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Introduction to College Algebra CLEP Practice Questions

Welcome to the College Algebra CLEP Practice Questions resource, a meticulously curated collection of questions designed to prepare you for the College Algebra CLEP test. This resource is focused on rigorous, high-quality practice that mirrors the format, difficulty, and structure of the actual exam.

What is the CLEP Test?

The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) allows students to earn college credit by demonstrating their mastery of college-level material through a standardized exam. The College Algebra CLEP test evaluates your understanding of algebraic concepts typically covered in a one-semester college algebra course.

How This Resource Helps You Prepare

This resource includes a comprehensive set of practice questions devised to align closely with the CLEP College Algebra test. These questions are not designed to teach or provide detailed explanations but are intended to offer intensive practice in authentic test conditions.

Key Features

Authentic Test-Style Questions: Practice questions are identical in format and style to those found on the actual CLEP exam.

Varied Difficulty Levels: Questions are crafted to cover a wide range of difficulty, ensuring thorough preparation.

Test-Focused Practice: Simulate real exam conditions to build confidence and improve problem-solving skills.

By engaging with these questions, you'll be able to sharpen your algebra skills, identify areas for improvement, and feel confident and prepared to succeed on the CLEP College Algebra test.

Linear Equations

1. Solve for x in the equation $2x + 5 = 17$.
 - a) 5
 - b) 6
 - c) 7
 - d) 8
2. If $3x - 4 = 2x + 6$, what is the value of x ?
 - a) 2
 - b) 4
 - c) 8
 - d) 10
3. The sum of a number and 9 is 20. What is the number?
 - a) 9
 - b) 11
 - c) 20
 - d) 29
4. Solve the equation $5(x - 1) = 15$.
 - a) 2
 - b) 3
 - c) 4
 - d) 5
5. Find x in the equation $\frac{1}{2}x - 3 = 4$.
 - a) 10
 - b) 12
 - c) 14
 - d) 16
6. If $4x + 3 = 2x + 15$, what is the value of x ?
 - a) 3
 - b) 6
 - c) 9
 - d) 12
7. Solve for x : $x + 2 = 3(x - 4)$.
 - a) 3
 - b) 4
 - c) 5
 - d) 6
8. A number is 3 more than twice another number. If their sum is 45, what is the smaller number?
 - a) 14
 - b) 15
 - c) 16
 - d) 17
9. The difference between a number and 7 is 9. Find the number.
 - a) 9
 - b) 16
 - c) 17
 - d) 18
10. Solve for x in the equation $7x - 2 = 5x + 6$.
 - a) 2
 - b) 3
 - c) 4
 - d) 5

Quadratic Equations

1. Solve the quadratic equation:

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

- A) $x = 1, x = 6$
- B) $x = 2, x = 3$
- C) $x = -2, x = -3$
- D) $x = -1, x = -6$

2. Solve for x :

$$2x^2 + 3x - 5 = 0$$

- A) $x = 1, x = -\frac{5}{2}$
- B) $x = \frac{1}{2}, x = -5$
- C) $x = -1, x = \frac{5}{2}$
- D) $x = \frac{-3+\sqrt{41}}{4}$

3. Which of the following represents the vertex form of the quadratic function $f(x) = x^2 + 4x + 4$?

- A) $f(x) = (x + 2)^2$
- B) $f(x) = (x - 2)^2$
- C) $f(x) = (x + 4)^2$
- D) $f(x) = (x - 4)^2$

4. Determine the axis of symmetry for the quadratic equation:

$$y = 3x^2 - 12x + 7$$

- A) $x = 2$
- B) $x = -2$
- C) $x = 3$
- D) $x = -3$

5. If the roots of the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ are real and equal, which of the following statements is true?

- A) $b^2 - 4ac > 0$
- B) $b^2 - 4ac = 0$
- C) $b^2 - 4ac < 0$
- D) The roots are complex numbers.

6. Find the maximum or minimum value of the quadratic function

$$f(x) = -2x^2 + 4x + 1$$

- A) Maximum at $x = -1$
- B) Maximum at $x = 1$
- C) Minimum at $x = -2$
- D) Minimum at $x = 2$

7. Solve the equation by completing the square:

$$x^2 + 6x + 8 = 0$$

- A) $x = -4, x = -2$
- B) $x = -1, x = -7$
- C) $x = 3, x = -9$
- D) $x = 2, x = -8$

8. The roots of the quadratic equation $3x^2 + kx - 9 = 0$ are $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3. Find the value of k .

