

ANSWER KEYS

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|----------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1. (3) | 2. (66) | 3. (1) | 4. (1) | 5. (3) | 6. (1) | 7. (1) | 8. (1) |
| 9. (16) | 10. (1) | 11. (2) | 12. (2) | 13. (2) | 14. (98) | 15. (9) | 16. (2) |
| 17. (1) | 18. (2) | 19. (272) | 20. (2) | 21. (25) | 22. (3) | 23. (3) | 24. (2) |
| 25. (25) | 26. (13) | 27. (2) | 28. (2) | 29. (9) | 30. (1) | | |

1. (3)

Given $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2} = 15$

For equation $3x^2 + \lambda x - 1 = 0$

$\alpha + \beta = \frac{-\lambda}{3}, \alpha\beta = \frac{-1}{3} \Rightarrow \alpha^2\beta^2 = \frac{1}{9}$

then $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = (\alpha + \beta)^2 - 2\alpha\beta = \frac{\lambda^2}{9} - 2\left(\frac{-1}{3}\right) = \frac{\lambda^2}{9} + \frac{2}{3}$

$\Rightarrow \alpha^2 + \beta^2 = \frac{\lambda^2 + 6}{9}$

Now $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2} = 15 \Rightarrow \frac{\alpha^2 + \beta^2}{\alpha^2\beta^2} = 15$

$\Rightarrow \frac{\lambda^2 + 6}{9} \times \frac{1}{\alpha^2\beta^2} = 15 \Rightarrow \frac{\lambda^2 + 6}{9} \times \frac{1}{\frac{1}{9}} = 15$

$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 + 6 = 15 \Rightarrow \lambda = \pm 3$

Now $6(\alpha^3 + \beta^3)^2 = 6((\alpha + \beta)(\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta + \beta^2))^2$

$= 6 \times 1 \times \left(\frac{15}{9} + \frac{1}{3}\right)^2$

$= 6 \times 1 \times (2)^2 = 6 \times 4 = 24$

2. (66)

We have,

$\frac{2}{x-1} - \frac{1}{x-2} = \frac{2}{k}$

$\Rightarrow \frac{2x-4-x+1}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \frac{2}{k}$

$\Rightarrow \frac{x-3}{x^2-3x+2} = \frac{2}{k}$

$\Rightarrow kx - 3k = 2x^2 - 6x + 4$

$\Rightarrow 2x^2 - (6+k)x + 3k + 4 = 0$

For no real roots $D < 0$

$\Rightarrow (6+k)^2 - 8(3k+4) < 0$

$\Rightarrow k^2 + 12k + 36 - 24k - 32 < 0$

$\Rightarrow (k-6)^2 - 32 < 0$

$\Rightarrow |k-6| < \sqrt{32}$

$\Rightarrow 6 - \sqrt{32} < k < 6 + \sqrt{32}$

Integral value of $k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11$

Sum $= \frac{11 \times 12}{2} = 66$

3. (1)

$\therefore \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R} \Rightarrow$ other root is $1 + 2i$

$\alpha = -(\text{sum of roots}) = -(1 - 2i + 1 + 2i) = -2$

$\beta = \text{product of roots} = (1 - 2i)(1 + 2i) = 5$

$\therefore \alpha - \beta = -7$

option (1)

4. (1)

$$\text{Let } x = 3 + \frac{1}{4 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{4 + \frac{1}{3 + \dots}}}}$$

$$\text{So, } x = 3 + \frac{1}{4 + \frac{1}{x}} = 3 + \frac{1}{\frac{4x+1}{x}}$$

$$\Rightarrow (x-3) = \frac{x}{(4x+1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (4x+1)(x-3) = x$$

$$\Rightarrow 4x^2 - 12x + x - 3 = x$$

$$\Rightarrow 4x^2 - 12x - 3 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{12 \pm \sqrt{(12)^2 + 12 \times 4}}{2 \times 4} = \frac{12 \pm \sqrt{12(16)}}{8}$$

$$= \frac{12 \pm 4 \times 2\sqrt{3}}{8} = \frac{3 \pm 2\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{3} = 1.5 \pm \sqrt{3}.$$

But only positive value is accepted

$$\text{So, } x = 1.5 + \sqrt{3}$$

5. (3)

In given equation $x^2 + px + q = 0$, $p, q \in \mathbb{Q}$.

