

2023 MIT Science Bowl High School Invitational

Round 13

TOSS UP

- 1) MATH *Multiple Choice* What probability distribution, also known as the generalized binomial distribution, models the distribution of k rolls of an n -sided die?
- W) Multinomial
 - X) Hyperbinomial
 - Y) Negative binomial
 - Z) Gamma

ANSWER: W) Multinomial

BONUS

- 1) MATH *Short Answer* Identify all of the following three operations acting on a three-dimensional vector that can be written in terms of matrix multiplication on that vector:
- 1) The dot product of the vector with $(1, 1, 1)$ (read: *one comma one comma one*)
 - 2) The cross product of the vector with $(1, 1, 1)$ (read: *one comma one comma one*)
 - 3) Squaring each term of the vector

ANSWER: 1 and 2

TOSS UP

2) BIOLOGY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following is an example of a trait that exhibits positive frequency-dependent selection?

- W) Aposematic coloration
- X) Malaria resistance in humans
- Y) Plant self-incompatibility genes
- Z) Sidedness in scale eating cichlid mouths

ANSWER: W) Aposematic coloration

BONUS

2) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* Sea urchins are commonly used as a model organism to study animal development. Rank the following steps of sea urchin fertilization in chronological order:

- 1) Acrosomal processes bind to receptors
- 2) Intracellular calcium ion concentration increases
- 3) Cortical granules fuse with the egg membrane

ANSWER: 1, 2, 3

TOSS UP

3) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* Consider a planet that is exactly like the Earth except there is no land mass other than a single small island. How many high tides and low tides does an observer on the island experience every lunar day?

- W) 1, 1
- X) 1, 2
- Y) 2, 1
- Z) 2, 2

ANSWER: Z) 2, 2

BONUS

3) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* Cloud condensation nuclei composed on unburned gasoline would require what relative humidity for condensation?

- W) Less than 25%
- X) 25 to 50%
- Y) 50 to 75%
- Z) Greater than 100%

ANSWER: Z) Greater than 100%

TOSS UP

4) ENERGY *Short Answer* The Grossman Lab at MIT is studying the regulation of the bacterial protein DnaA, which binds to the origin of replication and recruits DNA bending proteins to promote the separation of DNA strands. The sites of DNA strand separation are rich in which two nucleobases?

ANSWER: Adenine and thymine (ACCEPT: A and T)

BONUS

4) ENERGY *Multiple Choice* Researchers at the Forman Lab have been studying Myasthenia (*my-uh-STEE-nia*) Gravis, which results in skeletal muscle paralysis due to the disruption of the motor synapse. Which of the following types of receptors are they likely studying?

- W) AMPA
- X) Muscarinic
- Y) NMDA
- Z) Nicotinic

ANSWER: Z) Nicotinic

TOSS UP

5) CHEMISTRY *Short Answer* In metal refining, oxygenation leads to the formation of silicon dioxide from silicon impurities. This silicon dioxide is leached off as what compound that forms when it is mixed with calcium oxide?

ANSWER: CaSiO_3 (ACCEPT: Slag, calcium silicate)

BONUS

5) CHEMISTRY *Short Answer* Two identical, perfectly-insulating containers each have 1 liter of gas at 1 atmosphere of pressure. The first container is filled with helium gas, while the second container is filled with methane gas. The gas in each container is expanded to a final volume of 8 liters. What is the ratio of the work done by methane gas in the second container to the work done by helium gas in the first container?

ANSWER: 2

TOSS UP

6) PHYSICS *Short Answer* An ideal gas expands slowly and adiabatically (*AY-dee-uh-BAT-ick-ly*). Identify all of the following three quantities that remain constant during this expansion:

- 1) Energy
- 2) Entropy
- 3) Enthalpy

ANSWER: 2 only

BONUS

6) PHYSICS *Multiple Choice* The air inside of a soap bubble with radius 1 centimeter is at temperature 300 kelvin. The soap bubble then expands reversibly and adiabatically to a radius of 2 centimeters. Assuming air is an ideal diatomic gas, which of the following is closest to the temperature in kelvin of the air inside the expanded bubble?

- W) 90
- X) 130
- Y) 190
- Z) 230

ANSWER: X) 130

TOSS UP

7) BIOLOGY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following is NOT true concerning the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system?

- W) A decrease in blood pressure will result in an increased amount of renin secretion.
- X) Aldosterone helps to increase blood volume by promoting Na⁺ reabsorption.
- Y) Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors work to lower blood pressure.
- Z) Atrial natriuretic peptide increases aldosterone release by the adrenal glands.

ANSWER: Z) Atrial natriuretic peptide increases aldosterone release by the adrenal glands.

BONUS

7) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* In fruit flies, grey bodies are dominant to black bodies and normal wings are dominant to vestigial wings. The recombination frequency between these two genes is approximately 20%. A true-breeding grey-bodied fly with normal wings is crossed with a true-breeding black-bodied fly with vestigial wings. You then take two of the offspring and cross them with each other. What is the probability that the offspring of this second cross has a black body and vestigial wings?

