

SIDEBAR WITH COLLEGE MATH CONTEST RESULTS

The contest papers which the 62 secondary school finalists from the Cariboo College region tackled this year were designed not so much to test mathematical knowledge as to challenge the competitors' problem-solving abilities.

"We were looking for the person who can read a question and strip away the non-essentials," said Dr. Jim Totten of the College's mathematics faculty, who, along with John Ciriani, compiled the test.

"This person can then go on to build a solution from the ground up. Since problem-solving skills rather than specific mathematical experience were called for, both the junior and senior finalists could write the same test."

He pointed out that four of the 20 top-ranking students overall came from the Grade 8-10 group.

Readers wishing to try to problem-solving skills are invited to submit a solution to the following sample from this year's test:

"Give the smallest positive number all of whose digits are either zeroes or ones and which is divisible evenly by 225.

Be sure to show how you obtained your result."

The solutions can be submitted to Dr. Totten at Cariboo College, P.O. Box 3010, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3.

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