And, we know that the irrational roots of a quadratic equation exist in conjugate pair, if the coefficients are rational.

Thus, if one root of the equation $x^2 + px + q = 0$ is $2 - \sqrt{3}$, then, the other root will be $2 + \sqrt{3}$.

We know that the sum and product of the roots of a quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ are respectively $-\frac{b}{a}$ and $\frac{c}{a}$.

Therefore, the sum of roots $2 + \sqrt{3} + 2 - \sqrt{3} = -p$

$$\Rightarrow p = -4$$

And, the product of roots $(2 + \sqrt{3})(2 - \sqrt{3}) = q$

$$\Rightarrow q = 2^2 - (\sqrt{3})^2 = 1$$

$$\text{Thus, we have } p^2 - 4q - 12 = (-4)^2 - 4 \times 1 - 12 = 16 - 16 = 0.$$

Thus, the answer is, $p^2 - 4q - 12 = 0$.

6. (1)

$$\text{Given, } x^4 + x^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$\text{Using the formula } a^4 + a^2 + 1 = (a^2 + a + 1)(a^2 - a + 1)$$

$$\text{We get, } (x^2 + x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm \omega, \pm \omega^2 \text{ where } \omega = 1^{1/3} \text{ and imaginary.}$$

$$\text{So } \alpha^{1011} + \alpha^{2022} - \alpha^{3033} = 1 + 1 - 1 = 1$$

7. (1)

$$x^2 + \sqrt{6}x + 3 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-\sqrt{6} \pm \sqrt{6-12}}{2} = \frac{-\sqrt{6} \pm \sqrt{6}i}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{3}\sqrt{2}(-1 \pm i)}{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{2}}$$

$$= \sqrt{3} \left(\frac{-1}{2} \pm \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

$$= \sqrt{3} \left(\cos \frac{3\pi}{4} \pm \left(\sin \frac{3\pi}{4} \right) i \right)$$

$$= \sqrt{3} e^{\pm i \left(\frac{3\pi}{4} \right)}$$

$$\alpha = \sqrt{3} e^{i \left(\frac{3\pi}{4} \right)} \text{ and } \beta = \sqrt{3} e^{i \left(\frac{-3\pi}{4} \right)}$$

$$\text{Now, } (\alpha)^{23} + (\beta)^{23} = (\sqrt{3})^{23} \left[e^{i \left(\frac{69\pi}{4} \right)} + e^{-i \left(\frac{69\pi}{4} \right)} \right]$$

$$= (\sqrt{3})^{23} \left[2 \cos \left(\frac{69\pi}{4} \right) \right]$$

$$\text{Similarly } \rightarrow (\alpha)^{14} + (\beta)^{14} = (\sqrt{3})^{14} \left[2 \cos \left(\frac{42\pi}{4} \right) \right]$$

$$\rightarrow (\alpha)^{15} + (\beta)^{15} = (\sqrt{3})^{15} \left[2 \cos \left(\frac{45\pi}{4} \right) \right]$$

$$\rightarrow (\alpha)^{10} + (\beta)^{10} = (\sqrt{3})^{10} \left[2 \cos \left(\frac{30\pi}{4} \right) \right]$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{\alpha^{23} + \beta^{23} + \alpha^{14} + \beta^{14}}{\alpha^{15} + \beta^{15} + \alpha^{10} + \beta^{10}}$$

$$= \frac{(\sqrt{3})^{23} \left[2 \cos \left(16\pi + \frac{5\pi}{4} \right) \right] + (\sqrt{3})^{14} \left[2 \cos \left(10\pi + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right]}{(\sqrt{3})^{15} \left[2 \cos \left(10\pi + \frac{5\pi}{4} \right) \right] + (\sqrt{3})^{10} \left[2 \cos \left(16\pi + \frac{3\pi}{2} \right) \right]}$$

$$= \frac{(\sqrt{3})^{23} 2 \cos \left(\frac{5\pi}{4} \right)}{(\sqrt{3})^{15} 2 \cos \left(\frac{5\pi}{4} \right)} = (\sqrt{3})^8 = 81$$