9. Determine the nature of the roots for the quadratic equation:

$$5x^2 + 2x + 1 = 0$$

- A) Two distinct real roots
 - B) Exactly one real root
 - C) Two complex roots
 - D) Infinitely many roots
10. A quadratic function is given by $f(x) = 2x^2 - 8x + 6$. What is the y-intercept of this function?
11. Which quadratic equation has roots -3 and 4 ?
- A) $x^2 + x - 12 = 0$
 - B) $x^2 - x - 12 = 0$
 - C) $x^2 - x + 12 = 0$
 - D) $x^2 + x + 12 = 0$
12. Solve the quadratic equation: $x^2 - 4x - 5 = 0$

Polynomial Functions

1. What is the degree of the polynomial $f(x) = 4x^5 - 3x^3 + 2x - 7$?
- A) 1
 - B) 3
 - C) 5
 - D) 7
2. Given the polynomial $p(x) = x^4 + 2x^3 - x^2$, which of the following is a root?
- A) $x = 0$
 - B) $x = 1$
 - C) $x = -1$
 - D) $x = 2$
3. Find the polynomial function with zeros at $x = -3$, $x = 2$, and $x = 4$.
4. If $g(x) = 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 4x - 8$, what is $g(-1)$?
5. Which polynomial is factorable?

- A) $x^2 + 4x + 7$
 B) $x^2 - 9$
 C) $x^2 + 1$
 D) $x^2 - 5x + 6$
6. Simplify the expression $(2x - 1)(3x + 4)$.
7. What is the leading coefficient of the polynomial $h(x) = -6x^2 + 3x - 1$?
 A) -6
 B) 3
 C) 1
 D) -1
8. Determine the remainder when the polynomial $f(x) = x^3 - 4x^2 + 5x - 2$ is divided by $x - 2$.
9. If $p(x) = 3x^4 - 7x^3 + 2x^2 - x + 5$, what is the coefficient of x^2 ?
 A) 3
 B) -7
 C) 2
 D) 5
10. True or False: The polynomial $x^3 + x + 1$ has a degree of 3.

Rational Equations

1. Solve the rational equation:

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

- A) $x = -2$
 B) $x = 1$
 C) $x = 3$
 D) $x = -3$
2. If $\frac{2}{x} + \frac{3}{x+4} = 1$, what is the value of x ?
3. Simplify and solve for x :

$$\frac{5x}{x^2-4} - \frac{3}{x^2-4} = 0$$

4. Solve the equation:

$$\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x+2} = \frac{3}{4}$$

5. The equation $\frac{4x}{x+5} = 2$ is equivalent to which of the following? Select the correct form.

A) $4x = 2x + 10$

B) $4x = 2x - 10$

C) $4x + 10 = 2x$

D) $2(x + 5) = 4$

6. Solve for x :

$$\frac{x}{x+1} = \frac{3}{5}$$

7. A rational equation is given by $\frac{3}{2x} = \frac{5}{6}$. What is the solution to this equation?

A) $x = \frac{9}{10}$

B) $x = \frac{5}{9}$

C) $x = \frac{5}{4}$

D) $x = \frac{9}{5}$

8. Solve the rational expression:

$$\frac{2x+3}{x^2-9} = \frac{1}{x-3}$$

9. If $\frac{4}{x-3} - \frac{2}{x+3} = 1$, find x .

10. Solve the equation:

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

11. Solve for x :

$$\frac{x+7}{x^2-4x-5} = 0$$

12. Find the solution of the equation $\frac{x+3}{x-2} = \frac{x-1}{x+4}$.

Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

1. Solve for x : $e^{2x} = 7$.

2. Evaluate the logarithm: $\log_2 16$.

A. 2

B. 3

C. 4

D. 5

3. What is the inverse of the function $f(x) = \ln(x-1)$?

4. If $3^x = 81$, what is the value of x ?

5. Simplify: $\log_{10} 1000$.
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4
6. Solve for y : $\log(y) + \log(10) = 2$.
7. If $y = e^x$, express x in terms of y .
8. What is the solution to $\ln(x) = 2$?
9. Find x : $5^x = 25$.
10. Convert to exponential form: $\log_b(x) = y$.
11. Evaluate $\log_5(1)$.
 - A. 0
 - B. 1
 - C. 5
 - D. Undefined
12. Solve the equation: $3^{x+1} = 81$.
13. What is $\log_3(27)$?
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4
14. Simplify: $e^{\ln(5)}$.
15. Solve for x : $\ln(3x) = 0$.
16. What is the base b if $\log_b(64) = 3$?
17. Convert the expression to a single logarithm: $\log_2(8) + \log_2(4)$.
18. If $\log_x(49) = 2$, find x .
19. Solve for x : $2^x = \frac{1}{8}$.
20. What is the value of $\log_{100}(10)$?
 - A. 1
 - B. 0.5
 - C. 2
 - D. 10

