

This was the first time I had ever participated in a FOBISIA Maths Competition. I have always seen FOBISIA as a great accomplishment or goal to stride towards, and so when I received the news that I was selected to be a part of it, naturally I was ecstatic. The competition was to be held over the course of two days: the 2nd and 3rd of November. I soon got to know that my team consisted of three of my other classmates from my year, Year 8: Ju-lia, Felicia and Minuk. The first task we had to do was the project work. We had four tasks to solve and put into a presentable format to be sent to the judges by the 29th of October. I remember that we finished all 4 tasks on the day before our teachers wanted us to submit our work to them so that they could check it. It was a Sunday and the meeting we had took about 4 hours. The tasks were very challenging, as they required much thinking. We were all exclaiming about how brain-wracking these questions were for quite some time during the meeting before we finally accepted reality and continued to work on it silently. I could definitely say that I would never look at probability the same away again, however. One of the questions that required too much thinking was about our opinion on the statement, "if I take a bomb with me on an airplane, I'm much less likely to get blown up by someone else's bomb". This question required so much justification, we included psychology in our answer, and wrote a response that was no different than an essay. Nevertheless, we had fun while thinking out all the problems, and also decorating the slides. We were also shortlisted for the project work! And we got to go into an interview with some of the judges from Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar International School.

Overall, this competition has certainly been an unforgettable experience for me. Not only was I solving questions more advanced than my level, I also learned a few new concepts, such as Pascal's Triangle. That was particularly interesting to learn about, and Mr. Iwan even gave us a lesson on it. The online part was very brand-new to me, as I never participated in any kind of online competition that was held this way before, and it proved to be much easier and convenient than I expected. I hope that I will get more opportunities like this to expand my knowledge of maths further.

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