8. (1)

For given quadratic $375x^2 - 25x - 2 = 0$, its roots are,

$$\alpha, \beta = \frac{25 \pm \sqrt{25^2 + 2 \times 4 \times 375}}{2 \times 375} \Rightarrow |\alpha| < 1, |\beta| < 1$$

$$\text{Also, } \alpha + \beta = \frac{25}{375}, \quad \alpha\beta = \frac{-2}{375}$$

$$\text{Now } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{r=1}^n \alpha^r + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{r=1}^n \beta^r$$

$$= \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} + \frac{\beta}{1-\beta} \left[a + ar + ar^2 + \dots \text{ infinite terms} \right]$$

$$= \frac{(\alpha+\beta) - 2\alpha\beta}{1 - (\alpha+\beta) + \alpha\beta} = \frac{\frac{25}{375} + \frac{4}{375}}{1 - \frac{25}{375} - \frac{2}{375}} = \frac{29}{348} = \frac{1}{12}$$

9. (16) Given,

$$P_n = \alpha^n - \beta^n \text{ and } \alpha \text{ \& } \beta \text{ are roots of } x^2 - x - 4 = 0$$

Now replacing n with $n - 1$ in $P_n = \alpha^n - \beta^n$ we get,

$$P_{n-1} = (\alpha^{n-1} - \beta^{n-1})$$

Now subtracting $P_n - P_{n-1}$ we get,

$$P_n - P_{n-1} = (\alpha^n - \beta^n) - (\alpha^{n-1} - \beta^{n-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow P_n - P_{n-1} = \alpha^{n-2}(\alpha^2 - \alpha) - \beta^{n-2}(\beta^2 - \beta)$$

Now using the equation $\alpha^2 - \alpha - 4 = 0$ & $\beta^2 - \beta - 4 = 0$ we get,

$$P_n - P_{n-1} = 4(\alpha^{n-2} - \beta^{n-2})$$

$$P_n - P_{n-1} = 4P_{n-2}$$

which implies that $P_{15} - P_{14} = 4P_{13}$ and $P_{16} - P_{15} = 4P_{14}$

Now putting the value in given expression

$$P_{15}P_{16} - P_{14}P_{16} - P_{15}^2 + P_{14}P_{15}$$

$$= \frac{P_{13}P_{14}}{P_{13}P_{14}} \left(P_{16}(P_{15} - P_{14}) - P_{15}(P_{15} - P_{14}) \right)$$

$$= \frac{(P_{15} - P_{14})(P_{16} - P_{15})}{P_{13}P_{14}} = \frac{(4P_{13})(4P_{14})}{P_{13}P_{14}} = 16$$

10. (1)

$$\text{Given, } x^2 + 5\sqrt{2}x + 10 = 0$$

$$\text{and } P_n = \alpha^n - \beta^n$$

$$\text{Now } \frac{P_{17}P_{20} + 5\sqrt{2}P_{17}P_{19}}{P_{18}P_{19} + 5\sqrt{2}P_{18}^2} = \frac{P_{17}(P_{20} + 5\sqrt{2}P_{19})}{P_{18}(P_{19} + 5\sqrt{2}P_{18})}$$

$$= \frac{P_{17}(\alpha^{20} - \beta^{20} + 5\sqrt{2}(\alpha^{19} - \beta^{19}))}{P_{18}(\alpha^{19} - \beta^{19} + 5\sqrt{2}(\alpha^{18} - \beta^{18}))}$$

$$= \frac{P_{17}(\alpha^{19}(\alpha + 5\sqrt{2}) - \beta^{19}(\beta + 5\sqrt{2}))}{P_{18}(\alpha^{18}(\alpha + 5\sqrt{2}) - \beta^{18}(\beta + 5\sqrt{2}))}$$

$$\text{Since } \alpha + 5\sqrt{2} = -10/\alpha \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\text{\& } \beta + 5\sqrt{2} = -10/\beta \quad \dots(2)$$

