

Year 7 and Year 8 Challenges 2027

Guidance on format

Each team 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.)

The Heats

The heats will take place online, via a webinar. A member of staff should be present throughout the challenge to clarify rules for students and 'invigilate'. If there is more than one team from a school, teams may work in the same room; however, the member of staff 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 webinar 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 schools 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 us 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 three heats for each Challenge. The timings vary, to suit the varying finishing times of different schools, as follows:

- One 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.

School checklist for heats

Rooms

- Suitable classroom, with an adjacent room available for the memory round
- Lay out classroom for teams of four (if more than one team, teams must be able to work independently of each other)

Paper

- One piece of blank A3 paper for each team (for the memory round)
- Supply of paper for students to do rough working

IT

- Students will need to be able to see and hear the webinar presentation
- Phone, tablet or scanner to photograph posters and e-mail them to HFL

Other

- Expected running time is 1 hour 30 minutes, so ensure students and parents/carers are aware
- In the morning, check that the link for the Google sheet has arrived by e-mail (and notify us if it hasn't!)

The Final

The highest-scoring teams from each heat, plus the other highest scorers from the heats, will be invited to take part in the Final. This will be a face-to-face event, held at a convenient venue in Stevenage or Welwyn Garden City. (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.

The timing of the final will be 2.00 to 4.00. The venue will be open from 1.30, so schools are asked to arrive in plenty of time.

Teams should be accompanied by a member of staff to supervise. Other supporters may attend too. Guidance to support school risk assessments is available on request.

For any queries on any of the above, please contact Melanie Crisp
(melanie.chrisp@hfleducation.org).

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