



SPECIAL MATHS CONTEST 2026

GUIDELINES

contact@specialmathscontest.com

Version: October 25, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The Special Maths Contest (SMC) is an initiative of Special Maths Academy (SMA), an Olympiad training organization dedicated to preparing young minds for the world's toughest mathematics competitions. SMC is designed to identify, challenge, and reward talented students in mathematics. The contest also serves as the selection process for students who will represent **Nigeria at the European Girls Mathematics Olympiad (EGMO)**

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the Special Maths Contest, a participant must:

- Be between 12 and 18 years old
- **Not** be enrolled in a university or higher education system.

All participants must meet the above conditions to compete. **Proof of eligibility may be required**, and SMC reserves the right to disqualify any participant who fails to meet these requirements.



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REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Participation in the 2025/2026 edition of the Special Maths Contest is **free.**
- Interested participants must create an account on the Special Maths Contest portal: <https://exam.specialmathscontest.com/>
- **Registration deadline: January 10, 2026.**
- SMC reserves the right to **upgrade participants from online to physical attendance for the second round** if necessary



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FORMAT OF THE CONTEST

The SMC shall consist of 2 rounds:

1. Round 1 (Online Test)

- **Date:** Saturday, 17th January, 2026.
- **Format:** 25 multiple-choice questions.
- **Time limit:** 2 hours.
- **Subjects covered:** Algebra, Number Theory, Geometry, and Combinatorics.
- The contest will be conducted on a **proctored online platform** to ensure fairness and credibility.
- The exam will start at 14:00 **on** Saturday, 17th January, 2026.
- **Results announcement:** January 30, 2026.

2. Round 2 (In-Person Competition)

- **30–70 students will be shortlisted for the second round** based on their performance in Round 1.
- These shortlisted candidates will fall under the following categories:



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- **Nigerian contestants:** Physical or Online participation based on their score in the first round.
- **International students:** Those not based in Nigeria will participate virtually via Zoom.
- **Event duration:** 27th February - 3rd March, 2026
- **Location:** Nile university of Nigeria, Abuja.
- **Format:** Contestants will solve four Olympiad-style essay problems.
- SMC reserves the right to upgrade Nigerian participants from online to physical attendance for Round 2 if necessary.

TIE-BREAKER RULE

In the event that two or more contestants achieve the same score in Round 2, their Round 1 scores will be used as the tiebreaker to determine ranking and award positions.



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PRIZES

We shall award three grand prizes to the three absolute winners of the contest. The grand prizes are as follows:

Overall Winners:

1. **1st Prize - 450 dollars**
2. **2nd Prize - 300 dollars**
3. **3rd Prize - 100 dollars**

Top Nigerian Contestants:

- 1st Nigerian: Laptop, ~~₦~~500,000, and ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher
- 2nd Nigerian: Laptop, N250,000 , and ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher
- 3rd Nigerian: Laptop, N150,000, and ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher

This is in collaboration with the unpatterned Team.

Top Female Contestant from Nigeria:

- ~~₦~~75,000, and ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher, and Laptop (if not in overall top 3).



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Special Teacher Award:

- The teacher of the best-performing Nigerian student (SS3 or below) will receive a cash prize of ₦500,000. This is in collaboration with Baum Tenpers

Additional Awards:

- Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals for the top contestants.
- **Certificates of Excellence** for all final-round participants.
- **1-year subscription** to SMA's Olympiad Video Series for some **students** in Round 1



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR ROUND 2

- **February 27th, 2026:** Arrival of participants.
- **February 28th, 2026:** Contest day.
- **March 1st, 2026:** Excursion.
- **March 2nd, 2026:** Closing ceremony & awards.
- **March 3rd, 2026:** Departure.

EGMO QUALIFICATION

- **Top-scoring female contestants from Nigeria** will qualify to represent Nigeria at the 2027 European Girls Mathematics Olympiad (EGMO) in Croatia
- Olympiad Charity Foundation will **cover all expenses** for this trip.
- Only contestants **not enrolled in a university by April 2026** will be eligible for EGMO.



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IMPORTANT NOTES

- **Registration is 100% free.** SMC does **not** authorize any individual or organization to collect registration fees. Please report any suspicious requests to contact@specialmaths.ng immediately.
- Participants must **strictly adhere** to all contest guidelines.
- Any suspected irregularities will be investigated, and violators may be **disqualified.**
- SMC reserves the right to **update these guidelines** as needed. The latest version will always be available on the Special Maths Contest website.
- We wish all participants the very best and look forward to discovering Nigeria's next math champions!