ANSWER: 16% (ACCEPT: 0.16)

TOSS UP

8) ENERGY *Multiple Choice* Researchers at the Pentelute lab are investigating arylation of peptides through reaction of hexafluorobenzene with which of the following amino acids?

- W) Lysine
- X) Alanine
- Y) Cysteine
- Z) Methionine

ANSWER: Y) Cysteine

BONUS

8) ENERGY *Short Answer* Researchers in the Wendlandt Lab at MIT are researching photochemical reactions. Identify all of the following three electrocyclicizations that are photochemically allowed:

- 1) Conrotatory 4 pi
- 2) Conrotatory 6 pi
- 3) Disrotatory 4 pi

ANSWER: 2 and 3

TOSS UP

9) CHEMISTRY *Short Answer* How many nodes are in the highest occupied molecular orbital of 1,3,5-hexatriene?

ANSWER: 3

BONUS

9) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* What species is responsible for the blue color that results from dissolving sodium in ammonia?

- W) Sodium cation
- X) Ammonium radicals
- Y) Solvated electrons
- Z) Amide complexes

ANSWER: Y) Solvated electrons

TOSS UP

10) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* Which of the following best describes the primary mode of particle motion in a Rayleigh wave?

- W) Circular and prograde
- X) Circular and retrograde
- Y) Elliptical and prograde
- Z) Elliptical and retrograde

ANSWER: Z) Elliptical and retrograde

BONUS

10) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* Which of the following best explains why the Atlantic is more saline than the Pacific?

- W) Salt is transported into the Atlantic by the Agulhas current while no corresponding current exists for the Pacific
- X) Freshwater is exported from the Atlantic to the Pacific via precipitation
- Y) The Antarctic circumpolar current carries saltier water into the Atlantic
- Z) The Atlantic actively generates deepwater, which skews average salinities

ANSWER: X) Freshwater is exported from the Atlantic to the Pacific via precipitation

TOSS UP

11) PHYSICS *Multiple Choice* Aaron has a DC voltage source of 2 volts. If he wishes to amplify this voltage, which of the following devices would he most likely use?

- W) Operational amplifier
- X) Transistor
- Y) Transformer
- Z) Rectifier

ANSWER: W) Operational amplifier

BONUS

11) PHYSICS *Short Answer* The surface tension of the boundary between air and soapy water is approximately 2.5×10^{-2} newtons per meter. If a spherical soap bubble is formed with a radius of 5 centimeters, what is the pressure difference in pascals between the inside and outside of the bubble to one significant figure?

ANSWER: 2

TOSS UP

12) MATH *Short Answer* The distribution of the heights of men can be modeled as a normal model with a variance of 3 while the distribution of heights of women can be modeled as a normal model with a variance of 4. What is the standard deviation of the normal model produced from the difference of the heights of men and women?

ANSWER: $\sqrt{7}$

BONUS

12) MATH *Short Answer* The function $f(n)$ takes positive integer values of n and outputs the sum of the fifth powers of the integers from 1 to n inclusive. When $f(n)$ is written as a polynomial in n , what is the coefficient of its leading term?

ANSWER: 1/6

TOSS UP

13) EARTH AND SPACE *Short Answer* The Hercules-Corona Borealis Great Wall is the largest known instance of what kind of object formed from gravitationally bound superclusters?

ANSWER: Galactic filament

BONUS

13) EARTH AND SPACE *Short Answer* Haumea is best approximated by as what type of triaxial ellipsoid?

ANSWER: Jacobi ellipsoid

TOSS UP

14) PHYSICS *Multiple Choice* A two-state qubit has basis states ket 0 (read: *ket zero*) and ket 1. If the qubit is currently in the state three-fifths ket 0 plus four-fifths ket 1, what is the probability that the qubit will be measured to be in the state ket zero?

- W) $3/4$
- X) $3/7$
- Y) $9/16$
- Z) $9/25$

ANSWER: Z) $9/25$

BONUS

14) PHYSICS *Short Answer* A spherical marble is placed on a very large ramp inclined 30 degrees to the horizontal and rolls down the ramp without slipping. After rolling a distance of 7 centimeters, to one significant figure and in meters per second, what is the velocity of the marble?

ANSWER: 0.7

TOSS UP

15) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* Identify all of the following three statements that are TRUE regarding prokaryotic and eukaryotic translation:

- 1) Eukaryotic mRNA transcripts more often encode multiple proteins at one time.
- 2) In both eukaryotes and prokaryotes, mRNA first attaches to the small ribosomal subunit.
- 3) Prokaryotic translation can occur simultaneously with transcription

ANSWER: 2 and 3

BONUS

15) BIOLOGY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following pairs of codons could be recognized by the same tRNA due to wobble base pairing?

