



Greater Testing Concepts
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Dear Coordinator,

Welcome to the twenty-second annual Mandelbrot Competition. We hope that your students enjoy solving the carefully crafted sets of questions selected for this year's contests. As soon as possible coordinators should obtain the instructions for administering the contest along with a score sheet. Both of these documents may be downloaded from the web site; just click the [Forms](#) link on the left side bar.

The dates pertaining to the five rounds of the 2011-2012 Mandelbrot Competition are as follows.

| Round | Contest window | Results posted |
|-------|----------------|----------------|
| One | Oct 31–Nov 5 | November 8 |
| Two | Nov 28–Dec 3 | December 6 |
| Three | January 9–14 | January 17 |
| Four | Jan 30–Feb 4 | February 7 |
| Five | Feb 27–Mar 3 | March 6 |

Please schedule the tests for a given round on any day within the contest window indicated. 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 until the weekend at the end of the official contest week*. Students should also refrain from discussing the problems online until that Sunday. Observe that answer keys are not provided ahead of time. Instead, they will become available for download from the web site on Thursday during the contest week. Detailed instructions for accessing contest questions, obtaining solutions, and entering scores appear on the instructions form.

Greater Testing Concepts offers three compilations of tests from past years for preparation or enrichment: *The First Five Years*, which chronicles the tests given from 1990 to 1995, *The Mandelbrot Problem Book*, covering the years 1995 to 2002, and our most stunning compilation yet, *Mandelbrot Morsels*, featuring over four hundred engaging problems with full solutions from the competitions held from 2002 to 2009. Please visit the "Resources" section of the web site for information on ordering.

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 one of our specially designed T-shirts to all winners this year. The final results should be available by mid March. Prizes for students will be mailed out shortly thereafter, and plaques will follow later in April.

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