

**Quiz 1. True/False:** If you decrease 178 by 20% consecutively three times, the result is given by  $178(1 - 3 \cdot 0.20) = 178(1 - 0.60) = 178(0.40) = 71.2$ .

**Solution.** The statement is *false*. If we want to compute  $N$  increased or decreased by a % a total of  $n$  times, we compute  $N \cdot (1 \pm \%_d)^n$ , where  $\%_d$  is the percentage written as a decimal,  $n$  is the number of times we apply the percentage increase/decrease, and we choose '+' if it is a percentage increase and choose '-' if it is a percentage decrease. Then to compute 178 decreased by 20% consecutively three times, we need take  $N = 178$ ,  $\%_d = 0.20$ , and choose '-'. Therefore, we have...

$$N \cdot (1 \pm \%_d)^n = 178(1 - 0.20)^3 = 178(0.80)^3 = 178(0.512) = 91.136$$

From the  $178(0.512)$  portion from the computation above, we can see that decreasing a number by 20% consecutively three times actually results in a 48.8% decrease in the original number's value because  $1 - 0.512 = 0.488$ . The mistake made in the quiz is thinking that repeated percentage increases or decreases are additive. A decrease of 20% three times *does not* result in a  $3 \cdot 20\% = 60\%$  decrease, which was the percentage decrease computed in the quiz statement.

**Quiz 2. True/False:** If  $C(q)$  is a cost function, then the  $y$ -intercept of  $C(q)$  represents the fixed costs associated with the production of the product  $q$ .

**Solution.** The statement is *true*. The  $y$ -intercept of a function  $f(x)$  is the value of  $f(0)$  because the  $y$ -axis is the line where  $x = 0$ . But then  $C(0)$  is the  $y$ -intercept of  $C(q)$ . But  $C(0)$  is the cost associated with producing 0 units, i.e. the fixed costs.

**Quiz 3. True/False:** If Ben takes out a simple discount note for \$5,700 at 4.9% annual interest for a period of 9 months, then at the end of the 9 months, Ben does not owe any interest and only owes \$5,700.

**Solution.** The statement is *true*. For a typical loan, one only need pay back the loan amount plus any interest. Recall that in a simple discount note the interest is paid up-front. At the end of the loan period, one then need only pay back the loan amount, i.e. the maturity. The maturity is \$5,700. So at the end of the loan period, Ben only owes the \$5,700. The interest paid on the loan is the discount and is  $D = Mrt = \$5,700(0.049)\frac{9}{12} \approx \$209.48$ . Therefore, the total amount paid on the loan is  $M + D = \$5,700 + \$209.48 = \$5,909.48$ .

**Quiz 4. True/False:** If Taylor wants to invest an amount of money that will be worth \$5,000 after 6 years of earning interest at 5.3% annual interest, compounded monthly, the amount needed to be invested is given by  $5000 \left(1 + \frac{0.053}{12}\right)^{12 \cdot 6}$ .

**Solution.** The statement is *false*. This is a discrete compounded interest problem. However, the problem is asking how much should be invested right now to have \$5,000 after 6 years. One need then find the present or principal value,  $P$ . For discrete compounded interest, we have  $P = \frac{F}{\left(1 + \frac{r}{k}\right)^{kt}}$ .

We have  $r = 0.053$  and  $t = 6$ . Because the interest is compounded monthly, i.e. twelve times per

year, we have  $k = 12$ . We then have...

$$P = \frac{F}{\left(1 + \frac{r}{k}\right)^{kt}} = \frac{\$5,000}{\left(1 + \frac{0.053}{12}\right)^{12 \cdot 6}} = \frac{\$5,000}{(1.00441667)^{72}} = \frac{\$5,000}{1.37341460} = \$3,640.56$$

The expression given in the quiz statement is computing the future value,  $F$ , resulting from investing \$5,000 at 5.3% annual interest, compounded monthly for 6 years.

**Quiz 5. True/False:** Rosa is taking out a loan. She will use this money to afford advertising to her comic strip business. A bank offers two different plans. The first has an effective interest rate of 8.6%. The second has an effective interest rate of 8.7%. Because the second has a higher interest rate, it is the better deal.

**Solution.** The statement is *false*. To compare different interest models, one can use effective interest or doubling time. Rosa is taking out a loan. Therefore, she would want the lowest possible interest rate. Because  $8.6\% < 8.7\%$ , the first offer is the better deal because she is effectively charged less interest per year. The situation would be the opposite if this were instead an investment, where she would want the highest possible effective interest—making the second option the better deal.