

WSMA's Introductory Guide to a Math Competition

Getting To Know the Format

It is helpful to know the rules for a competition beforehand. Knowing the rules can save you valuable time when taking a test or participating in an event. Make sure to check if a calculator is permitted during the competition.

While most rules will be announced on site, learning them on site will be tedious and not go in your favor during the competition. Prepared mathletes always know the rules, schedule, and format of the test before they arrive.

The best way to get

acquainted with a competition's rules, schedule, and format is to take official practice tests and visit the competition website. If you still have questions that are not answered on a competition website, make sure to politely contact the competition

administrators.



Solving math problems at the WSMA Math Bowl

Test Taking Strategies

Now that you've prepared for the test, you need to know some test taking strategies. Even the most mathematically prepared student can crash on the test if they do not have good strategies. Here are some tips:

- Know length of the test in time and number of questions, develop an average

pace to go at

- Do some practice tests and learn how much the problem difficulty increases.
- If you are taking too long on a problem, skip around

Typical Math Competition Schedule

Registration	9:00-9:30
Opening Directions	9:30-9:40
Medley of Individual and Team Rounds	9:40-12:00
Lunch	12:00-1:15
Medley of Team Tests	1:15-2:30
Awards	2:30-3:00

Logistics:

- Food
- Money
- Transportation

Resources:

For access to practice problems and competition websites, visit WSMA's testhub database. This site will provide you with a list of different math competitions and general information
<http://hub.wastudentmath.org/>

Online school, problems, and books
<https://www.artofproblemsolving.com/>

Several problems from past Mu Alpha Theta competitions
<http://www.mualphatheta.org/index.php?chapters/national-convention/past-tests>