GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
DIRECTORATE FOR STEM AND VET PROGRAMMES

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The *High 5 Junior Mathematicians Challenge* 2024

Guidelines for Nomination	While there is no universal definition of giftedness, according to the National Association for Gifted Children (www.nagc.org): *"Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (documented performance or achievement in top 10% or rarer) in one or more domains. Domains include any structured area of activity with its own symbol system (e.g. mathematics, music, language) and/or set of sensorimotor skills (e.g. painting, dance, sports)."* Furthermore, according to the National Association for Gifted Children, gifted individuals share the following characteristics: • Excellent memory • Rapid learner, puts thoughts together quickly • Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age • Advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors and abstract ideas • Enjoy solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles • Deep intense feelings and reactions • Thinking is abstract, complex, logical and insightful • Idealism and sense of justice at early age • Longer attention span and intense concentration • Ask probing questions • Learn basic skills quickly and with little practice • Wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area) • Highly developed curiosity • Interest in experimenting and doing things differently • Put ideas or things together that are not typical • Desire to organize people/things through games or complex schemes.
Submission of Nominations	**Deadline: Tuesday, 27th February, 2024** All nominations by schools will be screened and nominees will participate in Phase 1 of the Challenge. Following deadline for submissions each school's *High 5 JMC* coordinator will receive a **code** (e.g. JMC 023) for each nominated student.

Phase 1: Qualifying Phase	This phase will consist of a **1-hour written qualifying test**. The qualifying test will be held on **Tuesday, 5th March 2024** at **11:00**. The test will take place at the nominated students' respective schools. **Test Administration and Scripts Management** 1. The *High 5 JMC* coordinating team will send a pdf copy of the Qualifying Test script at 09:00 on the day of the test. 2. The pdf copy of the script will be sent to the school's *High 5 JMC* coordinator. It is recommended that the school's *JMC coordinator* is a Senior Leadership Team member. 3. Scripts are to be printed at school in time for the test. 4. Nominated students shall sit for the Qualifying Test under exam conditions. 5. Once the test is over scripts are to be: - scanned and sent to the *High 5 JMC* coordinating team by 13:00. **OR** - delivered to the Educational Assessment Unit by 15:00. 6. The Primary Maths Support Team members will blind mark the papers and notify the school with the results by **Friday, 22nd March 2024**. The qualifying test will consist of: • **19 multiple choice questions,** carrying **a total of 38 points** • **4 open-questions,** carrying **a total of 12 points** A **specimen qualifying test** and **past qualifying tests** are downloadable from http://primarymaths.skola.edu.mt/high-5 **.**
	The top participants (approx. 50) will qualify for Phase 2. They will be informed through their respective schools to participate in the next phase. Scored qualifying tests of all nominated students will be returned to schools as from week starting **Monday, 8th April 2024**. Qualifying tests which were delivered to the Educational Assessment Unit by hand, can be collected from the Educational Assessment Unit by appointment following this date. It is recommended that the scored qualifying tests are used for formative purposes.

Phase 2: Training Phase	The qualifying students identified in Phase 1 will participate in **5 after-school workshops**. Some workshops will take place online, while some other workshops will take place in person. The workshops will be inspired by **THE SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GOALS**. The workshops will provide students an excellent opportunity to nurture their skills through practice in stimulating problems that go beyond mere computation. They will also be presented with rich tasks that require spatial as well as analytic abilities. During the workshops, students will be given the opportunity to enrich their heuristic skills and they will be further challenged to create questions and to explore and develop other mathematical concepts. Throughout the workshops the students are requested to keep a portfolio of the activity tasks. These workshops will kick off with an online introductory meeting for parents/guardians of students who qualify to Phase 2 that will be held on **Wednesday, 10th April 2024** from **12:00 to 13:00**. **Workshops:** ▪ Monday, 22nd April 2024 (16:00 to 18:00) ▪ Tuesday, 30th April 2024 (16:00 to 18:00) ▪ Thursday, 9th May 2024 (16:00 to 18:00) ▪ Wednesday, 15th May 2024 (16:00 to 18:00) ▪ Tuesday, 21st May 2024 (16:00 to 18:00) **Students who participate in at least 4 of the workshops will qualify to Phase 3.**
Phase 3: Final Phase	Phase 3 is the final stage of the challenge. The final test will take place on **Wednesday, 29th May 2024 at 10:00**. The students will compete in both individual and group challenges. **Past final test scripts** are downloadable from: http://primarymaths.skola.edu.mt/high-5. Further details regarding the Final Test will be disseminated at a later stage.
Awards Ceremony	All the students who proceed to Phase 3 will be awarded a **Certificate of Merit**. The top **10 students who achieve the highest scores** in the **individual challenge** will be awarded a **Certificate of Excellence**. The **best performing student in Year 5** and **Year 6** respectively will be awarded a **Medal of Excellence**. Other awards will be announced at a later stage. The final results will be announced on **Monday 10th June 2024**. An awards ceremony will follow. Further details regarding the awards ceremony will be communicated at a later date.

Feature clips of Past Editions of the *High 5 Junior Mathematicians Challenge*

2020 – 2021 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQto4vaRkcU

2017 – 2018 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNK9BnF_aj4&t=4s

2016 – 2017 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-IIYjL0nWs

2015 – 2016 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39NcNYhvI1I