



Cyprus Mathematical Society

www.cms.org.cy

Journalistic Article Competition for Mathematics 2026 – 2027

Framework – Objectives

The Cyprus Mathematical Society (CMS) announces a competition for the authoring of a journalistic article of philosophical reflection and expression of ideas on the topic:

“Can mathematics contribute to solving the Cyprus Problem? The limits and possibilities of science in political negotiations.”

The article will be of an exploratory/proof-based type, and participants are expected to highlight the role of Mathematics in understanding, analyzing, and modeling complex political issues, such as the Cyprus Problem. The article must present and substantiate approaches that connect Mathematics with negotiation processes, decision-making, scenario evaluation, and the limits of scientific thinking within political contexts.

Objectives of the Competition

1. Participants will have the opportunity to explore aspects such as:
 - Mathematics as a tool for analyzing complex socio-political problems.
 - How mathematical thinking contributes to forming well- argued views and strategies.
 - How game theory models can shed light the dynamics of negotiations.
 - The role of Statistics, Probability, and Optimization in evaluating scenarios and choices.
 - How logical reasoning and problem-solving processes develop in political environments.
 - The limits of Mathematics: can quantitative methods fully capture human values, historical accounts, and social sensitivities?
 - The relationship between Mathematics and justice, ethics, and social values in political decisions.
 - The future of contribution of Mathematics to peacemaking efforts and international negotiations.

- The philosophical dimensions arising from the attempt to “quantify” a deeply humanitarian and historical issue.
- 2. Participants will demonstrate communication skills through written expression.

Terms and Regulations

- 1) Students of Lower and Upper Secondary level from public and private schools in Cyprus are eligible to participate.
- 2) The submission deadline is **31st December 2026 at 12:00 noon.**
- 3) The articles should express the personal views and positions of the students on the topic. In case of referring to opinions of experts, studies, or other sources, clear reference must be made to the individual or entity and their work. Additionally, **in case Artificial Intelligence tools are used, this must be clearly stated along with the tools employed.** Each article must have **only one author.** Yet, a student may submit more than one article for the competition.
- 4) Articles containing opinions of others without reference will be rejected. References must be listed at the end of the article and count toward the maximum word limit. All texts will be electronically checked for plagiarism.
- 5) Articles must be sent by email to cms@cms.org.cy in both **WORD** and **PDF** format. The subject line of the email should read: **“Mathematics Article Competition 2027”**.

After the end of the article, at the bottom of the page the **following details must be stated:**

- Student’s Name and Surname
- Student’s Identity Card Number
- Student’s Date of Birth
- Guardian’s Name
- School Name and Grade the student attends
- Contact Telephone number
- Contact Address
- Contact Email Address

Each submitted article will receive a confirmation reply within 48 hours. Those who do not receive confirmation must contact **22378101**.

- 6) Articles must be of **600–1000 words length**, readable and neatly written. Photographs are not allowed. Articles can be submitted in Greek or English language.
- 7) Upon submission, publication rights are transferred to CY.M.S, which may publish any article with appropriate credit to the author. Also, by submitting the article you

declare that you have read and accepted the Privacy Policy of the Cyprus Mathematical Society (CY.M.S.) which is posted on the website www.cms.org.cy and that CY.M.S. is entitled to use the data provided for communication purposes and the announcement of results.

8) Evaluation Criteria

In Phase 1, the essays will be evaluated by a CYMS committee based on the following criteria:

- a) **Content**: in relation to the goals set for the topic in question
- b) **Language**: correct grammatical and syntactic use of the language that can be either Greek or English.
- c) **Structure and Organisation**
- d) **Argumentation and Persuasiveness**
- e) **Innovation in Content and Presentation**

This part of the competition will account for the **40% of the final score**.

9) **In Phase 2**, the authors of the **10 best articles** for each level (Gymnasium and Lyceum respectively) will be invited to present their article and their views in the Live Oral Final and to answer oral questions from the evaluators. Phase 2 will account for the **60% of the overall score**.

10) When Phase 2 is concluded, the two scores from Phases 1 and 2 will be added up and **the following prizes will be awarded to Gymnasium and Lyceum level students respectively** on the day of the Live Oral Final:

- **1st Prize**: Certificate of achievement, Special Plaque, and tablet
- **2nd Prize**: Certificate of achievement, Special Plaque
- **3rd Prize**: Certificate of achievement