



SPECIAL MATHS CONTEST 2024 GUIDELINES

Version: September 15, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Special Maths Contest (SMC) is an initiative of Special Maths Academy(SMA), an olympiad training organization that trains young minds to be competitive in the world's toughest math contests. The Special Maths Contest is organized to identify and reward these young minds. Starting from this current edition, the contest will now be used to select students to represent Nigeria in the European Girls Mathematics Olympiad (EGMO).



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ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the Special Maths Contest, a participant must:

- Be between 12 and 20 years old
- Not be enrolled in a university or higher education system.

Any participant who meets the above conditions can compete in the Special Maths Contest.

We may require a candidate to provide documents to verify that they met all the eligibility requirements. In cases where doubts arise, SMA reserves the right to disqualify such a participant.



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REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

Participation in the 2024 edition of the Special Maths Contest is **free**. To register, create an account on the Special Maths Contest portal (<https://www.specialmathscontest.com/portal>). Only registered participants will be able to participate in the contest. The deadline to register is the 16th of November, 2024.



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FORMAT OF THE CONTEST

The SMC consists of two rounds, one in-person and one online at a tentative location.

1. **Round 1:**

Round 1 is an online examination that will take place on **Saturday, 23rd November** 2024. Participants are expected to take part in the contest on a computer with a stable internet connection. The exam will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions to be completed in 2 hours. The questions shall be drawn from the pre-university syllabus and cover topics in Algebra, Number Theory, Geometry, and Combinatorics. Students can log into their portal anytime on Saturday, 23rd November, to take the test. The **results of this round will be published on the 30th of November, 2024.**

2. **Round 2:**

We will invite the top 30-50 contestants in the first round to an in-person second-round competition. The second round will be a week-long event from



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January 30th to 4th February, 2025. Information on the location of the second round will be provided in a future update to this document.

In the second round, contestants will be provided with solving four Olympiad essay problems.

Contestants who qualify for the second round and are not based in Nigeria will participate in the second round virtually over a Zoom call.



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PRIZES

Three grand prizes will be awarded to the three absolute winners of the contest.

1. Overall First Prize: 200 US Dollars
2. Overall Second Prize: 150 US Dollars
3. Overall Third Prize: 100 US Dollars

Prizes would be awarded to the teachers of the top three students from Nigeria and to any of the top three contestants from Nigeria who do not make it into the overall top three.

1. 1st Nigerian: A laptop, 150,000 Naira (if the contestant is not among the overall top 3), and 50,000 Naira for their teacher.
2. 2nd Nigerian: A laptop, 100,000 Naira (if the contestant is not among the overall top 3), and 50,000 Naira for their teacher.
3. 3rd Nigerian: A laptop, 75,000 Naira (if the contestant is not among the overall top 3), and 50,000 Naira for their teacher.



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4. Top scoring girl from Nigeria: A laptop, 75,000 Naira (if the contestant is not among the overall top 3 students), and 50,000 Naira for their teacher.

The top 12 students will receive gold, silver, and bronze medals and certificates. We are unable to ship medals internationally, so students outside Nigeria who are in the top 12 in the second round would only receive medal certificates.

All other final round participants shall receive participants certificates of excellence.

The fifteen best-scoring students in the first round of the contest and the top ten girls in the first round of the contest will be awarded a 1-year subscription to Special Math Academy's Olympiad Video Series.



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE SECOND ROUND

30th January 2025: Arrival

31st January 2025: Opening Ceremony (Morning) and Training (Afternoon)

1st February 2025: Exam

2nd February 2025: Excursion

3rd February 2025: Closing ceremony

4th February 2025: Departure



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EGMO QUALIFICATION

The four highest-scoring girls from Nigeria in the second round of the contest would qualify to represent Nigeria at the 2026 European Girls Mathematics Olympiad (EGMO) in Bordeaux, France. Special Maths Academy will cover all expenses for this trip. An in-person training session will be organized ahead of the 2026 EGMO.

While the major requirement to be eligible to participate in this contest is to not be enrolled in a university education system, **only contestants who would not be enrolled in university in April 2026 will be invited to represent Nigeria at the EGMO.**



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CONCLUSION

We encourage all prospective participants to adhere to the guidelines stated in this documentation and desist from any activities that may render their participation invalid. Participants should note that in cases where irregularities are suspected to occur, we shall carry out inquiries and disqualify all those found wanting. Any future, updated versions of this guidelines document will be uploaded on the Special Maths Contest website. We wish all participants the best and look forward to crowning the next math champions.