



# William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition 2018

**Do you like mathematics and problem solving?**

**Do you want to challenge yourself?**

**Take the Putnam Exam on December 1!**

The **William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition**, known more briefly as the **Putnam Exam** or the Putnam, is an annual mathematics competition open to undergraduates in the United States and Canada. Administered by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), the Putnam is widely regarded as the most challenging undergraduate mathematics examination given in America.

The exam is written to test both technical competence in undergraduate mathematics and problem-solving skills. The Putnam Exam is given the first Saturday in December. Southern students take it here on campus, so there is no traveling involved. The exam itself consists of twelve problems; six are given during the three-hour morning session and six are given during the three-hour afternoon session. The two sessions are separated by a two-hour lunch break. At Southern, the lunch is provided by the Mathematics Department.

**This year's Putnam Exam will be given on December 1, 2018. To take the exam in December, a student must register in advance. There is no cost. To register, see Dr. Ross Gingrich in EN D132 or contact him by email at [gingrichr1@southernct.edu](mailto:gingrichr1@southernct.edu). You need to register with Dr. Gingrich by October 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are thinking about taking the exam but are still undecided, talk to Dr. Gingrich, as there is no penalty for registering but not taking the exam.**

There will be a presentation, "**Introduction to the Putnam Exam**", on **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:05-2:00 pm**, in **EN D122**. This presentation will be designed for people unfamiliar with the Putnam. There will be time for questions and answers, and there will be pizza.

To help Southern students prepare for the Putnam Exam, the Mathematics Department will be running the **Putnam Seminar on Friday afternoons** during the Fall Semester in EN D122, the Mathematics Seminar Room. The seminar is

voluntary; a student can take the exam without participating in the seminar but still must register by October 11<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Gingrich. Students may also participate in the seminar without taking the Putnam Exam.

While each seminar session is scheduled from 1:00-3:00 pm, students need not attend every session and need not be there for the entire two hours. During the sessions, we will discuss various problem solving strategies in mathematics and will work on solving Putnam-like problems and problems from past Putnam exams.

The next Putnam Seminar will be **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:05-3:00 pm**, in EN D122. From 1:05-2:00 pm, we will run a session “Introduction to the Putnam Exam” for those unfamiliar with the exam, while simultaneously we will have problems to work on for others.

For more information about the Putnam Exam or our Putnam Seminar, please contact Dr. Gingrich in the Mathematics Department.