Systems of Equations

1. Solve the system of equations:

$$2x + 3y = 5$$

$$4x - y = 11$$

- a) $x = 2, y = 0$
- b) $x = 3, y = -1$
- c) $x = 1, y = 1$
- d) $x = -1, y = 3$

2. Which of the following is the solution to the system?

$$\begin{aligned}x + 2y &= 7 \\ 3x - y &= -1\end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 1, y = 3$
- b) $x = 0, y = 3$
- c) $x = 2, y = 2$
- d) $x = 3, y = 2$

3. Determine x and y such that:

$$\begin{aligned}5x + 4y &= 3 \\ x - 2y &= 10\end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 2, y = -4$
- b) $x = 3, y = 2$
- c) $x = -2, y = 5$
- d) $x = -3, y = 4$

4. Find the values of x and y for the following system:

$$\begin{aligned}7x + 6y &= 8 \\ -3x + 2y &= 1\end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 1, y = 0$
- b) $x = -1, y = 2$
- c) $x = 0, y = 1$
- d) $x = 2, y = -1$

5. Solve this system:

$$\begin{aligned}3x - y &= 5 \\ x + 4y &= 13\end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 3, y = 2$
- b) $x = 4, y = 1$
- c) $x = 2, y = 3$
- d) $x = 5, y = -1$

6. What are the solutions for x and y ?

$$\begin{aligned}2x + y &= 11 \\ x - y &= 3\end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 4, y = 2$
- b) $x = 5, y = 1$
- c) $x = 7, y = 4$
- d) $x = 8, y = -1$

7. Solve the system:

$$\begin{aligned}x + y &= 6 \\ x - y &= 4\end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 5, y = 1$
- b) $x = 6, y = 0$
- c) $x = 0, y = 6$
- d) $x = 3, y = 3$

8. Calculate the solution for x and y :

$$\begin{aligned}x - 3y &= 3 \\ 2x + y &= -4\end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = -1, y = -2$
- b) $x = 1, y = -2$

- c) $x = 1, y = 1$
 d) $x = -2, y = 1$
 9. What is the value of x and y that satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} 4x + 7y &= 1 \\ 2x - 3y &= 12 \end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 3, y = 1$
 b) $x = 2, y = -1$
 c) $x = 1, y = -1$
 d) $x = 4, y = 2$
 10. Solve for x and y :

$$\begin{aligned} 5x + y &= 14 \\ 3x - 2y &= -6 \end{aligned}$$

- a) $x = 2, y = 4$
 b) $x = 0, y = 3$
 c) $x = 3, y = 1$
 d) $x = -1, y = 2$

Matrices and Determinants

1. Evaluate the determinant of the following 2×2 matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

- A.** 7
B. 11
C. 13
D. 23

2. Given the 3×3 matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & -1 \\ 5 & 6 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Find the determinant.

3. Solve for the determinant of $\begin{pmatrix} k & 0 \\ 3 & k \end{pmatrix}$ in terms of k .
 4. For which value(s) of k will the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & k \\ k & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ be singular?
 5. If $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$, calculate the determinant of $A \cdot B$.
 6. What is the inverse of the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$?
 7. Which of the following operations would change the determinant of a matrix?
A. Adding a scalar multiple of one row to another row.
B. Multiplying a row by a nonzero scalar.
C. Interchanging two rows.
D. All of the above.

8. Find the determinant of the matrix after performing elementary row operations:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Row 2 \leftarrow Row 2 + 3(Row 1)

9. If $C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, calculate the determinant of C .
10. An identity matrix I of size 3×3 is defined. What is the determinant of $2I$?

