

AMC 12 Problems
2021

2021 AMC 12A

1. What is the value of

$$2^{1+2+3} - (2^1 + 2^2 + 2^3)?$$

- (A) 0 (B) 50 (C) 52 (D) 54 (E) 57

2. Under what conditions is $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = a + b$ true, where a and b are real numbers?

- (A) It is never true.
 (B) It is true if and only if $ab = 0$.
 (C) It is true if and only if $a + b \geq 0$.
 (D) It is true if and only if $ab = 0$ and $a + b \geq 0$.
 (E) It is always true.

3. The sum of two natural numbers is 17,402. One of the two numbers is divisible by 10. If the units digit of that number is erased, the other number is obtained. What is the difference of these two numbers?

- (A) 10,272 (B) 11,700 (C) 13,362 (D) 14,238 (E) 15,426

4. Tom has a collection of 13 snakes, 4 of which are purple and 5 of which are happy. He observes that

- * all of his happy snakes can add,
- * none of his purple snakes can subtract, and
- * all of his snakes that can't subtract also can't add.

Which of these conclusions can be drawn about Tom's snakes?

- (A) Purple snakes can add.
 (B) Purple snakes are happy.
 (C) Snakes that can add are purple.
 (D) Happy snakes are not purple.
 (E) Happy snakes can't subtract.

5. When a student multiplied the number 66 by the repeating decimal,

$$\underline{1}.\underline{a} \, \underline{b} \, \underline{a} \, \underline{b} \dots = \underline{1}.\overline{\underline{a} \, \underline{b}},$$

where a and b are digits, he did not notice the notation and just multiplied 66 times $\underline{1}.\underline{a} \, \underline{b}$. Later he found that his answer is 0.5 less than the correct answer. What is the 2-digit number $\underline{a} \, \underline{b}$?

- (A) 15 (B) 30 (C) 45 (D) 60 (E) 75

6. A deck of cards has only red cards and black cards. The probability of a randomly chosen card being red is $\frac{1}{3}$. When 4 black cards are added to the deck, the probability of choosing red becomes $\frac{1}{4}$. How many cards were in the deck originally?

- (A) 6 (B) 9 (C) 12 (D) 15 (E) 18

7. What is the least possible value of $(xy - 1)^2 + (x + y)^2$ for all real numbers x and y ?

- (A) 0 (B) $\frac{1}{4}$ (C) $\frac{1}{2}$ (D) 1 (E) 2

8. A sequence of numbers is defined by $D_0 = 0, D_1 = 0, D_2 = 1$ and $D_n = D_{n-1} + D_{n-3}$ for $n \geq 3$. What are the parities (evenness or oddness) of the triple of numbers $(D_{2021}, D_{2022}, D_{2023})$, where E denotes even and O denotes odd?

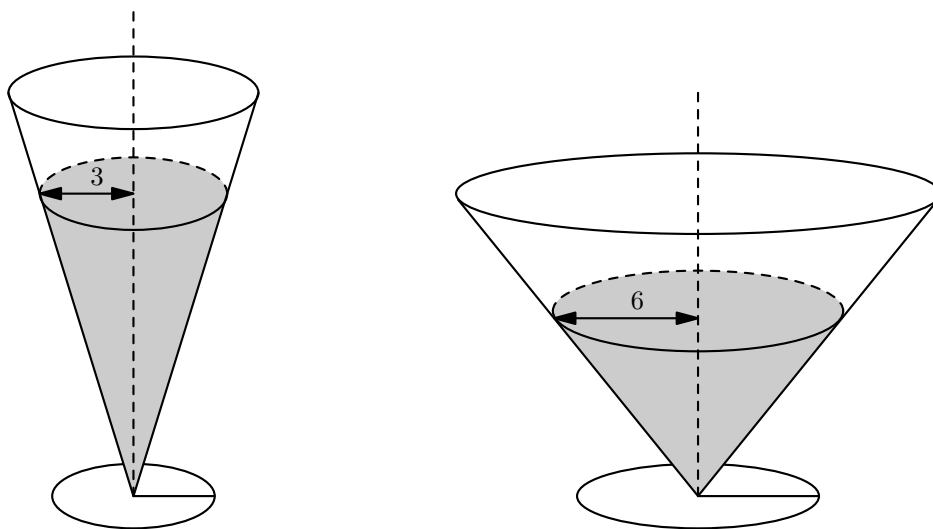
- (A) (O, E, O) (B) (E, E, O) (C) (E, O, E) (D) (O, O, E) (E) (O, O, O)