Now put these values in above expression

$$\frac{P_{17}(\alpha^{19}(\alpha + 5\sqrt{2}) - \beta^{19}(\beta + 5\sqrt{2}))}{P_{18}(\alpha^{18}(\alpha + 5\sqrt{2}) - \beta^{18}(\beta + 5\sqrt{2}))} = \frac{-10P_{17}P_{18}}{-10P_{18}P_{17}} = 1$$

11. (2) Given equation is-

$$|(x^2) - 8x + 15| - 2x + 7 = 0$$

$$|(x - 5)(x - 3)| - 2x + 7 = 0$$

Now, as per wavy-curve method and rules of modulus-

For $x \leq 3$ or $x \geq 5$

$$x^2 - 8x + 15 - 2x + 7 = 0$$

$$x = 5 + \sqrt{3}$$

For $3 < x < 5$,

$$x^2 - 8x + 15 + 2x - 7 = 0$$

$$x = 4$$

$$\text{Hence sum} = 9 + \sqrt{3}$$

12. (2)

Case-I

$$x \leq 5$$

$$(x+1)^2 - (x-5) = \frac{27}{4}$$

$$(x+1)^2 - (x+1) - \frac{3}{4} = 0$$

$$x+1 = \frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}$$

Case-II

$$x > 5$$

$$(x+1) + (x-5) = \frac{27}{4}$$

$$(x+1)^2 + (x+1) - \frac{51}{4} = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{52}}{2} \text{ (rejected as } x > 5 \text{)}$$

So, the equation have two real root.

13. (2)

Given α, β be the roots of the equation $x^2 - \sqrt{2}x + \sqrt{6} = 0$

So sum of roots will be $\alpha + \beta = \sqrt{2}$ and product of roots will be $\alpha\beta = \sqrt{6}$

And also given $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} + 1$ and $\frac{1}{\beta^2} + 1$ are roots of $x^2 + ax + b = 0$

So sum of roots will be $-a = \frac{1}{\alpha^2} + 1 + \frac{1}{\beta^2} + 1$

$$\Rightarrow a = \frac{-1}{\alpha^2} - \frac{1}{\beta^2} - 2 \dots (1)$$

And similarly product of roots will be,

$$b = \frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2} + 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha^2\beta^2} \dots (2)$$

Now adding equation (1) & (2) we get,

$$a + b = \frac{1}{(\alpha\beta)^2} - 1 = \frac{1}{6} - 1 = -\frac{5}{6} \text{ \{as } \alpha\beta = \sqrt{6}\}}$$

Now putting the value of $a + b$ in $x^2 - (a + b - 2)x + (a + b + 2) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - \left(-\frac{5}{6} - 2\right)x + \left(2 - \frac{5}{6}\right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 6x^2 + 17x + 7 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -\frac{7}{3}, x = -\frac{1}{2} \text{ are the roots, both roots are real and negative.}$$

14. (98) Given α & β are roots of $x^2 - 4\lambda x + 5 = 0$

So, $\alpha + \beta = 4\lambda$ and $\alpha\beta = 5$

And α & γ are roots of $x^2 - (3\sqrt{2} + 2\sqrt{3})x + (7 + 3\lambda\sqrt{3}) = 0$

So, $\alpha + \gamma = 3\sqrt{2} + 2\sqrt{3}$ and $\alpha\gamma = 7 + 3\lambda\sqrt{3}$

