William Lowell PUTNAM Mathematical Competition

The Putnam Competition will return this year to a proctored format at campuses across the US and Canada. The problems will be distributed electronically to supervisors beforehand for printing, and the solutions will be uploaded electronically by supervisors post-competition.

Important Dates	
September 1, 2021	Online registration for supervisors opens.
September 8, 2021	Online registration for participants opens. Participants can register only after their supervisor from their institution has registered.
November 15, 2021	Online registration for supervisors closes.
December 4, 2021	The 82nd William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition takes place.
December 7, 2021	Final day to upload solutions.

The Putnam Competition consists of an A session and a B session that both take place on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the times indicated in the following chart:

Time Zone	Session A	Session B
Atlantic	10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Eastern	10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Central	9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon	2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Mountain	8:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Pacific	8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Alaska-Hawaii	8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Before the competition

- Supervisors can register on the Putnam Online platform by clicking here. A completed and approved supervisor registration makes the competition available to students at the supervisor's institution.
- Supervisor registration opens **September 1** and closes **November 15.** It is recommended that supervisors register as soon as possible starting September 1. A few days after they register, supervisors will receive a confirmation that their registration has been approved and that their students can register themselves.
- Participants register by clicking here (after the supervisor from their institution registers and is approved). Student participants will need to register online before they begin the competition in order to receive their Putnam identification number (PIN).
- On **December 3**, supervisors will get access to the official competition problems on the Supervisor Portal for downloading. Supervisors will print two sheets of problems for each participant — one for Session A and another for Session B. It is critical that printing and duplicating be done in a secure environment. The problem sheets must be placed immediately into envelopes, with Session A problems in a separate envelope from Session B problems, and kept in a secure location.
- Supervisors proctor the exam according to the time zone schedule above. Sessions last exactly three hours. Supervisors must arrange for a room that is free from noise and disturbances, and they (or their responsible designee) must be present for the entire duration of each session.

During the competition

- Supervisors must provide clean, white, unlined, 8.5-by-11 paper on which the students solve the problems and do scratch work. Books, calculators, computers, rulers, and compasses are not permitted. Cell phones must be turned off.
- Participants must work independently on the problems. They supply their own pencils or pens (with blue or black ink). The only other thing that they need to bring to the exam is their PIN.
- At the top of each page submitted for grading, participants are required to write their PIN, the problem number (letter A or B followed by a number from 1 to 6), and the page number in the format "page k of n" with 1<=k<=n. For example: "PIN 142857, Problem B4, page 2 of 5".
- When time is called, participants will hand in to their supervisors all the papers they wish to have graded.

After the competition

- Supervisors will scan the submitted solutions to generate a separate pdf document for each participant and problem. This can be done with the assistance of office staff on December 6 or 7.
- It is recommended that supervisors assign the pdf files a file name comprised of eight characters, the first six representing the PIN and the last two representing the problem. (For example, 142857B4.pdf.)
- In the Supervisor Portal, there will be uploading options for each participant. Supervisors will need to carefully upload the scans to the appropriate location associated with the

corresponding participant and problem. Uploads should not include scratch paper or blank paper. If participants have not made any progress on a problem, participants should not submit any material at all for that problem for uploading. Supervisors keep the original solutions on paper in a secure location for at least 2 months. The deadline for the upload is **December 7**.

- By uploading a solution, the supervisor is confirming that the student is eligible to participate in the competition. The Putnam Competition is open only to registered undergraduate students who have not yet received a college degree. No student may participate in the competition more than four times (not counting the unofficial 81st competition).