

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

Alpha Probability Solutions

1

1.  $3/4 \times 1/4 = 3/16 \rightarrow C$

2.  $1 - (\text{probability of neither}) = 1 - (1/4 \times 3/4) = 1 - 3/16 = 13/16 \rightarrow A$

3. 1 and 4  $\rightarrow$  2 ways, 2 and 3  $\rightarrow$  2 ways; so 4 total ways.  $5 \times 5 = 25$  possible outcomes.  
 $4/25 \rightarrow D$

4. Sixth game must be Mariners' win (W), other 5 in any order, so  $\binom{5}{2} = 10$  ways.  
 $10 \times (2/3)^4 \times (1/3)^2 = \frac{160}{729} \rightarrow D$

5.  $1 - (\text{probability none defective}) = 1 - (\frac{66}{72} \times \frac{65}{71} \times \frac{64}{70}) = \frac{347}{1470} \rightarrow B$

6. This is self-explanatory; after first card drawn, 39 of 51 remaining cards are different suits.  $39/51 \rightarrow 13/17 \rightarrow B$

7. Only identical outfit possible is red shirt and shorts.  
 $P(\text{Jim}) \times P(\text{Fred}) = (4/9 \times 1/6) \times (2/17 \times 3/5) = 14/765 \rightarrow D$

8. Easy way to think of this is first seat Mary randomly, then Jane.  
 $P(\text{Mary on either end}) \times P(\text{Jane adjacent}) + P(\text{Mary not on end}) \times P(\text{Jane adjacent}) = 2$   
 $(1/3) \times (1/5) + (2/3 \times 2/5) \rightarrow 1/3 \rightarrow D$

9. By either rotating or inverting the ring, all arrangements are identical  $\rightarrow 1 \rightarrow C$

10.  $(2/3)^{11} \rightarrow \frac{2048}{177147} \rightarrow C$

11.  $\frac{(\# \text{ of ways to choose two numbers } < 5) \times (\# \text{ of ways to choose a number } > 5)}{\text{total } \# \text{ of possible choices}} = \frac{\binom{4}{2} \times \binom{4}{1}}{\binom{9}{4}} = \frac{4}{21}$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $A$

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2

12.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{11} + \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{8}{9} = \frac{97}{198} \rightarrow C$

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13. This interval is 11 periods of the cosine function; since cosine is positive for half its period, answer is  $\frac{1}{2} \rightarrow A$

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14. # of ways to get at least 1 four =  $6^3 - (\# \text{ ways to get no fours}) = 2$

$$216 - 5^3 = 91$$

# of ways to sum to 12 with at least one four:

2 and 4 and 6  $\rightarrow 3! \rightarrow 6$  ways; 3 and 4 and 5  $\rightarrow 6$  ways; three 4s  $\rightarrow$  one way

$$\frac{13}{91} \rightarrow \frac{1}{7} \rightarrow E$$

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15.  $\frac{14}{15} \times \frac{20}{21} = \frac{8}{9} \rightarrow C$

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16. (# of ways to arrange 4 heads, 6 tails)  $\times (\frac{1}{2})^{10} = \binom{10}{4} / 2^{10} = \frac{105}{512} \rightarrow A$

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17. can flip either heads or tails first, then only one way to do all the rest.  $2 \times (\frac{1}{2})^7 = \frac{1}{64} \rightarrow B$

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18.  $\frac{\text{area of inner circle}}{\text{area of board}} = \frac{2^2}{8^2} = \frac{1}{16} \rightarrow C$

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19.  $\frac{7}{9} \times \frac{6}{8} = \frac{7}{12} \rightarrow C$

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20.  $1 - (\text{probability of least 2 empty adjacent}) = 1 - \left[ \frac{(\text{prob. only 2 adj.}) + (\text{prob. 3 adj.})}{\binom{11}{3}} \right] = 1 - \left[ \frac{(\# \text{ ways 2 adj. on end}) + (\# \text{ ways 2 adj. not on end}) + (\# \text{ ways 3 adj.})}{\binom{11}{3}} \right]$

$$1 - \left[ \frac{(2 \times 8) + (8 \times 7) + (9)}{165} \right] = \frac{28}{55} \rightarrow C$$

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3

21. Each of the 24 chips has a  $\frac{7}{8}$  probability of not being placed in the chosen cookie.  $(\frac{7}{8})^{24} = 0.0406 \Rightarrow C$

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22. Search area is  $4\pi$  mi<sup>2</sup>. In 36 hours 3 square miles can be searched.  
 $\frac{3}{4\pi} \rightarrow D$

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23. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  $\frac{\sum_{n=10}^{20} \binom{20}{n}}{\sum_{n=0}^{20} \binom{20}{n}} = 0.5881 \rightarrow C$

