



Contestants' Guide

Issued for Round One of the 9th ICMC (2025–2026)

This document outlines what to expect as a contestant for Round One of the 9th Imperial–Cambridge Mathematics Competition. If you have any questions about the contest or this guide, please don't hesitate to contact us at icmathscomp@icmathscomp.org.

Details

- **Date:** Sunday 23 Nov 2025.
- **Time and Venue:** The time and venue varies between universities. You should have received communication from your ICMC Organiser regarding the contest time and venue specific to you. If you haven't, please contact the email listed beside your university on our [Registration](#) page. **Note: Starting from this year, the start time will be between 11:30 and 14:00, UTC time.**
- **Format:** You will have 3 hours to solve 6 problems, each of which carries 10 marks.

The contest

In preparation

- Familiarise yourself with the contest by looking at recent [past papers](#) on our website.
- You will be required to write your solutions using a blue or black pen or a dark pencil. Rulers, compasses, protractors, and erasers may be used but will not be required. All electronic devices, including calculators, are prohibited.
- You may bring drinks to the contest, but food is prohibited – this is to reduce noise and distractions for all contestants.
- You will be assigned a unique **Contestant ID** (CID), please commit this to memory as you will need it during the contest. Note that the first two digits indicate the year, and the last five digits are randomly assigned.

Before the contest

- When you arrive at the contest venue, please quote your CID and show your institutional ID card at check-in, so an invigilator can mark you as present.
- If you arrive late, but less than 30 minutes after the contest starts, you may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the invigilator. After 30 minutes, you will not be allowed to participate.
- Just before the contest begins, you will be asked to sign the contest declaration, which entails an embargo on problem discussion until **19:00 on Sunday 23 Nov 2025, UTC time**. This is necessary as the time of the contest differs among venues.

During the contest

- If you have any questions about any of the problems during the contest, please communicate these to your invigilator. Your invigilator will email us with your query and you should receive a response within 15 minutes.
- **Emergencies excepted, contestants may not leave the contest venue early.** This is to ensure that no contestant comes out of any contest hall before another contestant (somewhere else) goes into their contest hall.
- Please note that this competition is run in English. Any work submitted in other languages will not be marked.

After the contest

- You will be asked to split your work into two piles: one containing everything you wish to submit with the cover page on top, facing up; the other containing everything you do not wish to submit.
- Under no circumstances should the contest paper or any rough work be taken out of the contest venue. The problems and their solutions will be published on our website after the embargo ends.

Results and appeals

- We will aim to mark all the scripts by the **18th of December**, after which we will send you your preliminary results via email.
- After you receive your preliminary results, there will be a one-week appeals process. During the first 72 hours after you receive your results, you will be able to appeal your results if you believe there to be a significant mistake. We will review these appeals and finalise all results by the **25th of December**.

Round Two

- The top 100 contestants will be invited to participate in Round Two. If you are in England and within about 180km of London, you will need to travel to Imperial College London to participate in Round Two.
- If you are outside England, you will have the option of participating in Round Two at your university.
- In previous ICMCs, students have been successful in obtaining a travel grant from their university allowing them to travel to and from London for Round Two. If you successfully qualify for Round Two, you will receive a list of other students who have qualified from your university so you can discuss travel arrangements with them and your university.