Given, if $\beta + \gamma = 3\sqrt{2}$

So, from equation (i) and (ii) we get, $\alpha = 2\lambda + \sqrt{3}$ and

$\beta = 2\lambda - \sqrt{3}$, Now by product of roots we get, $4\lambda^2 - 3 = 5 \Rightarrow \lambda = \sqrt{2}$

$$\therefore (\alpha + 2\beta + \gamma)^2 = (\alpha + \beta + \beta + \gamma)^2 = (4\lambda + 3\sqrt{2})^2$$

$$= (4\sqrt{2} + 3\sqrt{2})^2 = (7\sqrt{2})^2 = 98$$

15. (9)

$$x^2 - 12x + [x] + 31 = 0$$

$$\{x\} = x^2 - 11x + 31$$

$$0 \leq x^2 - 11x + 31 < 1$$

$$x^2 - 11x + 30 < 0$$

$$x \in (5, 6)$$

$$\text{so } [x] = 5$$

$$x^2 - 12x + 5 + 31 = 0$$

$$x^2 - 12x + 36 = 0$$

$$x = 6 \quad \text{but } x \in (5, 6)$$

$$\text{so } x \in \phi$$

$$m = 0$$

Now

$$x^2 - 5|x + 2| - 4 = 0$$

$$x \geq -2$$

$$x^2 - 5x - 14 = 0$$

$$(x - 7)(x + 2) = 0$$

$$x = 7, -2$$

$$x < -2$$

$$x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$$

$$(x + 3)(x + 2) = 0$$

$$x = -3, -2$$

$$x = \{7, -2, -3\}$$

$$n = 3$$

$$m^2 + mn + n^2 = n^2 = 9$$

16. (2)

The Given equation is $x^2 + 9y^2 - 4x + 3 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 9y^2 + 0y + (x^2 - 4x + 3) = 0$$

Make quadratic of y , we have $D \geq 0$ As it gives real values

$$\Rightarrow 0 - 4 \times 9 \times (x^2 - 4x + 3) \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - 3x - x + 3 \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x - 3)(x - 1) \leq 0$$

$$x \in [1, 3]$$

Now making quadratic in x equation is $x^2 - 4x + 3 + 9y^2 = 0$

$$D \geq 0$$

$$16 - 4 \times (3 + 9y^2) \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 - 3 - 9y^2 \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 9y^2 \leq 1$$

$$\Rightarrow y \in \left[-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right]$$

17. (1)

Let α, β be the roots of the equation

$$x^2 + (3 - a)x + 1 - 2a = 0$$

Then, sum of roots $\alpha + \beta = a - 3$

And product of roots $\alpha\beta = 1 - 2a$

We know that $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = (\alpha + \beta)^2 - 2\alpha\beta$

$$\therefore \alpha^2 + \beta^2 = (a - 3)^2 - 2(1 - 2a)$$

$$= a^2 - 2a + 7$$

$$= (a - 1)^2 + 6$$

\therefore Minimum value of $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = 6$ at $a = 1$.

18. (2)

We have,

$$x^2 + 2(a + 4)x - 5a + 64 > 0$$

If $A > 0$ and $D = B^2 - 4AC < 0$, then $Ax^2 + Bx + C > 0 \forall x \in R$.

Hence,

$$D < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 4(a + 4)^2 - 4(-5a + 64) < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a^2 + 16 + 8a + 5a - 64 < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a^2 + 13a - 48 < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (a + 16)(a - 3) < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a \in (-16, 3)$$

\therefore Possible values for a are $\{-15, -14, \dots, 2\}$ containing 18 integers.

But given range of a is $[-5, 30]$, hence a would take values $\{-5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$, containing 8 integers.

And, $[-5, 30]$ has 36 numbers.

