

Year 7 and Year 8 Challenges 2024

Guidance on format

Teams should comprise four students from the year group in question. Schools may enter more than one team for each of the challenges, subject to an upper limit of three per school. (That is, three for Year 7 and three for Year 8.)

A responsible adult should be present throughout the challenge to ensure students adhere to the rules.

The heats will be delivered by *Livestorm* video. If there is more than one team from a school, it is perfectly acceptable for the teams to be in the same room. However, the member of staff supervising should ensure that teams work independently of each other.

Students should have a pencil, rubber, and paper for rough working-out. No calculators or measuring equipment should be used.

There will be four rounds, each lasting roughly 15 minutes, and each worth 60 marks.

Round 1: General Maths Questions

6 questions, 10 marks each. Partially correct answers and/or near-misses may be awarded part marks, depending on the nature of the question.

Round 2: Memory Round

Two students are allowed to view a mathematical poster. They then have to describe the poster for the other two team members to draw. (The poster is withheld from these other two team members.)

The poster will be included in the *Livestorm* presentation, so it can be projected onto a whiteboard. Those doing the drawing will need to move to an adjacent room, so that they cannot see it.

Round 3: Estimation

6 tasks, 10 marks each. For questions requiring estimation, marks are awarded on a sliding scale, depending on how close to the 'exact' answer the students are.

Round 4: General Maths Questions

As for Round 1, though the questions may be slightly more demanding.

For each of Rounds 1, 3 and 4, answers should be submitted via a *Google* form – a separate form for each round. Links to the *Google* forms will be sent to supervising teachers on the morning of the challenge.

For Round 2, staff are asked to take a good quality photo of each poster, and e-mail them to us for marking. A photo taken on a smartphone or tablet will be fine, but please ensure

it is big enough for the marker to be able to make out the detail. (A scanned copy would also be acceptable.)

We hope to announce the result shortly after the challenge. However, if a large number of teams take part, this may not be possible (as the memory round takes more time to mark); if this is the case, we will let you know in advance.

There are four heats for each Challenge. The timings vary, to suit the varying finishing times of different schools, as follows:

- Two of these will commence at 3.30, with the results to be announced (all being well) around 5.00.
- The other two will start at 4.00, with results around 5.30

Details of dates and times, along with booking links, can be found on our [Y7 and Y8 Maths Challenge website](#).

Cost of entry is £35 per team.

The highest-scoring teams from each heat, plus the other highest scorers from the heats, will be invited to take part in the Final. The Final will be a face-to-face event, held at Hertfordshire Development Centre in Stevenage. (There is no additional charge to take part.)

The format of the Final will be very similar to that of the heats. The one difference will be that the Estimation Round will be renamed the 'Estimation and Problem-Solving Round': it will consist of three estimates and three problems for the teams to solve.

For any queries on any of the above, please contact William Thallon
(williamthallon@hfleducation.org).

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