

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF MATHEMATICS COMPETITION IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA

by:

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Math competitions are an avenue for learners to showcase their talents and capacities in an interesting, fun, and organized environment. It motivates and measures the numeracy and analytical thinking abilities of those who love problems involving numbers and variables.

Over the years, the structure of Mathematics competitions has changed drastically.

Significant changes always have an impact on the educational process and the development of talent in numeracy and analytical thinking skills. Countless Mathematics competitions with different characteristics exist largely in different schools worldwide.

The earliest Mathematics competition was held in 1885 in Bucharest, Romania (Berinde, 2004; Duca, 2015) where limited information on the conduct and type of test given.

Numerous records of Mathematics competitions around the world took place after this.

The conduct of Math Competition varies as time goes by. The questions and type of test given change either way. Participants are encouraged to join the contests in teams or individually. Word problem-solving, multiple-choice, and logical reasoning are some of the types of tests given in the competition.

However, the pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges for both learners and teachers. Face-to-face activities were limited. Formulating and implementing competition became a big challenge. The alternative distance learning modality relieved the regular teaching and learning process. Gradually, everything came back to normal.

Mathematics enthusiasts are excited to represent the school in the different levels of competition. To battle and face another daunting task to determine the best way forward is a significant event for learners and teachers.

To go back to competition after the pandemic is crucial. The readiness of the learners to compete with the amount of knowledge they have will be tested. The result of the learner's performance in the competition is a keynote for planning better strategies for the next battle.

Mathematics is indeed intimidating and challenging to learn. The more complex the problem, the more exciting it is to solve and once you get the solution, the more gratified it feels. Eventually, a secure and continuous Mathematics competition is the hope of everyone as an appropriate avenue for displaying higher levels of competencies.

Let more learners be inspired and encouraged to take the challenge of competitions.

References:

Kenderov, P.S. Mathematics competitions: an integral part of the educational process. ZDM Mathematics Education 54, 983–996 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11858-022-01348-4>