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2012 UCT Maths Competition breaks records: 8312 entries from 153 schools

Traffic alert: Substantial congestion expected near campus on the evening

A record entry of 8312 participants from a record number of 153 Western Cape schools will converge on the University of Cape Town Upper Campus on the evening of Monday, 16 April. After registration, they will move into 63 different venues across the campus to write the contest papers. Over 200 maths teachers from local schools assist in the running of the competition.

Engineering group Aurecon has donated R20,000 towards transport for 283 participants from 13 schools in Khayelitsha.

Separate papers for each of grades 8 to 12 have been set by a committee of maths teachers and UCT lecturers. Each paper consists of 30 questions: ten rather easy ones to start with, followed by ten that may require some head-scratching, and ending with ten really challenging brainstrainers. The problems are designed to test insight and creative thinking, unlike school exams, which consist of standard exercises requiring stereotyped solutions.

"Full marks in the UCT Mathematics Competition is a rare event," says Professor John Webb, of the UCT Mathematics Department. "The UCT Maths Competition has proved to be an excellent way of uncovering mathematical potential among our high schools."

While the best pupils will vie with each other for top honours as individuals, those who feel that two heads are better than one may compete as pairs. Pairs and individuals write the same paper, but are ranked separately.

The results will announced at a Prize Giving on Thursday, 7 June 2012 in the Baxter Concert Hall.

The UCT Mathematics Competition is sponsored by Aurecon and Capitec Bank, with prizes donated by Casio and Oxford University Press.

ENDS

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