Topic: Reference angles

Question: What is the reference angle of $37\pi/5$?

Answer choices:

- A $\frac{\pi}{5}$
- B $\frac{2\pi}{5}$
- $C \qquad \frac{3\pi}{5}$
- D $\frac{4\pi}{5}$

Solution: B

The angle $\theta=37\pi/5$ is three full rotations of 2π in the positive direction, and then an extra $7\pi/5$ in the positive direction, which means the angle is coterminal with $\theta=7\pi/5$.

The angle $\theta = 7\pi/5$ is in the third quadrant, so the reference angle β is

$$\beta = \theta - \pi$$

$$\beta = \frac{7\pi}{5} - \pi$$

$$\beta = \frac{7\pi}{5} - \frac{5\pi}{5}$$

$$\beta = \frac{2\pi}{5}$$

Topic: Reference angles

Question: Which angle is a reference angle for $1,180^{\circ}$?

Answer choices:

A 10°

B 80°

C 100°

D 260°



Solution: B

The angle $\theta=1{,}180^\circ$ is three full rotations of 360° , plus an extra 100° in the positive direction, which means the angle is coterminal with $\theta=100^\circ$.

So the angle $\theta=1{,}180^\circ$ is coterminal with $\theta=100^\circ$. Now that we have a positive coterminal angle, we can find the reference angle.

Since $\theta=100^\circ$ is in the second quadrant, the reference angle β is

$$\beta = 180^{\circ} - \theta$$

$$\beta = 180^{\circ} - 100^{\circ}$$

$$\beta = 80^{\circ}$$

Topic: Reference angles

Question: What is the reference angle of $-\pi/4$?

Answer choices:

$$A \qquad -\frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\mathsf{B} \qquad \frac{5\pi}{4}$$

$$C \qquad \frac{9\pi}{4}$$

D
$$\frac{\pi}{4}$$

Solution: D

We want to convert this to a positive angle, which we can do by adding the negative angle to 2π .

$$\theta = -\frac{\pi}{4} + 2\pi$$

$$\theta = -\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{8\pi}{4}$$

$$\theta = \frac{7\pi}{4}$$

So the angle $\theta = -\pi/4$ is coterminal with $\theta = 7\pi/4$. Now that we have a positive coterminal angle, we can find the reference angle.

Since $\theta = 7\pi/4$ is in the fourth quadrant, the reference angle β is

$$\beta = 2\pi - \theta$$

$$\beta = 2\pi - \frac{7\pi}{4}$$

$$\beta = \frac{8\pi}{4} - \frac{7\pi}{4}$$

$$\beta = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

