

90-91 Individual	1	4	2	2	3	488	4	-17	5	4
	6	6	7	72.8	8	243	9	8	10	50
	11	-4	12	6	13	17	14	13	15	73
	16	338350	17	192	18	7	19	10	20	45

90-91 Group	1	9	2	98	3	10	4	32767	5	174
	6	6	7	1601	8	41	9	25	10	110

Individual Events

- I1** Find the value of $\log_3 14 - \log_3 12 + \log_3 486 - \log_3 7$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \log_3 14 - \log_3 12 + \log_3 486 - \log_3 7 \\ &= \log_3 \frac{14 \times 486}{12 \times 7} \\ &= \log_3 81 = 4 \end{aligned}$$

- I2** A scientist found that the population of a bacteria culture doubled every hour. At 4:00 pm, he found that the number of bacteria was 3.2×10^8 . If the number of bacteria in that culture at noon on the same day was $N \times 10^7$, find N .

$$N \times 10^7 \times 2^4 = 3.2 \times 10^8$$

$$16N = 32$$

$$\Rightarrow N = 2$$

- I3** If $x + \frac{1}{x} = 8$, find the value of $x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3}$. (**Reference: 2018 FI1.4**)

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 = 64$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = 62$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} &= \left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right) \left(x^2 - 1 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right) \\ &= 8 \times (62 - 1) = 488 \end{aligned}$$

- I4** If the equations $2x + 3y + a = 0$ and $bx - 2y + 1 = 0$ represent the same line, find the value of $6(a + b)$.

$$\frac{2}{b} = \frac{3}{-2} = \frac{a}{1}$$

$$a = -\frac{3}{2}, b = -\frac{4}{3}$$

$$6(a + b) = -9 - 8 = -17$$

- I5** A boy walks from home to school at a speed of 2 metres per second and runs back at x metres per second. His average speed for the whole journey is $2\frac{2}{3}$ metres per second. Find x .

Let the distance between his home and the school be d m.

$$\frac{2d}{\frac{d}{2} + \frac{d}{x}} = 2\frac{2}{3}$$

$$\frac{4x}{x+2} = \frac{8}{3}$$

$$3x = 2x + 4$$

$$x = 4$$

- I6** The straight line $\frac{ax}{3} - \frac{2by}{5} = 2a + b$ passes through a fixed point P . Find the x -coordinate of P .

Reference: 1990 HI5, 1996 HI6

$$a\left(\frac{x}{3} - 2\right) = b\left(\frac{2y}{5} + 1\right)$$

Put $b = 0$, $a = 1$, $x = 6$

- I7** If the diameter of a sphere is increased by 20%, its volume will be increased by $x\%$. Find x .
Let the radius be r .

When the diameter is increased by 20%, the radius is also increased by 20%

Percentage increase in volume

$$= \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(1.2r)^3 - \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} \times 100\% = 72.8\%$$

$x = 72.8$

- I8** If $\log_7[\log_5(\log_3 x)] = 0$, find x .

$$\log_5(\log_3 x) = 1$$

$$\log_3 x = 5$$

$$x = 3^5 = 243$$

- I9** If $\frac{7-8x}{(1-x)(2-x)} = \frac{A}{1-x} + \frac{B}{2-x}$ for all real numbers x where $x \neq 1$ and $x \neq 2$, find $A + B$.

$$7 - 8x \equiv A(2 - x) + B(1 - x)$$

$$2A + B = 7 \dots\dots (1)$$

$$A + B = 8 \dots\dots (2)$$

$$(1) - (2): A = -1$$

$$\text{Put } A = -1 \text{ into } (2): B = 9$$

$$A + B = 8$$

- I10** The marked price of an article is $p\%$ above its cost price. At a sale, the shopkeeper sells the article at 20% off the marked price. If he makes a profit of 20%, find p .

