



Greater Testing Concepts
P.O. Box 760
Potsdam, NY 13676
info@mandelbrot.org
www.mandelbrot.org

Dear Coordinator,

Welcome to the 20th annual Mandelbrot Competition. We hope that your students will enjoy working on the carefully crafted sets of questions selected for this year's contests. Enclosed you will find instructions for administering the contest, a score sheet, your four-letter code, ribbons, and a manila envelope containing tests and solutions for each of the five rounds. If at any point you discover that you require an extra copy of a form, simply visit our web site—all of them are available there for downloading.

The dates pertaining to the five rounds of the 2009-2010 Mandelbrot Competition are as follows.

Round	Contest window	Results posted
One	November 2–8	November 10
Two	Nov 30–Dec 6	December 8
Three	January 4–10	January 12
Four	February 1–7	February 9
Five	March 1–7	March 9

Please schedule the tests for a given round on any day of the corresponding week. If a conflict arises preventing participation during the designated week, you are welcome to reschedule the contest for the week immediately prior to the official contest window. However, if your school is unable to find a time during either of these two weeks please contact Greater Testing Concepts before making alternate arrangements. Regardless of when the contest is administered, *please retain all testing materials and scores until Sunday afternoon at the end of the official contest week.* Students should also refrain from discussing the problems online until this point. However, you may grade the tests and enter scores at the web site at any point; preferably by Tuesday of the following week when standings are published. Note that entering scores later is not a problem; the standings automatically update to display the most current information.

Greater Testing Concepts offers two compilations of tests from past years for preparation or enrichment: *The Mandelbrot Problem Book*, an attractive collection of all individual and team tests from the years 1995 to 2002 with full solutions, and *The First Five Years*, an equally stunning volume chronicling the tests given from 1990 to 1995. (Please visit the “Resources” section of the web site for information on ordering.) You may also be interested in *The Art of Problem Solving*, a terrific introduction to all the topics appearing on The Mandelbrot Competition. Books may be ordered at www.artofproblemsolving.com.

In keeping with tradition, Greater Testing Concepts recognizes the highest ranking schools and students. The top five schools at the national level and the top three schools within each region will be awarded a plaque to showcase. In addition, the twenty highest scoring students at the national level and the ten highest scoring students within each region (more, if there are ties) will be designated Mandelbrot winners and sent an entertaining prize. We anticipate awarding two snazzy decks of Mandelbrot playing cards to all winners this year. The final results should be available by mid March, at which time it would be appropriate to award the ribbons included with your welcome packet to the four top students in your school at each level: red-white-blue for first, red for second, white for third, and light blue for fourth.

If you have any further questions regarding the contest, there is a wealth of information on the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page at the web site. We can be reached most efficiently by sending email to info@mandelbrot.org. Best wishes for a productive school year, and enjoy the competition!

Sincerely,

Sam Vandervelde
Competition Coordinator