9. Which of the following is equivalent to

$$(2 + 3)(2^2 + 3^2)(2^4 + 3^4)(2^8 + 3^8)(2^{16} + 3^{16})(2^{32} + 3^{32})(2^{64} + 3^{64})?$$

- (A) $3^{127} + 2^{127}$ (B) $3^{127} + 2^{127} + 2 \cdot 3^{63} + 3 \cdot 2^{63}$ (C) $3^{128} - 2^{128}$ (D) $3^{128} + 2^{128}$ (E) 5^{127}

10. Two right circular cones with vertices facing down as shown in the figure below contain the same amount of liquid. The radii of the tops of the liquid surfaces are 3 cm and 6 cm. Into each cone is dropped a spherical marble of radius 1 cm, which sinks to the bottom and is completely submerged without spilling any liquid. What is the ratio of the rise of the liquid level in the narrow cone to the rise of the liquid level in the wide cone?



- (A) 1 : 1 (B) 47 : 43 (C) 2 : 1 (D) 40 : 13 (E) 4 : 1
11. A laser is placed at the point $(3, 5)$. The laser beam travels in a straight line. Larry wants the beam to hit and bounce off the y -axis, then hit and bounce off the x -axis, then hit the point $(7, 5)$. What is the total distance the beam will travel along this path?
- (A) $2\sqrt{10}$ (B) $5\sqrt{2}$ (C) $10\sqrt{2}$ (D) $15\sqrt{2}$ (E) $10\sqrt{5}$
12. All the roots of the polynomial $z^6 - 10z^5 + Az^4 + Bz^3 + Cz^2 + Dz + 16$ are positive integers, possibly repeated. What is the value of B ?
- (A) -88 (B) -80 (C) -64 (D) -41 (E) -40
13. Of the following complex numbers z , which one has the property that z^5 has the greatest real part?
- (A) -2 (B) $-\sqrt{3} + i$ (C) $-\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{2}i$ (D) $-1 + \sqrt{3}i$ (E) $2i$
14. What is the value of
- $$\left(\sum_{k=1}^{20} \log_5 3^{k^2} \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{k=1}^{100} \log_9 25^k \right)?$$
- (A) 21 (B) $100 \log_5 3$ (C) $200 \log_3 5$ (D) 2,200 (E) 21,000
15. A choir director must select a group of singers from among his 6 tenors and 8 basses. The only requirements are that the difference between the numbers of tenors and basses must be a multiple of 4, and the group must have at least one singer. Let N be the number of different groups that could be selected. What is the remainder when N is divided by 100?
- (A) 47 (B) 48 (C) 83 (D) 95 (E) 96
16. In the following list of numbers, the integer n appears n times in the list for $1 \leq n \leq 200$.

1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, \dots , 200, 200, \dots , 200

What is the median of the numbers in this list?