Let the cost be $\$x$.

$$(1 + p\%)x(1 - 20\%) = (1 + 20\%)x$$

$$1 + 0.01p = 1.5$$

$$p = 50$$

- I11** If $a < 0$ and $2^{2a+4} - 65 \times 2^a + 4 = 0$, find a .

$$16(2^a)^2 - 65(2^a) + 4 = 0$$

$$(16 \times 2^a - 1)(2^a - 4) = 0$$

$$2^a = \frac{1}{16} \text{ or } 4$$

$$\because a < 0 \therefore a = -4$$

- I12** If one root of the equation $(x^2 - 11x - 10) + k(x + 2) = 0$ is zero, find the other root.

$$\text{Put } x = 0, -10 + 2k = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow k = 5$$

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

The other root is 6.

I13 $[x]$ denotes the greatest integer less than or equal to x . For example, $[6] = 6$, $[8.9] = 8$, etc.

If $\sqrt[4]{1} + \sqrt[4]{2} + \dots + \sqrt[4]{n} = n + 2$, find n . (**Reference 1989 HI6**)

$$\sqrt[4]{1} = 1, \sqrt[4]{2} = 1, \dots, \sqrt[4]{15} = 1; \sqrt[4]{16} = 2, \dots, \sqrt[4]{80} = 2; \sqrt[4]{81} = 3$$

$$\text{If } n \leq 15, \sqrt[4]{1} + \sqrt[4]{2} + \dots + \sqrt[4]{n} = n$$

$$\text{If } 16 \leq n \leq 80, \sqrt[4]{1} + \sqrt[4]{2} + \dots + \sqrt[4]{n} = 15 + 2(n - 15) = 2n - 15$$

$$2n - 15 = n + 2$$

$$\Rightarrow n = 17$$

I14 a, b are two different real numbers such that $a^2 = 6a + 8$ and $b^2 = 6b + 8$. Find the value of

$$\left(\frac{4}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{b}\right)^2.$$

Reference: 1989 HG1

a and b are the roots of $x^2 = 6x + 8$; i.e. $x^2 - 6x - 8 = 0$

$$a + b = 6; ab = -8$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{4}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{b}\right)^2 &= 16\left(\frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2}\right) \\ &= \frac{16[(a+b)^2 - 2ab]}{(ab)^2} \\ &= \frac{16[6^2 - 2(-8)]}{(-8)^2} = 13 \end{aligned}$$

I15 $3^{12} - 1$ is divisible by an integer which is greater than 70 and smaller than 80. Find the integer.

$$3^{12} - 1 = (3^6 + 1)(3^6 - 1) = (3^2 + 1)(3^4 - 3^2 + 1)(3^2 - 1)(3^4 + 3^2 + 1)$$

$$= 10 \times 73 \times 8 \times 91$$

The integer is 73.

I16 It is known that

$$2^3 - 1^3 = 3 \times 1^2 + 3 \times 1 + 1$$

$$3^3 - 2^3 = 3 \times 2^2 + 3 \times 2 + 1$$

$$4^3 - 3^3 = 3 \times 3^2 + 3 \times 3 + 1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$101^3 - 100^3 = 3 \times 100^2 + 3 \times 100 + 1$$

Find the value of $1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + 100^2$.

$$\text{Add up these 100 equations: } 101^3 - 1 = 3(1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + 100^2) + \frac{3}{2}(1 + 100) \cdot 100 + 100$$

$$1030301 - 1 = 3(1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + 100^2) + 15150 + 100$$

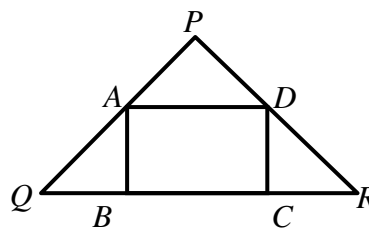
$$1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + 100^2 = 338350$$

I17 In figure 1, $PQ = PR = 8$ cm and $\angle QPR = 120^\circ$. A, D are the mid-points of PQ, PR respectively. If $ABCD$ is a rectangle of area \sqrt{x} cm², find x .

Fold $\triangle PAD$ along AD , $\triangle QAB$ along AB , $\triangle RCD$ along DC .

It is easy to show the area of $ABCD = \frac{1}{2}$ area of $\triangle PQR$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 8 \cdot 8 \cdot \sin 120^\circ = 8\sqrt{3} = \sqrt{192} \Rightarrow x = 192$$



(Figure 1)

- I18** In figure 2, $XA = 10$ cm, $AB = 2$ cm, $XD = 8$ cm and $DC = x$ cm. Find the value of x .

