

Q1(1):

The graph of  $y = x^2 - a(x + 1) + 3$  touches the x-axis if and only if the equation  $x^2 - a(x + 1) + 3 = 0$ , i.e.  $x^2 - ax + (3 - a) = 0$  has only one solution. Then,

$$\Delta = a^2 - 4(3 - a) = 0$$

$$a^2 + 4a - 12 = 0$$

$$(a + 6)(a - 2) = 0$$

$$a = \boxed{-6} \text{ or } a = \boxed{2}$$

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Q1(2):

$$\log_2(x + 1) \leq 3$$

$$x + 1 > 0 \text{ and } x + 1 \leq 2^3$$

$$x > -1 \text{ and } x \leq 7$$

$$\boxed{-1 < x \leq 7}$$

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Q1(3):

Denote the center of the inscribed circle as  $O$ . Then the heights of  $\triangle AOB$ ,  $\triangle BOC$  and  $\triangle COA$  will be equal to the radius of the inscribed circle,  $r$ , as the inscribed circle is tangent to their bases.

On the other hand, consider the area of  $\triangle ABC$ ,

$$\triangle ABC = \triangle AOB + \triangle BOC + \triangle COA$$

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

$$2\sqrt{5} = 5r$$

$$r = \boxed{\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}}$$

**Alternative** As  $\triangle ABC$  is an isosceles triangle,  $O$  lies on the perpendicular bisector of  $BC$ . Denote  $M$  as the mid-point of  $BC$ , we have  $BM = \frac{1}{2}BC = 2$ ,  $OM = r$  and  $\angle OBM = \frac{1}{2}\angle ABM$  (as  $OB$  is the angle bisector of  $\angle ABC$ ).

On the other hand, consider the cosine ratio of  $\triangle ABM$ , we have  $\cos \angle ABM = \frac{BM}{AB} = \frac{2}{3}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Note that } \cos \angle ABM &= \cos^2 \angle \frac{1}{2}ABM - \sin^2 \angle \frac{1}{2}ABM = \cos^2 \angle OBM - \sin^2 \angle OBM \\ &= \frac{\cos^2 \angle OBM - \sin^2 \angle OBM}{\cos^2 \angle OBM + \sin^2 \angle OBM} = \frac{1 - \tan^2 \angle OBM}{1 + \tan^2 \angle OBM}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have the equation

$$\frac{1 - \tan^2 \angle OBM}{1 + \tan^2 \angle OBM} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\tan^2 \angle OBM = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$\tan \angle OBM = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \text{ (as } \tan \angle OBM > 0 \text{)}$$

Now, consider the tangent ratio of  $\triangle OBM$ , we have  $\tan \angle OBM = \frac{OM}{BM} = \frac{r}{2}$ .

Therefore, we have  $r = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}$ .

Q1(4):

Note that  $\sin \theta - \sqrt{3} \cos \theta = 2\left(\frac{1}{2} \sin \theta - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cos \theta\right) = 2(\cos 60^\circ \sin \theta - \sin 60^\circ \cos \theta) =$

$$2 \sin(\theta - 60^\circ).$$

For  $0 \leq \theta < 360^\circ$ ,  $-2 \leq 2 \sin(\theta - 60^\circ) \leq 2$ . Therefore, the required maximum value is  $\boxed{2}$ .

(Note: For the general methodology, search for how to express  $a \sin \theta + b \cos \theta$  in the form  $R \sin(\theta - \alpha)$ .)

**Alternative**  $f'(\theta) = \cos \theta + \sqrt{3} \sin \theta$ .

To find the extremum of  $f(\theta)$ , set  $f'(\theta) = 0$ , we have  $\tan \theta = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ .

For  $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$ , we have the solutions  $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$  or  $\theta = \frac{11\pi}{6}$ .

$f''(\theta) = -\sin \theta + \sqrt{3} \cos \theta$ . Conduct the second derivative test:

$$f''(\frac{5\pi}{6}) = -\frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{3} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} < 0$$

$$f''(\frac{11\pi}{6}) = \frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{3} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} > 0$$

Therefore,  $f(\theta)$  attains to its maximum when  $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$ . By that time, the maximum value  $= f(\frac{5\pi}{6}) = \frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{3} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = \boxed{2}$ .

Q1(5):

If  $x + y = 3$  and  $x^2 + y^2 = 5$ , then  $(x + y)^2 = (x^2 + y^2) + 2xy = 5 + 2xy = 3^2 = 9$ .

Therefore,  $xy = \frac{9-5}{2} = 2$ .

Then,  $x^3 + y^3 = (x + y)^3 - 3xy(x + y) = 3^3 - 3(2)(3) = \boxed{9}$ .

Q2:

(1) By the cosine formula,

$$AC^2 = BA^2 + BC^2 - 2(BA)(BC) \cos \angle B$$

$$AC = \sqrt{5^2 + 3^2 - 2(5)(3) \cos 60^\circ} = \boxed{\sqrt{19}}$$

(2) As  $ABCD$  is a cyclic quadrilateral,  $\angle D = 180^\circ - \angle B = 120^\circ$ .

By the cosine formula,

$$AC^2 = DA^2 + DC^2 - 2(DA)(DC) \cos \angle D$$

$$DA^2 - 2(2) \cos 120^\circ DA + 2^2 - 19 = 0$$

$$DA^2 + 2DA - 15 = 0$$

$$(DA + 5)(DA - 3) = 0$$

$$DA = \boxed{3} \text{ or } DA = -5(\text{rejected})$$

Q3:

(1):

$$xy = 8 \iff \log_2(xy) = \log_2 8 \iff \log_2 x + \log_2 y = 3 \iff \log_2 y = 3 - X.$$

Therefore,

$$P = 2(\log_2 x)^2 + (\log_2 y)^2$$

$$= 2X^2 + (3 - X)^2$$

$$= \boxed{3X^2 - 6X + 9}$$

(2) By completing the square,  $P = 3(X - 1)^2 + 6$ .

As  $(X - 1)^2 \geq 0$ , we have  $P \geq 0 + 6 = 6$ . Therefore, the minimum value of  $P$  is  $\boxed{6}$ .