

Rugby Scores

ATM - Supporting Mathsweek England



The men's Rugby World Cup 2019 was held in October in Japan. To win a game of rugby you need to score the most points. Points can be scored in these different ways:



Try = 5 points
 Try with conversion = 7 points
 Penalty kick or drop goal = 3 points



England beat Tonga 35 to 3. Tonga scored three points though a penalty kick or drop goal. How did England score 35 points? Hint: it wasn't by scoring 7 tries.

The final scores for the other England games are below. Can you work out how all the teams scored their points? Is there more than one way to score some of these points?

England 45	USA 7
England 39	Argentina 10
England 40	Australia 16
England 19	New Zealand 7
England 12	South Africa 32



It is not possible for a team to score every number of points. What is the highest score that it is not possible to score? How do you know? Use the table below adding as many rows as you need.

Total score	Is it possible?	Number of tries	Number of tries with conversions	Number of penalty kicks or drop goals
1				
2				
3	✓	0	0	1
4				
5	✓	1	0	0
6				

Teacher notes and answers:

England scored 35 points through 1 try, 3 tries with conversions and 3 drop goals / penalty kicks

	Total score	Try (5)	Try with conversion (7)	Penalty kick / drop goal (3)
England	45	2	5	0
USA	7	0	1	0
England	39	3	3	1
Argentina	10	0	1	1
England	40	0	4	4
Australia	16	0	1	3
England	19	0	1	4
New Zealand	7	0	1	0
England	12	0	0	4
South Africa	32	0	2	6

<https://www.autumn-internationals.co.uk/RWC-2019/england-fixtures.html>

The lowest score that is not possible is 4. You can score 5 (try), 6 (penalty kick / drop goal) and 7 (converted try) points and by adding penalty kicks / drop goals to each of these over and over you can get all other scores.

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