$\angle XAD = \angle XCB$ (ext. \angle , cyclic quad.)

$\angle AXD = \angle CXB$ (common)

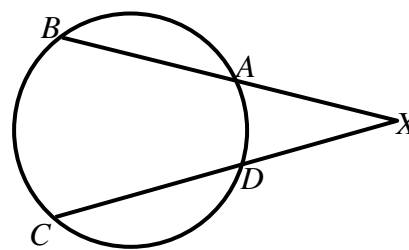
$\angle XDA = \angle XBC$ (ext. \angle , cyclic quad.)

$\triangle XAD \sim \triangle XCB$ (equiangular)

$XA : XD = XC : XB$ (ratio of sides, $\sim \Delta$)

$$10 \times (10 + 2) = 8 \times (8 + x)$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 7$$



(Figure 2)

- I19** In figure 3, $AB = AC = 6$ cm and $BC = 9.6$ cm. If the diameter of the circumcircle of $\triangle ABC$ is x cm, find x .

$$\cos B = \frac{9.6 \div 2}{6} = 0.8$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin B = 0.6$$

By sine rule, $\frac{b}{\sin B} = 2R$

$$\Rightarrow 2R = \frac{6}{0.6} = 10$$

Method 2 Let the perpendicular bisector of BC intersects the circumscribed circle at A and D . E is the mid point of BC , O is the centre of the circle.

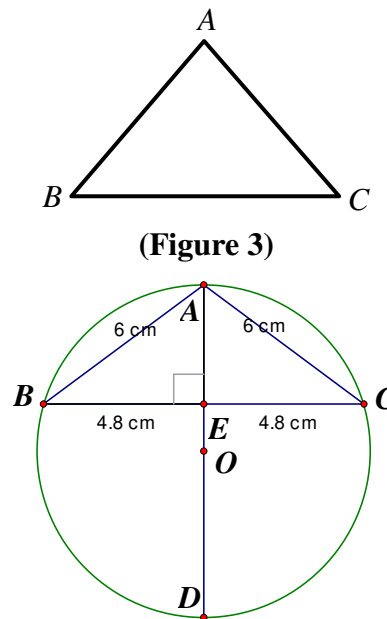
$AE = 3.6$ cm (Pythagoras' Theorem)

$AE \times ED = BE \times EC$ (intersecting chords theorem)

$$ED = 6.4$$
 cm

$$\Rightarrow AD = 10$$
 cm

$$\Rightarrow x = 10$$



(Figure 3)

- I20** In figure 4, $\angle ABC = 90^\circ$, $AK = BC$ and E, F are the mid-points of AC, KB respectively. If $\angle AFE = x^\circ$, find x .

Let $AE = y = EC$, $AK = t = BC$, $KF = n = FB$.

Draw $EG \parallel CB$, cutting AB at G .

$AG = GB$ (intercept theorem)

$$GB = \frac{1}{2}(t + 2n)$$

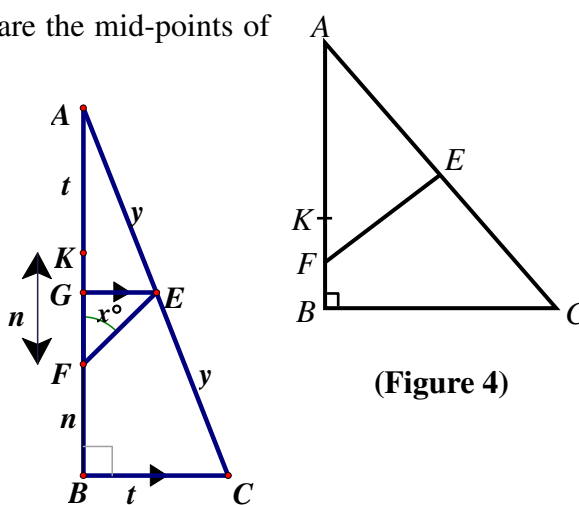
$$GF = \frac{1}{2}(t + 2n) - n = \frac{1}{2}t$$

$$GE = \frac{1}{2}t \quad (\text{mid point theorem})$$

$\angle EGF = 90^\circ$ (int. \angle s, $EG \parallel CB$)

$\therefore \triangle EGF$ is a right-angled isosceles triangle

$$x = 45$$



(Figure 4)

Group Events**G1** Find the units digit of 1357^{7890} . (Reference 1990 HI11)

$$7^1 = 7, 7^2 = 49, 7^3 = 343, 7^4 = 2401$$

The pattern of units digit repeats for every multiples of 4.

$$1357^{7890} \equiv (7^4)^{1972} \cdot 7^2 \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$$

The units digit is 9.