- W) GCU and UCU
- X) UAG and UAA
- Y) AUU and AUG
- Z) AGU and AGC

ANSWER: Z) AGU and AGC

TOSS UP

16) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following best explains why many lead (IV) (read: *lead four*) compounds spontaneously decompose at room temperature?

- W) Group 14 elements tend to only form compounds in +2 state.
- X) Lead is a heavy metal, which tends to not form compounds of +4 state due to the large activation energy.
- Y) The 6s electrons of lead experience great attraction to the nucleus and thus tend to not participate in bonding.
- Z) The lead atom is too large and thus incapable of holding a stable tetrahedral structure.

ANSWER: Y) The 6s electrons of lead experience great attraction to the nucleus and thus tend to not participate in bonding.

BONUS

16) CHEMISTRY *Short Answer* Viraj takes a sample of zinc sulfide and adds fills all tetrahedral holes with manganese atoms. What is the molar ratio of manganese to zinc in his product?

ANSWER: 1/2 (ACCEPT: 0.5)

TOSS UP

17) ENERGY *Short Answer* Researchers in the Sojacic group at MIT are exploring new ways to produce X-rays. One way to produce X-rays is through the deceleration of an electron, which emits radiation in what phenomenon?

ANSWER: Bremsstrahlung

BONUS

17) ENERGY *Short Answer* Researchers in the Choi Group at MIT are looking at ways to flip off-resonance qubits with composite NMR pulses. When a non-composite, single NMR pulse is applied to a qubit, the qubit precesses in the rotating frame. What is the name of the frequency at which the qubit precesses?

ANSWER: Rabi frequency

TOSS UP

18) MATH *Multiple Choice* Three cats and three dogs sit down at seats around a round table uniformly at random. What is the probability that all three cats sit in consecutive seats?

- W) 1/5
- X) 1/4
- Y) 3/10
- Z) 7/20

ANSWER: Y) 3/10

BONUS

18) MATH *Short Answer* ABC is a triangle with $AB = 6$, $BC = 8$, and $CA = 10$. The angle bisector of angle B intersects the circumcircle of ABC at point D . What is the length of BD ?

ANSWER: $7\sqrt{2}$

TOSS UP

19) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* The structure of the Lyman-alpha forest in the spectrum of a distant quasar encodes information regarding what structure between the quasar and the observer?

- W) Location of HII (read: *aitch-two*) regions
- X) Location of HI (read: *aitch-one*) regions
- Y) Location of dark matter
- Z) Regions of high carbon monoxide density

ANSWER: W) Location of HII regions

BONUS

19) EARTH AND SPACE *Short Answer* Systems of multiple massive objects, when given time, sort themselves by density. Identify all of the following three pairs that correctly assign an object to their massive central object:

- 1) M87, Virgo Cluster
- 2) Virgo Cluster, Virgo Supercluster
- 3) Sagittarius A-star, Local Group

ANSWER: 1, 2

TOSS UP

20) PHYSICS *Short Answer* The pair production of an electron and positron from a single photon often occurs near the nucleus of an atom in order to conserve what quantity?

ANSWER: Momentum (ACCEPT: Linear momentum)

BONUS

20) PHYSICS *Short Answer* Bob has a convex lens with focal length 10 centimeters made out of glass with an index of refraction of 2. Emmy builds another convex lens of exactly the same shape, but with a different material which has an index of refraction of 3. In centimeters, what is the focal length of Emmy's mirror?

ANSWER: 5

TOSS UP

21) MATH *Short Answer* What is the period of the function defined as $f(x) = \lceil x/2 \rceil - x/2$ (read: *f of x is equal to the ceiling of x/2 minus x/2*)?

ANSWER: 2

BONUS

21) MATH *Short Answer* Four sheep and four pigs are to be herded into two pens such that each pen has at least one of each type of animal. If animals of the same type are distinguishable, how many ways can the animals be herded?

ANSWER: 196

TOSS UP

22) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* In which organelle would one observe the breakdown of lignoceric acid, a long chain fatty acid with 26 carbon atoms?

ANSWER: Peroxisome

BONUS

22) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* Identify all of the following four statements that are TRUE when a species with 12 chromosomes and a species with 10 chromosomes give way to a fertile hybrid species with 22 chromosomes:

- 1) This is an example of allopatric speciation
- 2) This is an example of autopolyploidy
- 3) This process occurs commonly in plants
- 4) Meiotic errors could have contributed to the production of this species

ANSWER: 3 and 4

TOSS UP

23) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following compounds is the most acidic?

- W) Benzoic acid
- X) Ortho-nitro benzoic acid
- Y) Meta-nitro benzoic acid
- Z) Para-nitro benzoic acid

ANSWER: X) Ortho-nitro benzoic acid

BONUS

23) CHEMISTRY *Short Answer* Identify all of the following three molecules whose symmetric stretching vibrational mode is IR active:

- 1) Hydrogen
- 2) Nitric oxide
- 3) Carbon dioxide

ANSWER: 2 only