\therefore Required probability

$$= \frac{8}{36}$$

$$= \frac{2}{9}$$

19. (272)

$$\text{Given, } (p^2 + q^2)x^2 - 2q(p + r)x + q^2 + r^2 = 0$$

On simplifying we get, $(px - q)^2 + (qx - r)^2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow px - q = 0 \text{ \& } qx - r = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{q}{p} = \frac{r}{q}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{q}{p} = \frac{r}{q} = 4 \quad [\text{because roots of equation } x^2 - 2x - 8 = 0 \text{ are } 4 \text{ or } -2]$$

As p, q, r are positive, so x must be 4.

$$\text{Now, } q = 4p \text{ and } r = 4q = 16p$$

$$\text{So, } \frac{q^2 + r^2}{p^2} = \frac{(4p)^2 + (16p)^2}{p^2} = 16 + 256 = 272.$$

So $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = 3^2 + 7^2 = 9 + 49 = 58$

21. (25)

$$\text{Let } f(x) = (x - \alpha)(x - \beta)$$

$$\text{It is given that } f(0) = p \Rightarrow \alpha\beta = p$$

$$\text{and } f(1) = \frac{1}{3} \Rightarrow (1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta) = \frac{1}{3}$$

Now let us assume that α is the common root of $f(x) = 0$ and $f(f(f(f(f(x)))) = 0$

$$f(f(f(f(f(x)))) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f(f(f(f(f(\alpha)))) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f(f(f(f(0)))) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f(f(p)) = 0$$

So, $f(p)$ is either α or β .

$$\text{Now assuming } (p - \alpha)(p - \beta) = \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow (\alpha\beta - \alpha)(\alpha\beta - \beta) = \alpha \Rightarrow (\beta - 1)(\alpha - 1)\beta = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\beta}{3} = 1 \left(\text{as } (1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta) = \frac{1}{3} \right)$$

$$\text{So, } \beta = 3$$

Now finding α by putting the value of β in $(1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta) = \frac{1}{3}$,

$$\Rightarrow (1 - \alpha)(1 - 3) = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{7}{6}$$

$$\text{So, } f(x) = \left(x - \frac{7}{6}\right)(x - 3)$$

$$\text{So, } f(-3) = \left(-3 - \frac{7}{6}\right)(-3 - 3) = 25$$

22. (3) As there is exactly one root between 0 and 1,

$$f(0) \cdot f(1) \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2(\lambda^2 + 1 - 4\lambda + 2) \leq 0 \Rightarrow 2(\lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3) \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 3) \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda \in [1, 3]$$

But at $\lambda = 1$, both roots are 1.

$$\text{So, } \lambda \neq 1, \lambda \in (1, 3]$$

23. (3)

$$x^3 - 2x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0$$

$x = 1$ satisfying the equation

$\therefore x - 1$ is factor of $x^3 - 2x^2 + 2x - 1$

$$= (x - 1)(x^2 - x + 1) = 0$$

$$x = 1, \frac{1+i\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1-i\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$x = 1, -\omega^2, -\omega$$

sum of 162^{th} power of roots

$$= (1)^{162} + (-\omega^2)^{162} + (-\omega)^{162}$$

$$= 1 + (\omega)^{324} + (\omega)^{162}$$

$$= 1 + 1 + 1 = 3$$

24. (2)

Given:

$$S = \left\{ x : (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} + (\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} = 10 \right\}$$

Now,

$$\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2} = \frac{(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}}$$

So,

$$(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} + (\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} = 10$$

$$\Rightarrow (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}}\right)^{x^2-4} = 10$$

Put $(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} = u$, then

$$u + \frac{1}{u} = 10$$

$$\Rightarrow u^2 - 10u + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{100-4}}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow u = 5 \pm \sqrt{24}$$

$$\Rightarrow u = 5 \pm 2\sqrt{3}\sqrt{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow u = (\sqrt{3} \pm \sqrt{2})^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} = (\sqrt{3} \pm \sqrt{2})^2$$

$$\text{So, } (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} = (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^2 \text{ and } (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^{x^2-4} = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}}\right)^2$$

Therefore,

$$x^2 - 4 = 2 \text{ \& } x^2 - 4 = -2$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm\sqrt{6} \text{ \& } x = \pm\sqrt{2}$$

$$\text{So, } S = \{\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{6}, -\sqrt{2}\}$$

$$\text{Hence, } n(S) = 4$$

25. (25)