G2 If $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{30} + \frac{1}{42} + \dots + \frac{1}{2450} = \frac{x}{100}$, find x .

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{30} + \frac{1}{42} + \dots + \frac{1}{2450} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 \times 2} + \frac{1}{2 \times 3} + \frac{1}{3 \times 4} + \frac{1}{4 \times 5} + \frac{1}{5 \times 6} + \frac{1}{6 \times 7} + \dots + \frac{1}{49 \times 50} \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4}\right) + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{49} - \frac{1}{50}\right) \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{50} = \frac{49}{50} = \frac{98}{100} \\ &x = 98 \end{aligned}$$

G3 $\frac{a}{3}$, $\frac{b}{4}$ and $\frac{c}{6}$ are three proper fractions in their simplest form, where a , b and c are positive integers. If c is added to the numerator of each fraction, then the sum of the fractions formed will be equal to 6. Find the value of $a + b + c$. $\therefore \frac{a}{3}$, $\frac{b}{4}$ and $\frac{c}{6}$ are three proper fractions in their simplest form

$$\therefore a = 1 \text{ or } 2, b = 1 \text{ or } 3, c = 1 \text{ or } 5 \dots\dots (1)$$

$$\frac{a+c}{3} + \frac{b+c}{4} + \frac{c+c}{6} = 6$$

$$4(a+c) + 3(b+c) + 2(2c) = 72$$

$$4a + 3b + 11c = 72 \dots\dots (2)$$

$$a = 2, b = 3, c = 5 \text{ is a solution}$$

$$a + b + c = 10$$

G4 Study the Pascal's triangle shown below:

Row 1	1
Row 2	1 1
Row 3	1 2 1
Row 4	1 3 3 1
Row 5	1 4 6 4 1
Row 6	1 5 10 10 5 1
	\vdots

Find the sum of all the numbers from Row 1 to Row 15.

$$\text{Sum of the first row} = 2^0$$

$$\text{Sum of the second row} = 2^1$$

$$\text{Sum of the third row} = 2^2$$

.....

$$\text{Sum of the fifteen row} = 2^{14}$$

$$\text{Sum of all numbers from row 1 to row 15} = 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{14} = \frac{2^{15} - 1}{2 - 1} = 32767$$

- G5** In the multiplication $\square\square\square \times \square\square = \square\square \times \square\square = 5568$, each of the above boxes represents an integer from 1 to 9. If the integers for the nine boxes above are all different, find the number represented by $\square\square\square$.

$$5568 = 2^6 \times 3 \times 29 = 174 \times 32 = 96 \times 58$$

$$\square\square\square = 174$$

- G6** Find the remainder when $1997^{1990} - 1991$ is divided by 1996.

$$1997^{1990} - 1991 = (1996 + 1)^{1990} - 1991$$

$$= 1996m + 1 - 1991 \text{ (Binomial theorem, } m \text{ is an integer)}$$

$$= 1996(m - 1) + 6$$

The remainder is 6.

- G7** Find the least positive integral value of n such that $\sqrt{n} - \sqrt{n-1} < \frac{1}{80}$.

$$\sqrt{n} - \sqrt{n-1} < \frac{1}{80}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\sqrt{n} - \sqrt{n-1}) \cdot \frac{(\sqrt{n} + \sqrt{n-1})}{(\sqrt{n} + \sqrt{n-1})} < \frac{1}{80}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n} + \sqrt{n-1}} < \frac{1}{80}$$

$$\Rightarrow 80 < \sqrt{n} + \sqrt{n-1} < 2\sqrt{n}$$

$$\Rightarrow 40 < \sqrt{n}$$

$$1600 < n$$

The least positive integral value of $n = 1601$.