Sequences and Series

- What is the 10th term of the arithmetic sequence where the first term is 5 and the common difference is 3?
A. 32
B. 35
C. 38
D. 41
- Find the sum of the first 20 terms of the arithmetic series with a first term of 7 and a common difference of 4.
- In a geometric sequence, the first term is 3 and the common ratio is 2. What is the 6th term?
A. 48
B. 96
C. 192
D. 384
- Calculate the sum of the infinite geometric series with a first term of 10 and a common ratio of 0.5.
A. 15
B. 20
C. 25
D. 30
- The 5th term of an arithmetic sequence is 18, and the 8th term is 30. What is the first term of the sequence?
- If the sum of a finite geometric series is 62, the first term is 2, and the common ratio is 3, how many terms are in the series?
- What is the value of the following series:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{100} (2n + 1)$$

- Find the fourth term of the sequence defined by the recursive formula $a_n = 2a_{n-1} + 3$, with $a_1 = 1$.
- Determine the common ratio of a geometric sequence if the third term is 16 and the sixth term is 128.

10. Consider the sequence given by the explicit formula $a_n = 4n^2 - n + 6$. What is the value of the fifth term?
11. For the arithmetic sequence with the explicit formula $a_n = 12 + 5(n - 1)$, verify if the term 57 is in the sequence, and if so, which term it is.
12. Evaluate the series:

$$5 + 10 + 20 + 40 + \cdots + 640$$

13. A sequence is defined as $b_n = 7 - 3n$. What is the sum of the first 10 terms of this sequence?
14. Suppose you have an arithmetic sequence where the fifth term is 22 and the twelfth term is 50. What is the sum of the first 15 terms?
15. How many terms are there in the sequence 3, 6, 12, ..., that ends at 192?

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 8

Probability and Statistics

1. A box contains 4 red, 5 blue, and 3 green balls. If one ball is drawn at random, what is the probability that it is red?
 - A. $\frac{1}{3}$
 - B. $\frac{1}{4}$
 - C. $\frac{1}{5}$
 - D. $\frac{1}{2}$
2. What is the probability of rolling a sum of 7 with two dice?
 - A. $\frac{1}{6}$
 - B. $\frac{1}{36}$
 - C. $\frac{7}{36}$
 - D. $\frac{5}{36}$
3. If a fair coin is tossed 3 times, what is the probability of getting exactly 2 heads?
4. A deck of cards consists of 52 cards. What is the probability of drawing an Ace or a King?
 - A. $\frac{1}{13}$
 - B. $\frac{2}{13}$
 - C. $\frac{1}{26}$
 - D. $\frac{1}{4}$
5. An urn contains 7 red, 3 blue, and 10 white marbles. If two marbles are drawn at random without replacement, what is the probability that both are red?

6. A survey shows that 60% of people like apples, 70% like oranges, and 50% like both. What percentage of people like either apples or oranges?
7. A class consists of 10 boys and 15 girls. A student is selected at random. What is the probability that the student is a girl?
 - A. $\frac{2}{5}$
 - B. $\frac{3}{5}$
 - C. $\frac{1}{3}$
 - D. $\frac{1}{2}$
8. A die is rolled, what is the probability that a number greater than 4 appears?
 - A. $\frac{1}{2}$
 - B. $\frac{1}{3}$
 - C. $\frac{2}{3}$
 - D. $\frac{1}{6}$
9. The probability of winning a game is 0.2. What is the probability of losing the game?
10. In a room with 8 people, what is the probability that at least two people have the same birthday? (Assume 365 days in a year and ignore leap years.)
11. If the probability of rain on any given day is $\frac{1}{4}$, what is the probability that it rains exactly 2 days in a 5-day period?
12. A jar contains 10 black, 15 white, and 5 grey balls. If two balls are drawn at random with replacement, what is the probability that both are white?
13. The mean of a dataset is 20 and the sum of the data points is 400. How many data points are in the dataset?
14. If the variance of a dataset is 16, what is the standard deviation?
 - A. 2
 - B. 4
 - C. 8
 - D. 16
15. Which measure of central tendency is most affected by extreme values?
 - A. Mean
 - B. Median
 - C. Mode
 - D. Range

16. A set of exam scores is normally distributed with a mean of 70 and a standard deviation of 10. What percentage of students scored between 60 and 80?
17. If two events A and B are mutually exclusive, what is $P(A \cup B)$ if $P(A) = 0.3$ and $P(B) = 0.4$?
18. The probability of event A is 0.6, and event B is 0.7. Assuming A and B are independent, what is the probability of both A and B occurring?

