



## Math League News

■ **Our Calculator Rule** Our contests allow both the TI-89 and HP-48. You may use any calculator without a QWERTY keyboard.

■ **Send Your Comments** to [comments@mathleague.com](mailto:comments@mathleague.com).

■ **Contest Dates** Future HS contest dates (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are Dec 11 (18), Jan 8 (15), Feb 12 (19), & Mar 12 (19). (Each alternate date is the following Tuesday.) For vacations, special testing days, or other *known* disruptions of the normal school day, please *give the contest on the following Tuesday*. If your scores are late, please submit a brief explanation. We reserve the right to refuse late scores lacking an explanation. We sponsor an *Algebra Course I Contest* in April, as well as contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. See [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com) for information.

■ **The January Contest Date is January 8** There is a misprint on the contest envelope, on which it says that the official date is January 15, with January 22 as the alternate date. THE ACTUAL DATE IS JANUARY 8, with January 15 as the alternate date. Please make note of the correct date.

■ **Regional Groupings** Within guidelines, we try, when possible, to honor regional grouping requests for the next school year.

■ **What Do We Print in the Newsletter?** Space permitting, we print every solution and comment we receive. We prepare the newsletter early, so we can use only what we have at that time.

■ **How Do I Change the Spelling of a Student Name?** Please note that an advisor can always return to the Score Report Center to change the spelling of a student's name or to correct a score. Accordingly, we try to stay out of the loop on such changes. Any advisor noticing a need for such changes should feel free to make them directly.

■ **Can I Add Additional Names and Scores to an Earlier Contest?** One advisor asks, "Since some students did very well in the second contest, can we add their names (with the scores) to the Contest 1 report?" We always allow adding additional names and scores to an earlier contest as long as the additions do not affect the team total previously submitted for the earlier contest.

■ **Administer This Year's Contests Online** Any school that is registered for any of our contests for the 2012-2013 school year may now register at [www.mathcontestsonline.com](http://www.mathcontestsonline.com) for the 2012-2013 Online Contests at no cost. The advantages of administering the online versions of our contests rather than the paper and pencil ones are that you do not have to grade your students' papers and that you do not have to submit any scores at our Score Report Center ~ these tasks are done automatically for you when your students take our contests online. If you decide to use this free service, you must set up your account and set the day you are going to administer each contest at least one day in advance of the actual contest date.

■ **General Comments About the Contest** Mark Luce said, "Questions seem a bit harder than in previous years (though the first few questions were easy). This is not an objection; I think it is fine to challenge our students. But we are not scoring as well as in previous years." William Rollinson said, "No 6's this month...first time in a while." Dave Ollar said, "Wonderful test! Places to mess up were available, but all are reasonably possible."

■ **Question 2-3: Appeal (Accepted) and Alternate Solution** Sarah Jane Black appealed on behalf of a student who had responded to question 2-3 with 8.000. Since the correct answer is 8 and the answer given is equivalent to the official answer with 4 significant digits, it is correct. Apparently the student wrote the answer this way by using a trigonometric approach. Jennifer Hake also submitted that several of her students used trigonometry to find the correct answer.

■ **Question 2-4: Comments** William Rollinson said, "For #4, quite a few students missed the fact that  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  could be equal." Sarah Jane Black said, "Also, just to say I double-checked - but the ordered triples must have brackets around them, correct? I know this came up on a past contest. I really hope other teachers are as picky as me." Yes, the ordered triples must have parentheses around them, so we really hope other teachers are as picky as you are too!

■ **Question 2-6: Comments** Apparently, there were several near misses on this question! Jayson Kiang said, "A number of my students got 4028 as their answer for #6, not 4026." Mark Luce said, "None of my students got the last problem correctly, though one student was off by 1 (he answered 4027) and another student was off by 3 (his answer was 4029)." William Rollinson said, "#6 proved very difficult for all of my students (even the one student who got it right)."

### Statistics / Contest #2

Prob #, % Correct (all reported scores)

2-1	50%	2-4	47%
2-2	93%	2-5	27%
2-3	62%	2-6	9%