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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### MATH OLYMPIAD TRAINING PROGRAM - 1

Best online program for students aspiring for **Mathematics Olympiad** 





#### What is Mathematical Olympiad?

The Mathematical Olympiad Programme in India, which leads to the participation of Indian students in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) is organized by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) on behalf of the **National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM)** of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. This programme is one of the major initiatives undertaken by the NBHM. Its main purpose is to spot mathematical talent among pre-university students in the country.

#### My child is already doing Olympiad exams in school. Is this the same?

There are similar too many (so-called) Olympiads that are conducted in India under the name of International Olympiads. If you are aiming for those kinds of exams, then MOTP – 1 might not be the right program that you may want to consider. This is in preparation for the International Math Olympiad exams which is a reputed and topnotch contest for students passionate about Mathematics.

#### What are the different stages in the Olympiad program by HBCSE?

First stage is **Pre-RMO** which is a test with 30 questions where answers have to be worked out and marked in an OMR sheet. Students who pass this stage qualify for the second stage, **RMO**, where there are 6 descriptive questions to be solved in a span of 3 hours. Students who clear RMO get selected for Indian National Mathematics Olympiad **(INMO)** which has 6 questions to be solved in 4 hours.



About 35 best students from INMO are selected for a residential training program in April and May called **IMO TC** at HBCSE. Towards the end of this camp, 6 students are selected who get a chance to represent India at the International Mathematics Olympiad **(IMO)**.

Note that the above structure was slightly changed for the last exam. For details, please visit the website of HBCSE.

#### Will there be special coaching for students selected for INMO?

We have a separate course called Math Olympiad Training Program Level – 2 (MOTP 2). Students who qualify for INMO, usually continue with that program from July until December.

#### What is unique about the RAM's MOTP-1 program?

One of the many distinguishing factors of the MOTP-1 program is the faculty. The course is conducted by faculty with years of experience in Olympiad training under whom many students have excelled in Olympiads.

#### What is the targeted skill level of the students?

Olympiads test the problem-solving skills in Mathematics. The course will teach the various methods for problem solving using problems that have appeared in Olympiads in the past. The course will be interesting for the students who are passionate about Mathematics.



To excel, students are expected to put in self-effort and solve problems beyond what is taught in the class and given as homework. Only then, can they grasp the content as they progress.

## Can you give some sample problems from Olympiads to understand the difficulty level?

You can access past papers here: https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in/how-toprepare/past-papers/

#### What exactly does the programme hope to achieve?

The goal of the program is to build a strong foundation in areas of mathematics like Number Theory, Combinatorics, Geometry and Algebra in students who are bright and would like to go outside the school curriculum to explore and learn more in mathematics.

#### Will the school math curriculum be covered?

Some of the basic theorems discussed in high school would be discussed in the sessions but most of the content of high school will be expected to be known by the student.



## What is the need of doing Mathematics outside the school curriculum? Aren't areas like algebra and geometry covered in school syllabus?

The school curriculum aims to achieve Mathematics skills that everyone should have. Olympiads aim to achieve Mathematical skills for those who find curriculum a cakewalk and have an appetite to do more challenging problems in Math.

#### How much work is expected of the student?

The students will be given assignments after every session. They would be expected to give their best on the assignments. Some of the problems might take days, weeks or even more than a month to arrive at the answer. Some, even beyond that. That is not because the student is weak but rather the problems are quite challenging. Solutions may not be arrived at easily because the aim is not to look at a solution but the struggle to find a solution. Even a failed attempt towards solving a challenging problem, teaches the student valuable insights. Through the process, students will learn to deal with frustration and develop patience and perseverance to deal with problems.

#### What are the advantages of preparing for the Olympiads?

Students who are passionate about Mathematics get early exposure to various topics in Mathematics that can help them understand what lies in store if they wish to pursue a course in Mathematics. It also teaches the most important 'problem solving skill', that is at the core of many competitive examinations such as IIT-JEE.



## Do colleges in India and abroad give preference to students who have participated in the Olympiads?

Institutes like Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) and Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in India do give a preference for students who do well in INMO. Also, many Universities give preference to Olympiad achievements when giving scholarships. While applying to colleges outside India, the ranks in RMO or INMO are good ways to signal one's ability in Mathematics.

#### What days/time is the class?

Wednesdays 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm (IST) and Fridays 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm (IST). The timings may be extended as the course progresses and the days of the week can change if there are some constraints (but that is less likely). There may be extra sessions that happen after some months over and above the regular ones of twice a week.

#### How will the live sessions be conducted?

The sessions will be conducted on the online platform - 'Zoom'.

#### Can classes be rescheduled in case of an emergency at the students' end?

This won't be possible because it won't be a one-on-one session. All sessions will be recorded and uploaded online so that students can go through the recording if they miss any session.



#### If my child misses a class, how can he/she catch up?

They can catch up with the recordings.

#### Will there be doubt clarifying sessions?

Office hours (doubts clearing sessions) will be planned periodically as and when there is a need from students.

#### Will my child get personal attention?

No. Being an online session with a group of students, it won't be possible to give personalised attention. However, their queries will be resolved during the sessions.

#### Can my child do a trial class as he/she is not very sure if the class is a good fit?

The faculty are quite experienced and hence we don't think that a trial class might be necessary to check the teaching methodology. Moreso, it may take a few sessions for a student to get a hang of the topic. Hence, we find doing a trial session does not help in any way and for the same reason we don't offer any trial classes.

#### What will be the qualification of the faculty?

More than qualification, what matters more in Olympiad coaching is how experienced the faculty is in Olympiad training. We have three main faculty whose profile is shared on our website https://www.raisingamathematician.com/faculty-profile-rmo-inmo



#### How to register for MOTP-1?

To register for MOTP-1, kindly register the student on https://app.raisingamathematician.com/login before the deadline. The registration will be considered as complete only after the payment is done.

#### What is the mode of payment?

Online. Once you decide to go ahead with the program, you need to make the payment through the payment gateway that will be provided to your account that you will create on https://app.raisingamathematician.com/login when you register. The payments you make are donations towards the foundation for which you will receive an 80G tax exemption receipt. Since it is a donation, it won't be refundable.

#### If I don't attend a lecture or a few lectures, do I have to pay for it?

Yes.

#### Is there any provision to withdraw in between?

If the student is unable to cope up with the pace of the course, he/she may choose to withdraw.

#### Will a refund be made of a student withdraws?

As mentioned two points earlier, the payment will be a donation and hence cannot be refunded.



#### What is the course fee for MOTP -1?

The foundation runs on donations. There is a donation of INR 15,000 that the donor can make towards the foundation for sponsoring one student. Note that this is not a course fee but a donation.

## Should my child apply for the exams through school or can they represent the institute?

You can apply directly and don't have to do it through your school or our institute. For more details, visit MTA (I) – MATHEMATICS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (INDIA).

#### What are the application deadlines for RMO 2022-23?

The dates are not yet announced for 2022-23. Keep checking for the updates MTA (I) – MATHEMATICS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (INDIA).