- G8** One of the solutions of the equation $32x + 59y = 3259$ in positive integers is given by $(x, y) = (100, 1)$. It is known that there is exactly one more pair of positive integers (a, b) ($a \neq 100$ and $b \neq 1$) such that $32a + 59b = 3259$. Find a . (**Reference: 1989 HG4**)

The line has a slope of $-\frac{32}{59} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$

Given that $(100, 1)$ is a solution.

$$-\frac{32}{59} = \frac{y_2 - 1}{x_2 - 100}$$

Let $y_2 - 1 = -32t$; $x_2 - 100 = 59t$, where t is an integer.

$$y_2 = 1 - 32t, x_2 = 100 + 59t$$

For positive integral solution of (x_2, y_2) , $1 - 32t > 0$ and $100 + 59t > 0$

$$-\frac{100}{59} < t < \frac{1}{32}$$

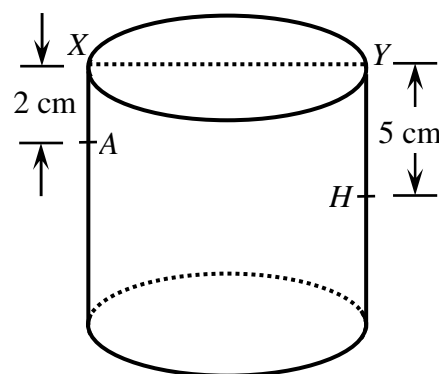
$\therefore t$ is an integer $\therefore t = 0$ or -1

When $t = -1$, $x_2 = 41$, $y_2 = 33$

\Rightarrow Another positive integral solution is $(41, 33)$

$$a = 41$$

- G9** In figure 1, XY is a diameter of a cylindrical glass, 48 cm in base circumference. On the outside is an ant at A , 2 cm below X and on the inside is a small drop of honey at H , 5 cm below Y . If the length of the shortest path for the ant to reach the drop of honey is x cm, find x . (Neglect the thickness of the glass.)



Reference: 1983 FG8.1, 1993 HI1, 1996 HG9

Cut the cylinder along a plane through XY perpendicular to the base. Unfold the curved surface of the semi-cylinder as a rectangle as shown.

The length of semi-circular arc of the rim $XY = 24$ cm

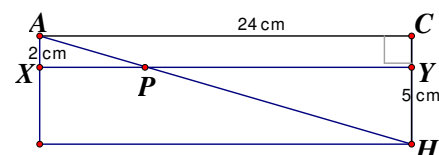
When the ant climbs over the rim somewhere at P , and then to H , then $AX = 2$ cm, $YH = 5$ cm.

For the shortest distance from A to H , A, P, H must be collinear. Let C be the foot of perpendicular drawn from A onto HY produced. Then $AXYC$ is a rectangle.

$AC = 24$ cm, $CH = (2 + 5)$ cm = 7 cm

$x^2 = 24^2 + 7^2$ (Pythagoras' theorem)

$x = 25$



- G10** In figure 2, two chords AOB , COD cut at O . If the tangents at A and C meet at X , the tangents at B and D meet at Y and $\angle AXC = 130^\circ$, $\angle AOD = 120^\circ$, $\angle BYD = k^\circ$, find k .

$XC = XA$ (tangent from ext. point)

$\therefore \triangle XAC$ is an isosceles triangle

$\angle XAC = \angle XCA$ (base \angle s isosceles \triangle)

$$= \frac{180^\circ - 130^\circ}{2} = 25^\circ \quad (\angle \text{sum of } \triangle XAC)$$

$\angle ADC = \angle XAC = 25^\circ$ (\angle in alt. segment)

$\angle DAO = 180^\circ - 120^\circ - 25^\circ = 35^\circ$ (\angle sum of $\triangle AOD$)

$\angle BDY = \angle DBY = 35^\circ$ (\angle in alt. segment)

$\angle BYD = 180^\circ - 35^\circ - 35^\circ = 110^\circ$ (\angle sum of $\triangle BDY$)

$k = 110$