Given,

$$\log_2(9^{2\alpha-4} + 13) - \log_2\left(3^{2\alpha-4} \cdot \frac{5}{2} + 1\right) = 2$$

Now let $3^{2\alpha-4} = t$, so the equation becomes,

$$\log_2(t^2 + 13) - \log_2\left(\frac{5t}{2} + 1\right) = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_2 \frac{(t^2+13)}{\left(\frac{5t}{2}+1\right)} = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(t^2+13)}{\left(\frac{5t}{2}+1\right)} = 2^2$$

$$\Rightarrow t^2 + 13 = 10t + 4$$

$$\Rightarrow t^2 - 10t + 9 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t = 1 \text{ or } 9$$

So,

$$3^{2\alpha-4} = 1 \text{ or } 9$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{2\alpha-4} = 3^0 \text{ or } 3^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\alpha - 4 = 0 \text{ or } 2$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = 2, 3$$

Now,

$$x^2 - 2\left(\sum_{\alpha \in S} \alpha\right)^2 x + \sum_{\alpha \in S} (\alpha + 1)^2 \beta = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - 2\left((2+3)^2 x\right) + (3^2 + 4^2)\beta = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - 50x + 25\beta = 0$$

Now for real roots

$$D \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 50^2 - 4 \times 25\beta \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 50 - 2\beta \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta \leq 25$$

So, maximum value of β is 25.

26. (13) We have, $a + b + c = 1$, $ab + bc + ca = 2$ and $abc = 3$

$$\text{Now, } a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = (a + b + c)^2 - 2\Sigma ab = -3$$

$$\Rightarrow (ab + bc + ca)^2 = \Sigma(ab)^2 + 2abc\Sigma a$$

$$\Rightarrow \Sigma(ab)^2 = -2$$

$$\text{So, } a^4 + b^4 + c^4 = (a^2 + b^2 + c^2)^2 - 2\Sigma(ab)^2$$

$$= 9 - 2(-2)$$

$$= 13.$$

27. (2) Let $e^{2x} = t$

$$\Rightarrow t^4 - t^3 - 3t^2 - t + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t^2 + \frac{1}{t^2} - \left(t + \frac{1}{t}\right) - 3 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(t + \frac{1}{t}\right)^2 - \left(t + \frac{1}{t}\right) - 5 = 0$$

Putting $(t + (1/t)) = a$, the equation becomes-

$$a^2 - a - 5 = 0$$

$$a = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{21}}{2} \text{ but } \frac{1 - \sqrt{21}}{2} \text{ is rejected as we know value of (a) starts from 2}$$

$$\text{So, } a = (t + (1/t)) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{21}}{2}$$

Substituting the value of $t = e^{(2x)}$

$$e^{(2x)} + \left(\frac{1}{e^{(2x)}}\right) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{21}}{2}$$

So, two real solutions and this, graph of the function given cuts x -axis 2 times

28. (2)

Given,

$$e^{4x} + 8e^{3x} + 13e^{2x} - 8e^x + 1 = 0, x \in R$$

Now let $e^x = t$ we get,

$$t^4 + 8t^3 + 13t^2 - 8t + 1 = 0$$

Now divide complete equation by t^2

$$\Rightarrow t^2 + \frac{1}{t^2} + 8\left(t - \frac{1}{t}\right) + 13 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(t - \frac{1}{t}\right)^2 + 8\left(t - \frac{1}{t}\right) + 15 = 0$$

Now let $t - \frac{1}{t} = z$ we get,

$$\Rightarrow z^2 + 8z + 15 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow z = -3, -5$$

$$\text{So, } t - \frac{1}{t} = -3 \text{ or } t - \frac{1}{t} = -5$$

$$\Rightarrow t^2 + 3t - 1 = 0 \text{ or } t^2 + 5t - 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{13}}{2}, \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{29}}{2}$$

$$\text{So, } e^x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{13}}{2}, \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{29}}{2} = \alpha, \beta \text{ (rejecting negative values as exponential is positive function)}$$

$$\text{And both } \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{13}}{2} \text{ and } \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{29}}{2} \in (0, 1)$$

So, $x = \ln(\alpha), \ln(\beta)$ are both negative,

Hence, there are two solution and both are negative.