- (A) 100.5 (B) 134 (C) 142 (D) 150.5 (E) 167

17. Trapezoid $ABCD$ has $\overline{AB} \parallel \overline{CD}$, $BC = CD = 43$, and $\overline{AD} \perp \overline{BD}$. Let O be the intersection of the diagonals \overline{AC} and \overline{BD} , and let P be the midpoint of \overline{BD} . Given that $OP = 11$, the length of AD can be written in the form $m\sqrt{n}$, where m and n are positive integers and n is not divisible by the square of any prime. What is $m + n$?
- (A) 65 (B) 132 (C) 157 (D) 194 (E) 215
18. Let f be a function defined on the set of positive rational numbers with the property that $f(a \cdot b) = f(a) + f(b)$ for all positive rational numbers a and b . Suppose that f also has the property that $f(p) = p$ for every prime number p . For which of the following numbers x is $f(x) < 0$?
- (A) $\frac{17}{32}$ (B) $\frac{11}{16}$ (C) $\frac{7}{9}$ (D) $\frac{7}{6}$ (E) $\frac{25}{11}$
19. How many solutions does the equation $\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \cos x\right) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \sin x\right)$ have in the closed interval $[0, \pi]$?
- (A) 0 (B) 1 (C) 2 (D) 3 (E) 4
20. Suppose that on a parabola with vertex V and a focus F there exists a point A such that $AF = 20$ and $AV = 21$. What is the sum of all possible values of the length FV ?
- (A) 13 (B) $\frac{40}{3}$ (C) $\frac{41}{3}$ (D) 14 (E) $\frac{43}{3}$
21. The five solutions to the equation

$$(z - 1)(z^2 + 2z + 4)(z^2 + 4z + 6) = 0$$

may be written in the form $x_k + y_k i$ for $1 \leq k \leq 5$, where x_k and y_k are real. Let \mathcal{E} be the unique ellipse that passes through the points (x_1, y_1) , (x_2, y_2) , (x_3, y_3) , (x_4, y_4) , and (x_5, y_5) . The eccentricity of \mathcal{E} can be written in the form $\sqrt{\frac{m}{n}}$, where m and n are relatively prime positive integers. What is $m + n$? (Recall that the eccentricity of an ellipse \mathcal{E} is the ratio $\frac{c}{a}$, where $2a$ is the length of the major axis of \mathcal{E} and $2c$ is the distance between its two foci.)

- (A) 7 (B) 9 (C) 11 (D) 13 (E) 15
22. Suppose that the roots of the polynomial $P(x) = x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c$ are $\cos \frac{2\pi}{7}$, $\cos \frac{4\pi}{7}$, and $\cos \frac{6\pi}{7}$, where angles are in radians. What is abc ?
- (A) $-\frac{3}{49}$ (B) $-\frac{1}{28}$ (C) $\frac{\sqrt[3]{7}}{64}$ (D) $\frac{1}{32}$ (E) $\frac{1}{28}$
23. Frieda the frog begins a sequence of hops on a 3×3 grid of squares, moving one square on each hop and choosing at random the direction of each hop up, down, left, or right. She does not hop diagonally. When the direction of a hop would take Frieda off the grid, she "wraps around" and jumps to the opposite edge. For example if Frieda begins in the center square and makes two hops "up", the first hop would place her in the top row middle square, and the second hop would cause Frieda to jump to the opposite edge, landing in the bottom row middle square. Suppose Frieda starts from the center square, makes at most four hops at random, and stops hopping if she lands on a corner square. What is the probability that she reaches a corner square on one of the four hops?
- (A) $\frac{9}{16}$ (B) $\frac{5}{8}$ (C) $\frac{3}{4}$ (D) $\frac{25}{32}$ (E) $\frac{13}{16}$
24. Semicircle Γ has diameter \overline{AB} of length 14. Circle Ω lies tangent to \overline{AB} at a point P and intersects Γ at points Q and R . If $QR = 3\sqrt{3}$ and $\angle QPR = 60^\circ$, then the area of $\triangle PQR$ equals $\frac{a\sqrt{b}}{c}$, where a and c are relatively prime positive integers, and b is a positive integer not divisible by the square of any prime. What is $a + b + c$?
- (A) 110 (B) 114 (C) 118 (D) 122 (E) 126
25. Let $d(n)$ denote the number of positive integers that divide n , including 1 and n . For example, $d(1) = 1$, $d(2) = 2$, and $d(12) = 6$. (This function is known as the divisor function.) Let

$$f(n) = \frac{d(n)}{\sqrt[3]{n}}.$$

There is a unique positive integer N such that $f(N) > f(n)$ for all positive integers $n \neq N$. What is the sum of the digits of N ?

- (A) 5 (B) 6 (C) 7 (D) 8 (E) 9