

Instructions to be Read by USAMO/USAJMO Participants

1. The space in the upper right-hand corner of your answer sheets is for your USAMO or USAJMO ID Number. You and your USAMO/USAJMO proctor will be informed by email of your assigned ID number. The number at the top center is the Problem Number. Do NOT write your name or school anywhere on the answer sheets; all your papers must be anonymous at the time of the grading. Write only your USAMO or USAJMO ID number and Problem Number on any additional papers you hand in.
2. There are six equally weighted problems, for which you will be allowed a total of nine hours. You will be allowed 4.5 hours on Wednesday, April 17, 2018 (12:30 pm–5:00 pm EDT) for Problems 1, 2 and 3, and 4.5 hours on Thursday, April 18, 2018 (12:30 pm–5:00 pm EDT) for Problems 4, 5 and 6. Each problem should be started on the answer sheet that corresponds to that problem number. You may write only on the front of the sheet. During each session, carefully look over all the problems. Pay attention to the total time you allocate to each problem.
3. Be sure that you are working on problems for the correct competition. If you are registered for the USAJMO, you will not receive credit for answering questions on the USAMO and if you are registered for the USAMO, you will not receive credit for answering questions on the USAJMO.
4. You will be scored on your method of approach, clarity of reasoning, evidence of ingenuity, inventiveness, and general insight. In order to obtain full credit, all the claims in your solution must be PROVED. When in doubt, you should include details rather than leave them out. Examination of special cases or generalizations may lead to fruitful ideas on how to begin a problem, and partial credit may be given for constructive progress toward a solution. An unusually elegant proof or a carefully stated non-trivial extension with proof may play a role in breaking an eventual tie.
5. Your papers should be CLEAR, CONCISE, COMPLETE, and written DARKLY, keeping in mind it is a scanned copy being graded, not the original. This includes MATHEMATICAL CLARITY, GOOD ENGLISH and LEGIBILITY. Points will be deducted for inadequate or poorly written explanations, as well as for incorrect mathematics. Therefore, use scratch paper before writing the solutions you submit, and submit ONLY the final work you wish to have graded. Solutions written in languages other than English will not be graded. Please leave a 1 inch margin on all sides of the Answer Sheet and on any additional pages and write DARKLY and LEGIBLY, so your scanned copy can be easily read. A sharp #2 pencil or black ink pen is best for works best for scanning.
6. NO notes, headphones, cell phones, tablet computers, books, graph paper, protractors, slide rules, mathematical tables, calculators or calculator watches are allowed during the exam. The only instruments permitted are writing and drawing instruments (ruler and compass). Students learning English as a second-language, who are taking the USAMO or USAJMO for the first time, are permitted to use a non-technical translation dictionary during the exam. However, the proctor must examine and keep the dictionary in his or her possession for the 24 hours preceding the USAMO and USAJMO competitions. Your solutions must be scanned and submitted to amchq@maa.org immediately at 5:00 pm EDT or equivalent in your time zone each day.
7. The USAMO and USAJMO will be administered in two sessions. Students should come prepared with a sack lunch and/or snacks because there is no lunch break during the exam (exceptions will be made for restroom breaks). Your competition proctor is required to be present during the entire course of the exam for your papers to be valid, but is not permitted to answer any questions about the test. You are not allowed to talk to any other student while the exam is in progress. If you feel that a problem is not stated clearly, note this on your answer sheet and try to make a non-trivial restatement of the problem. Then try to solve the restated problem.
8. You will start the competition when your proctor gives the signal. When the proctor announces after each session that 4.5 hours are up, immediately cease writing. Double-check that your ID Number on your answer sheets matches the one assigned by email. Next, immediately hand all Answer Sheets to the Proctor (even if some sheets are blank) to be scanned and sent to the MAA AMC office.
9. You may keep the problem sheets. Solutions and your total score will be mailed to your contest manager after May 10, 2018.
10. The USAMO and USAJMO are graded more strictly than most school examinations, so it is typical for students to overestimate the scores they will receive. The decisions of the graders are final and may not be appealed.