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 Erdös 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' Zentralblatt Dür Mathematik

'This book should be in the library of every secondary school, college and university.' European Mathematical Society Newsletter

'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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