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24. blue from A:  $\frac{6}{10} \times \left[ \frac{\binom{4}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} + \frac{\binom{7}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} \right] = \frac{81}{275}$   
red from A:  $\frac{4}{10} \times \left[ \frac{\binom{3}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} + \frac{\binom{8}{2}}{\binom{11}{2}} \right] = \frac{62}{275}$  }  $\frac{81}{275} + \frac{62}{275} = \frac{13}{25} \rightarrow D$

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25. period of  $\frac{4\sqrt{3}}{3} \sin(3x+7)$  is  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ ; given interval is exactly 16 periods, so we need only consider one period.

$$|f(x_0)| > \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3} \rightarrow \left| \frac{4\sqrt{3}}{3} \sin(3x+7) \right| > \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3} \rightarrow |\sin(3x+7)| > \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow \left( \text{considering period } 0 < 3x+7 \leq 2\pi \right)$$

$$\frac{\pi}{6} < 3x+7 < \frac{5\pi}{6} \text{ or } \frac{7\pi}{6} < 3x+7 < \frac{11\pi}{6} \rightarrow \frac{8\pi}{6} \rightarrow \frac{2}{3} \rightarrow D$$


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26.  $1 - (\text{probability he doesn't realize}) = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^5 = \frac{242}{243} \rightarrow A$

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27.  $f(x) < 2 \rightarrow 2x^2 < 2 \rightarrow x^2 < 1 \rightarrow x < 1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{3} \rightarrow D$

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4

28. # of ways with:

no 2s:  $12 \times 44$  ← choose a non-2 rank, choose one other card

one 2:  $\binom{4}{3} \times 12 \times \binom{4}{1} \times 44$  ← choose 3 suits within non-2 rank, choose non-2 rank, choose one 2, choose one other card

two 2s:  $\binom{4}{2} \times 12 \times \binom{4}{2} \times 44$  ← choose 2 suits within non-2 rank, choose non-2 rank, choose two 2s, choose one other card

three 2s:  $\left(\frac{48 \times 44}{2}\right) \times \binom{4}{3}$  ← choose 2 different non-2 cards, choose 3 twos

total of above is 32208

$$\frac{32208}{\binom{52}{5}} = .01239 \rightarrow E$$

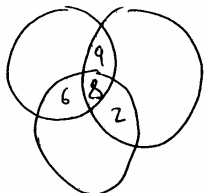
29. There are  $\binom{6}{4} = 15$  sets of 4 distinct numbers; each set has only one way to be in descending order.

$$\frac{15}{6^4} = \frac{5}{432} \rightarrow C$$

30.  $P(\text{Bob arrives between 1:20 and 2:50}) \times P(\text{Jane's time overlaps}) +$   
 $P(\text{Bob between 1:00 and 1:20}) \times P(\text{overlap}) + P(\text{Bob 2:50 to 3:00}) \times P(\text{overlap}) =$   
 $\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) \times \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \times \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{12}\right) \times \left(\frac{5}{24}\right) = \frac{67}{288} \rightarrow C$

31. Must ignore the extraneous info! Each person equally likely to get "X":  $\frac{1}{5} \rightarrow C$

32. English Science  $17+14+10-2x = 199-174 \rightarrow x=8$



$$\frac{8}{199} \rightarrow A$$

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5

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33. (Arrange brands in circle)  $\times$  (order within brands) = 2

$$(3!/3) \times (4! \times 5! \times 3!) = 34560 \rightarrow C$$

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34.  $1 - P(6) = 1 - \frac{6^2}{6^2 + 1} = \frac{1}{37} \rightarrow A$

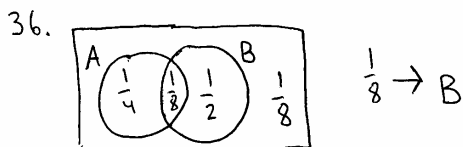
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35. Numbers which quality are squares of prime numbers:

$$2^2 = 4, 3^2 = 9, 5^2 = 25, 7^2 = 49, \cancel{11^2 = 121} \leftarrow \text{too big!}$$

$$\text{so } \frac{4}{50} \rightarrow \frac{2}{25} \rightarrow B$$

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37.  $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{3}{8} \rightarrow A$

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38.  $1 - P(35\text{¢ or more}) = 1 - P(Q \text{ and } D) - P(Q \text{ and } Q) = 1 - \frac{\binom{8}{1} \times \binom{5}{1}}{\binom{16}{2}} - \frac{\binom{8}{2}}{\binom{16}{2}} = \frac{13}{30} \rightarrow A$

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39. At least 3 correct  $\rightarrow$  all correct  $\rightarrow (\frac{1}{4}) \times (\frac{1}{3}) \times (\frac{1}{2}) \times (1) = \frac{1}{24} \rightarrow B$

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40.  $\frac{\binom{6}{1} \times \binom{10}{3}}{\binom{16}{3}} = \frac{8}{143} \rightarrow B$