

Q1(1):

From the identity  $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$ , we have  $(\sin \theta + \cos \theta)^2 - 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta = 1$ .

For the equation  $\sqrt{2}x^2 - \sqrt{3}x + k = 0$ , sum of roots  $= -\frac{-\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}$  and product of roots  $= \frac{k}{\sqrt{2}}$ .

If the two roots can be written as  $\sin \theta$  and  $\cos \theta$ , we have

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\right)^2 - 2 \frac{k}{\sqrt{2}} = 1$$
$$l = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}}$$

**Alternative** Substitute  $x = \sin \theta$  and  $x = \cos \theta$  into the two equations respectively, we have:

$$\sqrt{2} \sin^2 \theta = \sqrt{3} \sin \theta - k$$

$$\sqrt{2} \cos^2 \theta = \sqrt{3} \cos \theta - k$$

Adding two equations together, we have  $\sqrt{2} = \sqrt{3}(\sin \theta + \cos \theta) - 2k$ .

On the other hand, as the sum of roots  $= \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}$ , we have  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - 2k$ , i.e.

$$k = \boxed{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}}.$$

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Q1(2):

Consider the binomial expansion of  $(x^3 + \frac{a}{x^2})^5$ , which is

$$\sum_{k=0}^5 C_k^5 (x^3)^k \left(\frac{a}{x^2}\right)^{5-k} = \sum_{k=0}^5 C_k^5 (a^{5-k}) x^{5k-10}, \text{ where } C_r^n \text{ is the binomial coefficient.}$$

For the constant term, the index of  $x$  equals to 0. Solving  $5k - 10 = 0$ , we have

$k = 2$ , i.e. the constant term is obtained when  $k = 2$ .

When  $k = 2$ , the term  $= C_2^5 a^3 = 10a^3$ .

Therefore, they have  $10a^3 = -270$ , i.e.  $a = \boxed{-3}$ .

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Q1(3):

As the relation provided holds independent on the value of  $x$ , we can put any values of  $x$  we want expect  $-\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{2}$ .

Note that  $p = 2$  and  $p = -\frac{2}{3}$  does not satisfy the relation  $f(g(x)) = x$ .

Put  $x = -\frac{1}{p}$ , then  $g(x) = 0$ , the relation becomes

$$f(0) = -\frac{1}{p}$$

$$1 = -\frac{1}{p}$$

$$p = \boxed{-1}$$

**Alternative**

$$f(g(x)) = x$$

$$\frac{3\left(\frac{px+1}{2x-3}\right) + 1}{2\left(\frac{px+1}{2x-3}\right) + 1} = x$$

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

$$(2p+2)x^2 - (3p+3)x = 0$$

As the relation holds independent on the value of  $x$ , we have  $2p+2 = 0$  and

$3p+3 = 0$ , which gives us  $p = \boxed{-1}$ .

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Q1(4):

Note that the hidden condition for  $\log_2 x$  and  $\log_2(x-2)$  to be defined is  $x > 2$ .

On the other hand,

$$\log_2 x + \log_2(x-2) < 4 \log_{16} 8$$

$$\log_2(x^2 - 2x) < \log_2 8$$

$$x^2 - 2x - 8 < 0$$

$$(x-4)(x+2) < 0$$

$$-2 < x < 4$$

Combine the above, we have  $\boxed{2 < x < 4}$ .

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Q1(5):

Consider the prime factorisation of  $600 = 2^3 \times 3 \times 5^2$ .

Therefore, all positive divisors of 600 are in a form of  $2^i \times 3^j \times 5^k$ , where  $i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$  satisfy  $0 \leq i \leq 3$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq k \leq 2$ .

By finding the number of combinations of  $i, j, k$ , we have the total number of positive divisors of  $600 = 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 = \boxed{24}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{On the other hand, the sum of all divisors} &= \sum_{i=0}^3 \sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^2 2^i \times 3^j \times 5^k \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=0}^3 \sum_{j=0}^1 2^i \times 3^j \right) (5^0 + 5^1 + 5^2) \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=0}^3 2^i \right) (3^0 + 3^1) (5^0 + 5^1 + 5^2) \\ &= (2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + 2^3) (3^0 + 3^1) (5^0 + 5^1 + 5^2) \end{aligned}$$

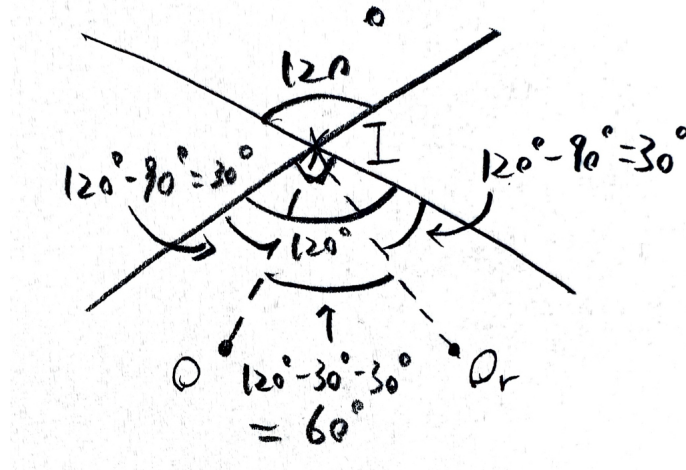
$$= (15)(4)(31)$$

$$= \boxed{1860}.$$

Q2:

(1): Denote the centres of  $C$  and  $C_r$  as  $O$  and  $O_r$  respectively. In addition, denote the point of intersection as  $I$ .