29. (9)

Given:

$$x^7 + 3x^5 - 13x^3 - 15x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x(x^6 + 3x^4 - 13x^2 - 15) = 0$$

So, $x = 0$ is one of the root.

Now,

$$(x^6 + 3x^4 - 13x^2 - 15) = 0$$

Put $x^2 = t$, then we have

$$t^3 + 3t^2 - 13t - 15 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (t - 3)(t^2 + 6t + 5) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (t - 3)(t + 1)(t + 5) = 0$$

$$\text{So, } t = 3, t = -1, t = -5$$

Now we are getting

$$x^2 = 3, x^2 = -1, x^2 = -5$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm\sqrt{3}, \pm i, \pm\sqrt{5}i$$

From the given condition $|\alpha_1| \geq |\alpha_2| \geq \dots \geq |\alpha_7|$ We can clearly say that $|\alpha_7| = 0$ and

$$\text{and } |\alpha_6| = \sqrt{5} = |\alpha_5|$$

$$\text{and } |\alpha_4| = \sqrt{3} = |\alpha_3| \text{ and}$$

$$|\alpha_2| = 1 = |\alpha_1|$$

So we can have,

$$\alpha_1 = \sqrt{5}i, \alpha_2 = -\sqrt{5}i, \alpha_3 = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\alpha_4 = -\sqrt{3}, \alpha_5 = i, \alpha_6 = -i$$

$$\alpha_7 = 0$$

Hence,

$$\alpha_1\alpha_2 - \alpha_3\alpha_4 + \alpha_5\alpha_6$$

$$= 5 - (-3) + 1 = 9$$

30. (I)

Consider the equation $x^2 + ax + b = 0$

It has two roots (not necessarily real α and β)

Either $\alpha = \beta$ or $\alpha \neq \beta$

Case (I) If $\alpha = \beta$, then it is repeated root. Given that $\alpha^2 - 2$ is also root

So, $\alpha = \alpha^2 - 2$

$$\Rightarrow (\alpha + 1)(\alpha - 2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = -1 \text{ or } \alpha = 2$$

When $\alpha = -1$ then $(a, b) = (2, 1)$

$\alpha = 2$ then $(a, b) = (-4, 4)$

Case (2) If $\alpha \neq \beta$, then four possibilities are there

(I) $\alpha = \alpha^2 - 2$ and $\beta = \beta^2 - 2$

Here $(\alpha, \beta) = (2, -1)$ or $(-1, 2)$

Hence $(a, b) = (-(\alpha + \beta), \alpha\beta)$

$= (-1, -2)$

(II) $\alpha = \beta^2 - 2$ and $\beta = \alpha^2 - 2$

Then $\alpha - \beta = \beta^2 - \alpha^2 = (\beta - \alpha)(\beta + \alpha)$

Since $\alpha \neq \beta$ we get $\alpha + \beta = \beta^2 + \alpha^2 - 4$

$$\alpha + \beta = (\alpha + \beta)^2 - 2\alpha\beta - 4$$

Thus $-1 = 1 - 2\alpha\beta - 4$ which implies

$\alpha\beta = -1$. Therefore $(a, b) = (-(\alpha + \beta), \alpha\beta)$

$= (1, -1)$

(III) $\alpha = \alpha^2 - 2 = \beta^2 - 2$ and $\alpha \neq \beta$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = -\beta$$

Thus $\alpha = 2, \beta = -2$

$\alpha = -1, \beta = 1$

Therefore $(a, b) = (0, -4)$ and $(0, -1)$

(IV) $\beta = \alpha^2 - 2 = \beta^2 - 2$ and $\alpha \neq \beta$ is same as (III)

Therefore we get 6 pairs of (a, b)

Which are $(2, 1), (-4, 4), (-1, -2), (1, -1), (0, -4), (0, -1)$