TMUA Specimen Paper 1 Solutions (40 pages; 21/10/25)

1. The sum of the two values of x that satisfy the simultaneous equations

$x - 3y + 1 = 0$ and $3x^2 - 7xy = 5$ is

A -8.5

B -7.5

C -1.5

D 3.5

E 4.5

F 5

Solution

$x - 3y + 1 = 0$ & $3x^2 - 7xy = 5 \Rightarrow 3x^2 - 7x\left(\frac{x+1}{3}\right) = 5$

$\Rightarrow 9x^2 - 7x(x+1) = 15$

$\Rightarrow 2x^2 - 7x - 15 = 0$

The sum of the two roots is $\frac{-(-7)}{2} = 3.5$

Answer: D

2. The number of solutions in the interval $0 \leq \theta \leq 4\pi$ of the equation $\sin^2\theta + 3\cos\theta = 3$ is

A 0

B 1

C 2

D 3

E 4

F 5

G 6

Solution

$sin^2\theta + 3cos\theta = 3 \Rightarrow (1 - cos^2\theta) + 3cos\theta = 3$

$\Rightarrow cos^2\theta - 3cos\theta + 2 = 0$

$\Rightarrow (cos\theta - 1)(cos\theta - 2) = 0$

$\Rightarrow cos\theta = 1$ (rejecting $cos\theta = 2$)

Given that $0 \leq \theta \leq 4\pi$, the possible solutions are:

$\theta = 0, 2\pi$ & 4π

Answer: D

3. The perpendicular bisector of the line segment joining the points $(2, -6)$ and $(5, 4)$ cuts the x-axis at the point with x-coordinate

A $\frac{1}{20}$

B $\frac{1}{6}$

C $\frac{1}{3}$

D $\frac{19}{5}$

E $\frac{41}{6}$

Solution

The midpoint of the line segment joining $(2,-6)$& $(5,4)$ is

$(\frac{7}{2}, -1)$, and the gradient of this line segment is $\frac{4-(-6)}{5-2} = \frac{10}{3}$

So the equation of the perpendicular bisector is

$\frac{y-(-1)}{x-\frac{7}{2}} = -\frac{3}{10}$

Then when $y = 0, x - \frac{7}{2} = -\frac{10}{3}$, so that $x = \frac{21-20}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$

Answer: B

4. The complete set of values of x for which $(x^2 - 1)(x - 2) > 0$ is

A $x < -1,\ 1 < x < 2$

B $x < -1,\ x > 2$

C $-1 < x < 2$

D $x < 1,\ x > 2$

E $-1 < x < 1,\ x > 2$

Solution

$(x^2 - 1)(x - 2) > 0 \Leftrightarrow (x - 1)(x + 1)(x - 2) > 0$

or $(x + 1)(x - 1)(x - 2) > 0$; with critical points at $x = -1, 1$ & 2

LHS is cubic, with large negative value for large negative value of x. Then positive for $-1 < x < 1$, negative for $1 < x < 2$, and positive for $2 < x$.

So required set of values is $-1 < x < 1$ and $2 < x$.

Answer: E

5. Given that $y = -\log_{10}(1 - x)$ for $x < 1$, find x in terms of y.

A $x = -\frac{1}{\log_{10}(1-y)}$

B $x = 1 + \log_{10} y$

C $x = 1 - \log_{10} y$

D $x = 1 - 10^{-y}$

E $x = 10^{-y} - 1$

F $x = 10^{1-y}$

Solution

$y = -log_{10}(1 - x) = log_{10}(\frac{1}{1-x})$

$\Rightarrow 10^y = \frac{1}{1-x}$

$\Rightarrow 1 - x = 10^{-y}$

$\Rightarrow x = 1 - 10^{-y}$

Answer: D

6. It is given that $x + 2$ is a factor of $x^3 + 4cx^2 + x(c+1)^2 - 6$.

The sum of the possible values of c is

A -10

B -6

C 0

D 6

E 10

Solution

Let $f(x) = x^3 + 4cx^2 + x(c+1)^2 - 6$

Then, as $x + 2$ is a factor, $f(-2) = 0$, so that

$-8 + 16c - 2(c+1)^2 - 6 = 0$

$\Rightarrow -2c^2 + 12c - 16 = 0$ or $c^2 - 6c + 8 = 0$

The sum of the roots is $-\frac{(-6)}{1} = 6$.

Answer: D

7. A bag contains n red balls, n yellow balls, and n blue balls.

One ball is selected at random and not replaced.

A second ball is then selected at random and not replaced.

Each ball is equally likely to be chosen.

