

More information

A large amount of useful material on the BIO can be accessed at www.olympiad.org.uk including:

- details of past British Informatics Olympiads
- questions set in the BIO – many accompanied by worked answers and online solution programs
- links to related competitions and the IOI.

The British Informatics Olympiad

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The British Informatics Olympiad is approved and supported by **e-competitions**, the focus organisation for quality IT competitions. e-competitions represents a broad range of competitions that support education and training at all levels, from primary school to the workplace.

e-competitions is led by **e-skills NTO** and backed by representatives from some of the major IT companies, the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), the British Computer Society (BCS), the Computing Services and Software Association (CSSA), and the British Educational Communications Agency (BECTA).

Further information about e-competitions is available from:

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 **e-competitions**

British Informatics Olympiad



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 BIO '97 team training at Oxford



 BIO '99 team enjoying some free time at the IOI in Antalya, Turkey

The **British Informatics Olympiad** (BIO) is a competition in computer programming for students at schools, sixth form and FE colleges. The first round of the BIO is designed to be accessible to a very wide range of abilities. The next stage is the final, where the top fifteen participants compete for the chance to represent Britain at international level.

The BIO centres on solving problems against the clock using a computer. Any programming language and any computer can be used in the first round. There are also written questions designed to probe contestants' reasoning.



☒ BIO 2000 team at Corpus Christi



☒ BIO '99 team

Any student who is under 19 and in full time pre-university education in Britain can take part in the BIO. The competition consists of the following stages:

Round One This three-hour exam is set in schools and colleges in February and March of each year. It consists of three programming tasks of increasing difficulty, with additional written questions exploring the same problems. Teachers mark and send scripts to the BIO for selection for the final.

Final The top fifteen competitors are invited to the final, which is held in Cambridge over a weekend during the Easter holidays. The final consists of both written and programming exercises. As well as being challenging, it is great fun and allows the finalists to meet and exchange ideas.

International Olympiad in Informatics The top four finalists win a place on the team that travels, expenses paid, to represent Britain at the prestigious International Olympiad in Informatics. Forthcoming IOIs will be held in Tampere, Finland (2001), Seoul, Korea (2002) and the USA (2003).

The British Informatics Olympiad is sponsored by **Data Connection**, one of the world's most successful computer technology companies. Data Connection develops high quality, complex products for customers such as Cisco, Hewlett Packard, IBM/Lotus, Microsoft and Sun.

Data Connection's success is based on its ability to employ outstandingly talented individuals, which includes students who want to work either during a year out, or over the summer before going to university.

As a pre-university student, you will be given challenging programming assignments with plenty of support and expert guidance to encourage you to develop your technical and organisational skills. If you do really well, you may even be offered university sponsorship.

For more information and an application form contact Justine McLennan at the address below, or visit our website and apply on-line.

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