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**Building mathematics competence via multiple choice competitions.**

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Summary: The paper focuses on a type of mathematics competence noted as synthetic. It is needed for success in multiple choice competition problems and it is crucial for the further development of advanced school students. The concept of synthetic competence includes a large fraction of mathematical competences, but also competences and skills related to informatics and linguistics. The general structure of a multiple choice competition is considered as the first level of assessment of the mathematics component of the synthetic competence. As the second level under consideration is the set of complex tasks in a competition test any of which is a bouquet of ideas. Our standpoint on the didactic specifics and goals of the two levels in perspective of the gifted education is briefly presented in the article and some examples are given.

*Classification:* D54 D30

*Keywords:* special education (gifted); mathematical synthetic competence; multiple choice competition (MCC); key competences; ability; skills; extracurricular activities; math-tournament competence; goals of mathematics education