## Cyclic Group Exercises: Answers

- 1. (a) Generators are  $g^k$  for  $1 \le k \le 4$ .
  - (b) Generators are  $g^k$  for  $k \in \{1, 3, 7, 9\}$ .
  - (c) Generators are  $g^{2k-1}$  for  $1 \le k \le 8$ .
  - (d) Generators are  $g^k$  for  $k \in \{1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19\}$ .
- 2. (a) Generators of  $\mathbb{Z}_5$  are k for  $1 \leq k \leq 4$ .
  - (b) Generators of  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$  are k for  $k \in \{1, 3, 7, 9\}$ .
  - (c) Generators of  $\mathbb{Z}_{16}$  are 2k-1 for  $1 \leq k \leq 8$ .
  - (d) Generators of  $\mathbb{Z}_{20}$  are k for  $k \in \{1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19\}.$
- 3. (a) U(7) is cyclic with generator 3.
  - (b) U(12) is not cyclic: every nonidentity element has order 2, but U(12) has order 8.
  - (c) U(16) is not cyclic: the nonidentity elements have orders 2 or 4, but U(16) has order 8.
  - (d) U(11) is cyclic with generator 2.
- 4. (a)  $|g^2| = 10$  (b)  $|g^8| = 5$  (c)  $|g^5| = 4$  (d)  $|g^3| = 20$
- 5. (a) Subgroups:  $H_1 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,  $H_2 = \langle g^2 \rangle$ ,  $H_3 = \langle g^4 \rangle$ ,  $H_4 = G$ .
  - (b) Subgroups:  $H_1 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,  $H_2 = \langle g^2 \rangle$ ,  $H_3 = \langle g^5 \rangle$ ,  $H_4 = G$ .
  - (c) Subgroups:  $H_1 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,  $H_2 = \langle g^2 \rangle$ ,  $H_3 = \langle g^3 \rangle$ ,  $H_4 = \langle g^6 \rangle$ ,  $H_5 = \langle g^9 \rangle$ ,  $H_6 = G$ .
  - (d) Subgroups  $H_1 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,  $H_2 = \langle g^p \rangle$ ,  $H_3 = \langle g^{p^2} \rangle$ ,  $H_4 = G$ .
  - (e) Subgroups  $H_1 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,  $H_2 = \langle g^p \rangle$ ,  $H_3 = \langle g^q \rangle$ ,  $H_4 = G$ .
  - (f) Subgroups  $H_1 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,  $H_2 = \langle g^p \rangle$ ,  $H_3 = \langle g^{p^2} \rangle$ ,  $H_4 = \langle g^q \rangle$ ,  $H_5 = \langle g^{pq} \rangle$ ,  $H_6 = G$ .
- 6. (a)  $H = \langle a \rangle$ 
  - (b)  $H = \langle a^2 \rangle$
  - (c)  $H = \langle a^d \rangle$
  - (d) H = G

Below are detailed solutions to a couple of the exercises.

Exercise 6. Part (c)

**Claim:** If  $G = \langle a \rangle$  and  $x = x^m$ ,  $y = a^k$ , then the subgroup, generated by x and y, is  $H = \langle x, y \rangle = \langle a^d \rangle$ , where  $d = \gcd(m, k)$ .

Proof. If  $d = \gcd(m, k)$ , then there exist integers r, s such that d = rm + sk. Therefore,  $a^d = a^{rm+sk} = a^{rm}a^{sk} = x^ry^s$ . This proves that  $a^d \in \langle x, y \rangle$ , so  $\langle a^d \rangle \subseteq \langle x, y \rangle$ . On the other hand,  $d \mid m$ , so  $m = \alpha d$  and  $x = a^m = a^{\alpha d} = (a^d)^{\alpha}$ , so  $x \in \langle a^d \rangle$ . Similarly,  $d \mid k$ , so  $k = \beta d$  and  $y = a^k = a^{\beta d} = (a^d)^{\beta}$ , so  $y \in \langle a^d \rangle$ . Therefore,  $\langle x, y \rangle \subseteq \langle a^d \rangle$ .