

Mathematical Olympiad competitions started in Hungary at the end of the nineteenth century; national Olympiads are now held in over a hundred countries, and there are numerous international events. Olympiads challenge able secondary school pupils to develop their mathematical skills by solving problems. Olympiad problems are unpredictable and have no obvious starting point; although their solution may require little more than ordinary school mathematics, they are definitely 'problems' rather than routine exercises, and this can make them seem rather hard. The Mathematical Olympiad Handbook introduces readers to these challenging problems and aims to convince them that Olympiads are not just for a select minority.

The book contains problems from the first 32 British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) papers 1965–96 and gives hints and outline solutions to each problem from 1975 onwards. An overview is given of the basic mathematical skills needed, and a list of books for further reading is provided. Working through the exercises provides a valuable source of extension and enrichment for all pupils and adults interested in mathematics.

**Tony Gardiner** has been involved in the British Mathematical Olympiad competitions for several years. He was leader of the UK International Mathematical Olympiad team from 1990 to 1995 and is currently Vice-President of the World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions. In recognition of his work since 1988 in strengthening national competitions within the UK he received the Paul Erdős National Award in 1995.

'Gardiner pulls no punches in putting over his own view of maths: that is hard, exacting and exact but very rewarding'

THES (Times Higher Education Supplement)

'This is another successful book written by a fine expositor. I warmly recommend it to all students curious about mathematics, especially those who are bored at school and ready for a challenge. Teachers would find this book to be a welcome resource, as will contest organisers'

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'The goal of this book is to introduce students to the world of problem solving, and it does so marvelously.'

The Mathematical Association of America

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# Contents

Problems and problem solving	1
How to use this book	3
<b>Part I Background</b>	
A little useful mathematics	7
Introduction	7
1. Numbers	7
2. Algebra	11
3. Proof	18
4. Elementary number theory	24
5. Geometry	34
6. Trigonometric formulae	39
Some books for your bookshelf	41
<b>Part II The problems</b>	
Background to the problem papers	53
32nd BMO, 1996	54
31st BMO, 1995	55
30th BMO, 1994	55
29th BMO, 1993	56
28th BMO, 1992	57
27th BMO, 1991	57
26th BMO, 1990	58
25th BMO, 1988	59
24th BMO, 1987B	60
23rd BMO, 1987A	61
22nd BMO, 1986	61
21st BMO, 1985	62
20th BMO, 1984	63
19th BMO, 1983	64
18th BMO, 1982	65
17th BMO, 1981	66
16th BMO, 1980	67
15th BMO, 1979	67



14th BMO, 1978	68
13th BMO, 1977	69
12th BMO, 1976	69
11th BMO, 1975	71
10th BMO, 1974	72
9th BMO, 1973	74
8th BMO, 1972	76
7th BMO, 1971	78
6th BMO, 1970	79
5th BMO, 1969	81
4th BMO, 1968	82
3rd BMO, 1967	83
2nd BMO, 1966	84
1st BMO, 1965	86

### Part III Hints and outline solutions

32nd BMO, 1996	89
31st BMO, 1995	95
30th BMO, 1994	99
29th BMO, 1993	103
28th BMO, 1992	109
27th BMO, 1991	115
26th BMO, 1990	122
25th BMO, 1988	128
24th BMO, 1987B	136
23rd BMO, 1987A	142
22nd BMO, 1986	152
21st BMO, 1985	162
20th BMO, 1984	168
19th BMO, 1983	177
18th BMO, 1982	181
17th BMO, 1981	188
16th BMO, 1980	193
15th BMO, 1979	196
14th BMO, 1978	202
13th BMO, 1977	207
12th BMO, 1976	213
11th BMO, 1975	219

Appendix The International Mathematical Olympiad: UK teams and results, 1967–96	225
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