Refer to the sketch:



The angle between two radii is equal to  $60^\circ$ . By the cosine formula, the distance

$$\text{between two centres} = \sqrt{1^2 + r^2 - 2(1)(r) \cos 60^\circ} = \boxed{\sqrt{r^2 - r + 1}}.$$

(2): By completing the square,  $d = \sqrt{(r - \frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}}$ .

Therefore, when  $(r - \frac{1}{2})^2 = 0$ , i.e.  $r = \boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$ , the distance is minimised.

**Alternative**  $d' = \frac{2r-1}{2\sqrt{r^2-r+1}}.$

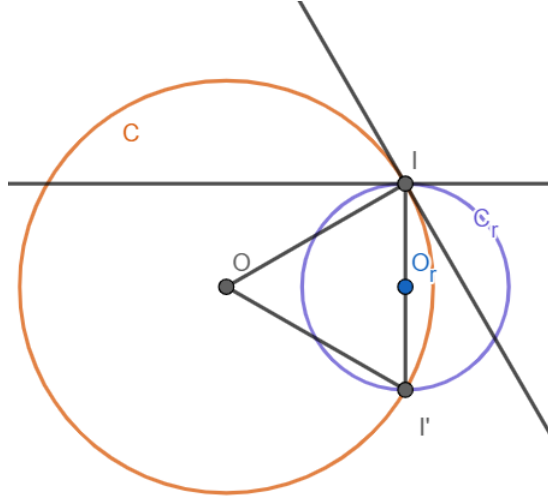
To find the extremum of  $d$ , we set  $d' = 0$ . Then, we have  $r = \frac{1}{2}$ .

The table of first derivative test is given:

$r$	$(0, \frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, +\infty)$
$d'$	$-$	$+$
$d$	$\searrow$	$\nearrow$

Therefore,  $d$  attains to its minimum when  $r = \boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

(3): A sketch of case (2):



The required area = (The area of sector (semi-circle)  $\widehat{IO_rI'}$ ) + (The area of sector  $\widehat{IOI'}$ ) - (The area of  $\triangle IOI'$ )

Note that every interior angle of  $\triangle IOI'$  equals to  $60^\circ$ .

Then, the area =  $(\frac{1}{2}\pi(\frac{1}{2})^2) + (\pi(1)^2 \cdot \frac{60^\circ}{360^\circ}) - (\frac{1}{2}(1)(1) \sin 60^\circ)$

$$= \frac{\pi}{8} + \frac{\pi}{6} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{7\pi}{24} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}}.$$

**Alternative** Introduce coordinates: Set  $O(0, 0)$  be the origin, then  $O_r = (\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, 0)$

by (1) and (2).

Now, the equation of  $C$  is  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  and that of  $C_r$  is  $(x - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})^2 + y^2 = \frac{1}{4}$ .

The x-coordinate of their point of intersections will be given by

$$x^2 - 1 = (x - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})^2 - \frac{1}{4}. \text{ By solving, we have } x = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$

Moreover, the x-intercepts of  $C$  are  $\pm 1$  and that of  $C_r$  are  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2}$ .

Now, we consider only the upper part (i.e. that above the x-axis) of the region.

Then, by symmetry, the total area will be twice of it.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, the area} &= 2 \left( \int_{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} - \frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} - (x - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})^2} dx + \int_{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}}^1 \sqrt{1 - x^2} dx \right) \\ &= 2 \left( \frac{1}{4} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^0 \cos^2 \theta d\theta + \int_{\frac{\pi}{3}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^2 \theta d\theta \right) \\ &= 2 \left( \frac{1}{4} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \theta + \frac{\sin 2\theta}{4} \right]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^0 + \left[ \frac{1}{2} \theta + \frac{\sin 2\theta}{4} \right]_{\frac{\pi}{3}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \right) \\ &= 2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} + \frac{\pi}{12} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{8} \right) \\ &= \boxed{\frac{7\pi}{24} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}}. \end{aligned}$$

Q3:

$$(1): y = 8^x - 9 \cdot 4^x + 15 \cdot 2^x$$

$$= (2^x)^3 - 9 \cdot (2^x)^2 + 15 \cdot 2^x$$

$$= \boxed{X^3 - 9X^2 + 15X}.$$

$$(2): y' = 3X^2 - 18X + 15 = 3(X - 5)(X - 1).$$

To find the extremum of  $y$ , we set  $y' = 0$ , then  $X = 1$  or  $X = 5$ .

$$y'' = 6X - 18.$$

Conduct the second derivative test:

$$\text{When } X = 1, y'' = -12 < 0$$

$$\text{When } X = 5, y'' = 12 > 0$$

Therefore, the local maximum is obtained when  $X = \boxed{1}$ , and the value of it is

$$1 - 9 + 15 = \boxed{7}.$$

The local minimum is obtained when  $X = \boxed{5}$ , and the value of it is

$$125 - 225 + 75 = \boxed{-25}.$$

$$(3): 0 \leq x \leq \log_2 7 \iff 1 \leq X \leq 7$$

When  $X = 1$ , maximum is obtained by the result of (2).

$$\text{When } X = 7, y = 7(49 - 63 + 15) = 7$$

Combine the above with the result of (2), we have:

The global maximum is  $\boxed{7}$ , at  $X = 1$  or  $7$ , i.e.  $x = \boxed{0 \text{ or } \log_2 7}$ .

The global maximum is  $\boxed{-25}$ , at  $X = 5$ , i.e.  $x = \boxed{\log_2 5}$ .