

Mu Alpha Theta National Convention: Denver, 2001  
Probability Topic Test Solutions – Theta Division

Theta Probability Solutions

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1.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4} \rightarrow C$

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2.  $1 - P(\text{neither}) = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{3}{4} \rightarrow C$

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3. 1-5, 2-4, 3-3, 4-2, 5-1  $\rightarrow 5$  ways;  $\frac{5}{5^2} \rightarrow \frac{1}{5} \rightarrow B$

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4. Last game must be Mariners' win, others in any order.

$$\binom{6}{3} \times \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^4 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3 = \frac{320}{2187} \rightarrow C$$

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5.  $1 - P(\text{no defective found}) = 1 - \left(\frac{66}{72} \times \frac{65}{71} \times \frac{64}{70} \times \frac{63}{69}\right) = \frac{489}{1633} \rightarrow C$

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6. After 1st card drawn, 25 of remaining 51 are same color.  $\frac{25}{51} \rightarrow C$

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7. Only possible match is red shirt and shorts.

$$P(\text{Jim}) \times P(\text{Fred}) = \left(\frac{2}{9} \times \frac{1}{2}\right) \times \left(\frac{4}{17} \times \frac{4}{10}\right) = \frac{8}{765} \rightarrow B$$

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8. # of ways if:

Mary on end:  $2 \times 1 = 2$

Mary not on end:  $6 \times 2 = 12$

14 total

$$\frac{14}{8 \times 7} = \frac{14}{56} = \frac{1}{4} \rightarrow C$$

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9.  $\frac{1}{4!} = \frac{1}{24} \rightarrow D$

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10.  $\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{10} = \frac{1024}{59049} \rightarrow A$

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11. 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29  $\rightarrow \frac{10}{30} = \frac{1}{3} \rightarrow A$

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$$12. \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{6}{7} = \frac{55}{112} \rightarrow A$$

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$$13. f(x) > 0 \text{ if } 0 < x < 2 \quad \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow D$$

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14. Must be stopped at four of eight lights in any order.

$$\binom{8}{4} \times \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^4 \times \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^4 = \frac{1120}{6561} \rightarrow C$$

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$$15. \frac{\binom{7}{1} \times \binom{3}{1}}{\binom{10}{2}} = \frac{7}{15} \rightarrow B$$

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$$16. \binom{10}{4} \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{10} = \frac{105}{512} \rightarrow B$$

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17. First toss can be any outcome, after that only one possible way to meet criteria.  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^8 = \frac{1}{256} \rightarrow B$

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$$18. \frac{\text{Area of inner circle}}{\text{Area of board}} = \frac{2^2 \pi}{100^2 \pi} = \frac{1}{25} \rightarrow D$$

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$$19. \frac{7}{9} \times \frac{6}{8} \times \frac{5}{7} \times \frac{4}{6} = \frac{5}{18} \rightarrow A$$

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$$20. 1 - P(\text{two empties adjacent}) = 1 - \frac{9}{\binom{10}{2}} = \frac{4}{5} \rightarrow C$$

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21. Each chip has  $\frac{7}{8}$  probability of not being in chosen cookie

$$\left(\frac{7}{8}\right)^{20} = .0642 \rightarrow D$$

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22. Can search 3 sq. mi. in 36 hours.

$$\frac{3}{16\pi} \rightarrow D$$

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23.  $\frac{\sum_{n=10}^{15} \binom{15}{n}}{\sum_{n=0}^{15} \binom{15}{n}} = \frac{309}{2048} \rightarrow C$

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24. blue from A:  $\frac{1}{2} \times \left[ \frac{\binom{4}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} + \frac{\binom{7}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} \right] = \frac{27}{110}$

red from A:  $\frac{1}{2} \times \left[ \frac{\binom{3}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} + \frac{\binom{8}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} \right] = \frac{31}{110}$

$$\frac{27}{110} + \frac{31}{110} = \frac{29}{55} \rightarrow A$$

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25.  $\frac{1}{\binom{18}{3}} = \frac{1}{816} \rightarrow B$

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26.  $1 - P(\text{doesn't get answer}) = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5 = \frac{31}{32} \rightarrow D$

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27.  $f(x) < 2 \rightarrow 3x^2 < 2 \rightarrow x^2 < \frac{2}{3} \rightarrow x < \frac{\sqrt{6}}{3} \rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{6}/3}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{9} \rightarrow B$

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28. (# five card sequences)  $\times$  (# suits) =  $9 \times 4 = 36$  straight flushes possible

$$\frac{36}{\binom{52}{5}} = 1.385 \times 10^{-5} \rightarrow C$$

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29.  $\binom{6}{3} = 20$  sets of 3 distinct numbers; each set can be placed in correct order one way.

$$\frac{20}{6^3} = \frac{5}{54} \rightarrow A$$

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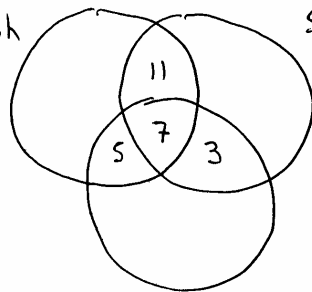
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30.  $P(\text{Bob arrives between 1:30 and 3:45}) \times P(\text{Jane's time overlaps}) +$   
 $P(\text{Bob between 1:00 and 1:30}) \times P(\text{overlap}) + P(\text{Bob 3:45 to 4:00}) \times P(\text{overlap}) =$   
 $(\frac{3}{4}) \times (\frac{1}{4}) + (\frac{1}{6}) \times (\frac{1}{6}) + (\frac{1}{12}) \times (\frac{5}{24}) = \frac{67}{288} \rightarrow D$

31. Ignore extraneous information; each person equally likely to get "x".  $\frac{1}{4} \rightarrow B$

32. English



Science  $18 + 12 + 10 - 2x = 200 - 174$

↓

$x = 7$

$\frac{7}{200} \rightarrow A$

History

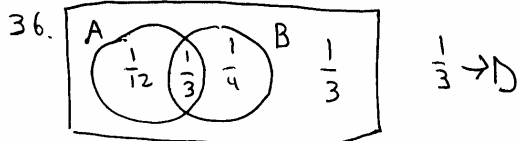
33.  $(\frac{17}{18}) \times (\frac{13}{14}) = \frac{221}{252} \rightarrow B$

34.  $1 - P(S) = 1 - \frac{S^2}{S^2+1} = \frac{1}{26} \rightarrow B$

35. Qualifying numbers are squares of primes:

$2^2=4, 3^2=9, 5^2=25, 7^2=49, 11^2=121, 13^2=169, 17^2=289 \leftarrow \text{too big}$

$\frac{6}{200} = \frac{3}{100} \rightarrow D$



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$$37. \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{12} \rightarrow C$$

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38. ~~if~~ if  $A=5$ , probability is  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; if  $A=10$ , probability is zero.  
probability varies linearly between these two values, so average:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} + 0 \right) = \frac{1}{4} \rightarrow B$$

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$$39. \frac{1}{3!} = \frac{1}{6} \rightarrow B$$

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$$40. \frac{\binom{8}{3} \times \binom{8}{3}}{\binom{16}{8}} = \frac{1568}{6435} \rightarrow C$$