

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE
CONTEST 3 - DECEMBER 2011 SOLUTION KEY**

Team Round - continued

- D) Simplifying $3^{\left(\log_3 x^4 - \frac{1}{\log_x 3}\right)} + 2^{2\log_2 x} + 7^{5\log_7 x}$, the 2nd and 3rd terms are clearly, x^2 and x^5 , but let's look carefully at the 1st term. Since x occurs as a base of the logarithm, $x \neq 1$.

$$\log_3 x^4 - \frac{1}{\log_x 3} = \log_3 x^4 - \log_3 x = \log_3 \left(\frac{x^4}{x} \right) = \log_3 x^3 \quad \text{Thus, the 1st term is, in fact, } x^3.$$

$$\text{Thus, we have } x^3 + x^2 + x^5 = 3x^4 \Rightarrow x^2(x^3 - 3x^2 + x + 1) = 0$$

Since x is the argument of the log function, $x > 0$ and the only roots come from the cubic factor.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \quad -3 \quad 1 \quad 1 \\ \text{By synthetic substitution, } 1 \mid \begin{array}{r} 1 \quad -2 \quad -1 \\ 1 \quad -2 \quad -1 \quad 0 \end{array} \Rightarrow (x-1)(x^2 - 2x - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow \cancel{x=1} \text{ or } x = \frac{2 \pm 2\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ \Rightarrow x = \underline{1 + \sqrt{2}} \quad (1 - \sqrt{2} < 0 \text{ and is, therefore, also extraneous.}) \end{array}$$

E) First condition: $\frac{G}{B} = \frac{7}{11} \Leftrightarrow G = \frac{7}{11}B$

Second condition: $\frac{G-3}{B+2} = \frac{5}{8}$

Cross multiplying, $8G - 24 = 5B + 10$

$$\Leftrightarrow 8\left(\frac{7}{11}B\right) - 24 = 5B + 10 = \frac{55}{11}B + 10 \Leftrightarrow \frac{B}{11} = 34 \Leftrightarrow B = 374$$

According to the first condition, $G = \frac{7}{11}(34 \cdot 11) = 238$

Thus, in the fall, the total number of students is $(374 + 2) + (238 - 3) = \underline{611}$.

- F) Since Q has five times as many sides as P , the exterior angle of $P\left(\frac{360}{n}\right)$ is five times as large as

the exterior angle of $Q\left(\frac{360}{5n}\right)$. The relationship between the interior and the exterior angles of

these two polygons is summarized in the following diagram:

Thus, $5j + 5k = 180 = 7j + k \Rightarrow j = 2k$

Substituting, $7(2k) + k = 180 \Rightarrow k = 12^\circ$.

Since an exterior angle of Q measures 12° , Q must have 30 sides. As the number of sides increases, the measure of the interior angle increases.

This, if R is an N -gon, N must be the smallest factor of 360 larger than 30, i.e. 36° , producing an exterior angle of 10° and an interior angle of 170 $^\circ$.

