BMO1 2017–18 REPORT FOR TEACHERS AND CANDIDATES

Marking:

Papers are marked in December by a team of around 40 volunteers – many of whom have sat the British Mathematical Olympiad papers in previous years.

All BMO questions are marked using a "10-/0+" strategy, which requires a candidate to get the crucial part of each solution to qualify for 10- (with minor deductions for omissions/errors), otherwise they are in 0+ territory, when usually only a maximum of 3 marks are available.

Results:

There were some excellent scores this year, including sixteen people who scored a perfect 60. Over 65% of the candidates managed to get full marks on at least one question, and many candidates made serious attempts at several questions.

There were 1792 scripts received and the mean score was 21.2. The breakdown of final marks was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>0 – 9</th>
<th>10 – 19</th>
<th>20 – 29</th>
<th>30 – 39</th>
<th>40 – 49</th>
<th>50 – 59</th>
<th>60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of candidates.</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average mark per question was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q5</th>
<th>Q6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Solutions:

Full solutions to both BMO1 questions (and BMO2 questions) will be sent to schools in a booklet in April/May. In the meantime, there are instructions on obtaining access to solutions at https://bmos.ukmt.org.uk/solutions/.

Note:

Even the top-scoring students are not always good at reading the instructions on the paper! In order to help the markers, pupils should ensure they:

- write on only one side of the paper
- start each question on a new sheet
- number the questions carefully in a place which is not going to be covered by the staple