

## HOW TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR A MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIADE

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The role of mathematical olympiades in secondary education of students is well known, a lot of literature is devoted to this problem.

Recently we have faced one more destination of the olympiade –it is a chance for its winners to enter a good University avoiding the regular course (especially if it is only Single State Examination – SSE). Actually traditionally significant, well known olympiades like Moscow, S-Petersburg, etc. practically haven't changed the criteria of the problems selection, as their level is high enough for the selection of school-leavers on corresponding specialities/ The first olympiade winners who began to enter the leading Universities of this country without entrance exams were the ones of the international olympiades.

On the other side it is known that not always the most advanced pupils would win the olympiades. In this situation they used to enter the higher school on general grounds, taking the entrance exams. The mark in the certificate of education on the corresponding subject was, as a rule, rather high and their entrance examination was often fairly successful.

Now the situation has changed. The pupil either wins at the olympiade and enters the university (on condition that his mark should be a high one), or he does not win, and all depends on the SSE.

That is why preparation for the olympiade does not exclude special SSE training. The most advanced students should pay special attention to the “C” section of the examination.

It is true, that this section, with very seldom exception, used to include not olympiade, but technically difficult problems, which took much more time to solve and draw them up properly within the SSE time limit (it usually takes up all the exam time to manage 20 standard problems of sections A and B). And still an advanced scholar must pass the SSE solving at least part of the problems from the final section C.

The report comments on some themes of studies preparing for the olympiades which take into consideration the specific character of the moment. There is an extensive list of literature applied.