Trigonometry

1. Evaluate $\sin(\frac{\pi}{6})$.
 - A. $\frac{1}{2}$
 - B. $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
 - C. $\sqrt{2}$
 - D. 1
2. What is $\cos(0)$?
 - A. 0
 - B. 0.5
 - C. 1
 - D. Undefined
3. If $\tan(\theta) = 1$, which of the following could be θ ?
 - A. 0
 - B. $\frac{\pi}{4}$
 - C. $\frac{\pi}{2}$
 - D. π
4. Solve for x : $\sin(x) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$, $0 \leq x < 2\pi$.
5. What is the exact value of $\cos(\frac{2\pi}{3})$?
 - A. $-\frac{1}{2}$
 - B. $\frac{1}{2}$
 - C. $-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
 - D. $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
6. Determine the principal value of $\arcsin(-\frac{1}{2})$.
7. Find θ if $\cos(\theta) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ and $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$.
8. Evaluate $\tan(\frac{3\pi}{4})$.
9. Simplify the expression $\sin^2(x) + \cos^2(x)$.
10. If $\sec(\theta) = 2$, what is $\cos(\theta)$?
11. Which of the following is true for $\csc(\frac{\pi}{6})$?
 - A. $\frac{1}{2}$
 - B. $\sqrt{3}$
 - C. 2
 - D. Undefined
12. If $\cot(\theta) = -1$, what is a possible value of θ within 0 and 2π ?
13. Solve the equation $2\sin(x) - 1 = 0$ for x in the interval $[0, 2\pi)$.

14. What is $\sin(\pi - x)$ in terms of $\sin(x)$?
15. Evaluate the expression $\cos(\pi + x)$ in terms of $\cos(x)$.
16. If $\tan(x) = \frac{3}{4}$, find $\sin(x)$ given that x is in the first quadrant.
17. Find x such that $\sin(2x) = \cos(x)$, within $0 \leq x < 2\pi$.
18. Determine the amplitude of the function $y = 3\sin(x)$.
19. Identify the period of $y = \cos(2x)$.
20. If $\sin(x) = \frac{4}{5}$ and x is in the first quadrant, find $\cos(x)$.

Complex Numbers

1. **What is the sum of $(3 + 2i) + (4 - 5i)$?**
 - A. $7 - 3i$
 - B. $1 + 7i$
 - C. $7 + 3i$
 - D. $7 - 7i$
2. **Multiply $(2 + 3i)(1 - 4i)$ and find the result.**
 - A. $14 + 5i$
 - B. $14 - 5i$
 - C. $-10 + 5i$
 - D. $-10 - 5i$
3. **What is the modulus of the complex number $6 - 8i$?**
 - A. 2
 - B. 10
 - C. 20
 - D. 100
4. **Divide the complex numbers $(7 + 3i)$ and $(2 - i)$ and express in standard form.**
 - A. $2 + 5i$
 - B. $3 - i$
 - C. $1 + 4i$
 - D. $3 + i$
5. **Find the conjugate of the complex number $5 - 9i$.**
 - A. $5 + 9i$

- B. $-5 - 9i$
- C. $9 - 5i$
- D. $-5 + 9i$
6. Solve the equation $z^2 + 4z + 13 = 0$ for complex numbers z .
7. Express $\frac{4}{3+2i}$ in the form $a + bi$.
8. If $z = 3 + 4i$, what is \bar{z} , the complex conjugate of z ?
- A. $3 - 4i$
- B. $-3 + 4i$
- C. $-3 - 4i$
- D. $3 + 4i$
9. Which of the following represents the square of i , the imaginary unit?
- A. 1
- B. i
- C. -1
- D. $-i$
10. Simplify the expression $(2 + i)^2$.
- A. $4 + 4i + i^2$
- B. $3 + 4i$
- C. $3 + 4i + i^2$
- D. $4 + 4i - i^2$
11. Add the complex numbers $(7 - 4i)$ and $(3 + 6i)$ and find the result.
- A. $10 + 2i$
- B. $10 - 2i$
- C. $4 + 10i$
- D. $4 - 10i$
12. What is the argument of the complex number $-3 + 3i$ when expressed in polar form?
- A. $\frac{\pi}{4}$
- B. $\frac{3\pi}{4}$

C. $\frac{5\pi}{4}$

D. $\frac{7\pi}{4}$

13. Convert the complex number $5 - 5i$ to polar form.

14. Find the imaginary part of $z = -2 + 7i$.

A. -2

B. 7

C. -7

D. 2

15. If $w = 1 - 2i$ and $z = -4 + i$, calculate wz .