qualified status may be made to BMOS via the UKMT (email address below).

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To enter discretionary candidates, you will need to contact the UKMT **as soon as possible, and no later than noon on Tuesday 30th November**, to request a BMO1 question paper pack. Contact the UKMT, preferably by email at enquiry@ukmt.org.uk, and supply the following information for each candidate:

UKMT Centre Number	School Name	Pupil Forename	Pupil Surname	UK Passport? Y/N (see 1a on page 1)	3 years UK? (Y/N) (see 1b on page 1)	SMC Score

Requests for discretionary candidates can also be made by phone on 0113 343 2339, or fax on 0113 343 5500; the information above must be provided.

You will receive an invoice with your pack. Please arrange for prompt payment by BACS or cheque (£17 per candidate, payment details will be included on the invoice). Results will not be issued until payment has been made.

Important Note

Experience has shown that candidates who are below the BMO threshold are unlikely to do well in the BMO. However, it is left to teachers to enter other candidates if they feel such pupils will benefit from entering. Teachers are warned to be cautious about doing this, since the BMO examination, which consists of 6 questions to be done in 3½ hours, is very different from the UKMT SMC, and a pupil's enjoyment of mathematics could be damaged if they find they cannot cope with such questions.

ALL candidates are encouraged to look at past BMO1 papers and the model solutions or to watch the latest DVD presentation of these currently available on the UKMT website at <http://tiny.cc/8f3ek>.

Sample BMO1 papers can be viewed at the BMO website at www.bmoc.maths.org. We recommend the book "A Mathematical Olympiad Primer" by Geoff Smith as good preparation material. This and past papers and solutions can be purchased from the UKMT website at www.ukmt.org.uk. Tony Gardiner's *The Mathematical Olympiad Handbook* (published by Oxford University Press) is also recommended.

Marking of Scripts (Automatic and Discretionary)

Completed scripts MUST be returned to the UKMT as soon as possible. Please post them no later than first class post on Friday 3rd December.

The BMO1 scripts will be marked during the period 11 - 12 December by a specially assembled team. Please ensure that your completed scripts are returned to the UKMT to arrive no later than 8th December so that we can get them to the marking venue in time. This means posting by 3rd December.

All BMO1 candidates whose scripts are marked will receive a Certificate of Participation (75%) or Distinction (Top 25%). Medals and prizes will also be awarded to high scorers. Results will arrive in schools at the start of the new year.

If you have any questions about the BMO, please contact the UKMT.