

BEYOND MATHS 2020

I refer to my speech at the Beyond Maths Prize Giving held on Saturday 12 October 2019.

Having taken note of comments regarding the papers set in Round 1 and Round 2 of the 2019 Beyond Maths Competition, this both from teachers and students interviewed on the day, and further studying the results statistics, the following will guide the 2020 competition:

Level 1 (Grades 4-5) and Level 2 (Grades 6-7)

- Round 2 will be more difficult than Round 1.

Level 1 (Grades 4-5)

- Round 1 will contain a number of easier questions spread through the paper, to ensure encouragement to take part in Mathematics competitions.
- Importantly, the paper must still be of competition standard, therefore it will contain suitably difficult questions as well.
- Round 2 will contain a lesser number of easier questions, but these will still be evident. The difficulty level will be increased from Round 1. The overall difficulty will be comparable with Round 2 in 2019.

Level 2 (Grades 6-7)

- Round 1 will contain a few easier questions, and overall level of difficulty likely similar to the paper in Round 2 of 2019.
- One question of international standard will be included in Round 1.
- Round 2 will be more difficult, and will contain one question of international standard in each of Sections A and B.

It is clear that at the grade 4-5 level, it is important to encourage participation and enjoyment in, not only the Beyond Maths Competition, but also in other mathematics competitions. Difficulty must be stepped up in the grade 6-7 level. Notwithstanding the above, it is important that Beyond Maths retains an applicable overall difficulty, typical of Mathematics competitions worldwide.

Regards

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