



DSA (Maths) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the criteria and procedure for DSA Math applicants?

Only APMOPS* (Round 1) Platinum holders in your Primary 6 year will be considered.

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified and called up for a face-to-face interview.

*APMOPS (Asia-Pacific Mathematical Olympiad for Primary Schools) organised by Hwa Chong Institution

2. Is there any selection test?

No.

3. How will applicants be assessed during the interview?

Shortlisted applicants will be assessed based on their creativity and abilities in problem solving, communication and interest in the school.

4. How will the interview be conducted?

The face-to-face interview will be conducted by a panel of interviewers. More details will be given once candidates are shortlisted.

5. What are the CCAs which my son must join if he is successful in his application under DSA Math?

He is required to enrol in the Mathematics Competition Team as one of his two CCAs.

6. Since there is no selection test, what must be included in the portfolio?

All relevant documents and certificates must be submitted upon request. As these are non-returnable, please do not submit original copies. Shortlisted applicants may be required to provide the original documents for verification purposes.

7. In the event that my son is unsuccessful in his application through DSA Mathematics, can he still join the Math Competition team? What are the criteria to join as a member?

He can still apply to join the Mathematics Competition Team if he is posted to ACS(Independent) through the Secondary One Posting Exercise. There is no additional criteria to join as a member.

8. How many DSA vacancies were allocated for Mathematics DSA in the last few years?

There is no fixed number of vacancies for each talent category.

- 9. In the DSA portal, we fill in the boxes but there is no place to upload the portfolio eg copies of certificates. Will we be required to do this separately to ACS(Independent)?**

Students who are shortlisted for an interview will be asked to present the documents. Meanwhile they will need to mention all competition achievements in their application.

- 10. If my son is admitted via Maths DSA, can he switch to other CCAs later in secondary school?**

No, he is expected to be in Mathematics Competition Team for at least 4 years (for DSA for the SEC) or 6 years (for DSA for the IP).

- 11. If Mathematics Competition Team (MCT) is the main CCA, will the time commitment to the uniformed group CCA be less or equal to the MCT?**

Our Alpha trainings take up 3 hrs per week. They also will be participating in various competitions. As for uniformed group, they have CCA every Fri/Sat and maybe some other activities other than on their CCA day. The amount of time depends on the specific UG and what his role and position is in that UG.

- 12. Is there training provided? What type?**

Yes. Alpha (Basic) trainings for Year 1-3 and Omega (Advanced) trainings for Year 4-6s members.

- 13. Are the boys in the team grouped into Alpha/Omega training by age or ability level?**

The Year 1-3s are usually in Alpha. Year 4-6s are in Omega. Strong students in Alpha training can be reassigned to the Omega group.

- 14. Does everyone in the team get to participate in any of the competitions? Do you get to join these competitions if you are not part of this CCA?**

The full list of competitions is on our school CCA website. For most competitions it is up to the choice of the student to register. Some competitions are based on selection and performance in previous competitions.

Membership does have its privileges. Most competitions are for members only. A few are based on selection. Generally, for non-members only, some competitions are available and not all. We focus our talent development programs for members only.

- 15. Does ACS(Independent) have in-house math competitions?**

Yes. We have our very own ACS Math Challenge. This was designed, hosted, organised, and assessed by our Executive Committee Members.