

British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1

Friday 1st December 2006

****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 Friday 1st December.

The **BMO1 is now an open entry competition**. There is a fee of £15 per person, but *this fee is waived* for candidates who

- 1) are 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) have achieved at least the BMO threshold mark on the SMC.

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 Maths Challenges Office (address below).

The BMO threshold mark will be set shortly after the SMC, and this threshold mark will be posted on our website at www.ukmt.org.uk by Thursday 16th November. All candidates who have achieved an SMC score above this threshold, *and* who indicated on their SMC computer readable Answer Sheet that they were qualified to represent the UK at the IMO, will automatically receive a BMO1 question paper pack and further details. This BMO1 question paper pack should arrive in schools by Friday 24th November.

As the BMO1 is now an open entry competition, 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 now be entered for the BMO1 upon payment of a £15 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 Maths Challenges Office (address below) to see if the fee can be waived.

To enter additional candidates, you will need to contact the UKMT Maths Challenges Office to request a BMO1 question paper pack. You will receive an invoice for the BMO1 with your pack. Please contact the Maths Challenges Office to request the pack preferably by email at enquiry@ukmt.org.uk, or by telephone on 0113 343 2339, or fax on 0113 343 5500. Please contact us as soon as possible to request additional BMO1 entries, to enable us to send you the pack before the BMO1 on Friday 1st December. If you have not received your SMC results by Friday 24th November, please contact the Maths Challenges Office.

All candidates who participate in the BMO1 will be awarded a certificate of participation or distinction. Book prizes and medals are also awarded to high scoring candidates.

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. Sample BMO1 papers can be viewed at the BMO website at www.bmoc.maths.org, and past papers and solutions purchased from the UKMT website at www.ukmt.org.uk. Preparation material can also be downloaded from the UKMT website.

If you have any questions about the BMO changes, please contact the Maths Challenges Office. Our email address is enquiry@ukmt.org.uk, or telephone 0113 343 2339.