The probability that the two balls are **not** the same colour is

A $\frac{n-1}{3n-1}$

B $\frac{2n-2}{3n-1}$

C $\frac{2n}{3n-1}$

D $\frac{(n-1)^3}{27(3n-1)^3}$

E $\frac{3(n-1)}{3n-1}$

F $\frac{n^3}{27(3n-1)^3}$

Solution

$P(\text{Balls are not the same colour})$

$= 1 - P(\text{Balls are the same colour})$

$= 1 - 3P(\text{Both balls are Red})$

$= 1 - 3\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)\left(\frac{n-1}{3n-1}\right)$

$= \frac{(3n-1)-(n-1)}{3n-1} = \frac{2n}{3n-1}$

Answer: C

8. Given that $a^x b^{2x} c^{3x} = 2$, where a, b, and c are positive real numbers, then $x =$

A $\log_{10}\left(\frac{2}{a+2b+3c}\right)$

B $\frac{\log_{10} 2}{\log_{10}(a+2b+3c)}$

C $\frac{2}{\log_{10}(a+2b+3c)}$

D $\frac{2}{a+2b+3c}$

E $\log_{10}\left(\frac{2}{ab^2c^3}\right)$

F $\frac{\log_{10} 2}{\log_{10}(ab^2c^3)}$

G $\frac{2}{\log_{10}(ab^2c^3)}$

H $\frac{2}{ab^2c^3}$

Solution

$a^x b^{2x} c^{3x} = 2 \Rightarrow a^x (b^2)^x (c^3)^x = 2$

$\Rightarrow (ab^2c^3)^x = 2$

$\Rightarrow x log_{10}(ab^2c^3) = log_{10}(2)$

$\Rightarrow x = \frac{log_{10}(2)}{log_{10}(ab^2c^3)}$

Answer: F

9. The roots of the equation $2x^2 - 11x + c = 0$ differ by 2. The value of c is

A $\frac{105}{8}$

B $\frac{113}{8}$

C $\frac{117}{8}$

D $\frac{119}{8}$

Solution

Let the roots be x_1 and x_2 (where $x_1 > x_2$).

Then $x_1 + x_2 = -\frac{(-11)}{2}$ and $x_1 x_2 = \frac{c}{2}$

And $x_1 - x_2 = 2$

Now $(x_1 + x_2)^2 - (x_1 - x_2)^2 = 4x_1 x_2$,

so that $\frac{121}{4} - 4 = 2c$, and so $c = \frac{1}{8}(121 - 16) = \frac{105}{8}$

Answer: A

10. The curve $y = \cos x$ is reflected in the line $y = 1$ and the resulting curve is then translated by $\frac{\pi}{4}$ units in the positive x-direction. The equation of this new curve is

A $y = 2 + \cos\left(x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

B $y = 2 + \cos\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

C $y = 2 - \cos\left(x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

D $y = 2 - \cos\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

Solution

Reflecting $y = f(x)$ in the line $y = b$ can be shown to give $2b - y = f(x)$ [reflecting $y = f(x)$ in the line $x = a$ gives

$y = f(2a - x)$]

Proof: The reflection in $y = b$ is equivalent to a translation of $\binom{0}{-b}$, followed by a reflection in the x-axis, and then a translation of $\binom{0}{b}$: this produces $y = f(x) \rightarrow y = f(x) - b \rightarrow -(f(x) - b)$

$\rightarrow -(f(x) - b) + b = 2b - f(x)$

When $f(x) = cosx$ and $b = 1$ this gives $y = 2 - cosx$

Then a translation of $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\pi}{4} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ gives $y = 2 - \cos\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$,

Answer: D

11. The sum of the roots of the equation $2^{2x} - 8 \times 2^x + 15 = 0$ is

A 3

B 8

C $2\log_{10} 2$

D $\log_{10}\left(\frac{15}{4}\right)$

E $\frac{\log_{10} 15}{\log_{10} 2}$

Solution

Let $y = 2^x,$ so that $y^2 - 8y + 15 = 0$

and $(y-3)(y-5) = 0$

$\Leftrightarrow 2^x = 3$ or 5

Sum of roots is $log_2 3 + log_2 5$

$= \frac{log_{10}3}{log_{10}2} + \frac{log_{10}5}{log_{10}2} = \frac{log_{10}15}{log_{10}2}$

Answer: E

12. The cross-section of a triangular prism is an equilateral triangle with side $2x$ cm.
The length of the prism is d cm.

Let the total surface area of the prism be T cm^2. Given that the volume of the prism is T cm^3, which one of the following is an expression for d in terms of x?

A $\frac{x}{2x-3}$

B $\frac{3x}{3x-2\sqrt{3}}$

C $\frac{2x}{x-4\sqrt{3}}$

D $\frac{2x}{x-2\sqrt{3}}$

E $\frac{2x}{x-\sqrt{3}}$

Solution

Volume $= \frac{1}{2}(2x)\left(x\sqrt{3}\right)d = x^2 d\sqrt{3}$

Surface Area $=$ surface area of prism excluding ends $+$ area of 2 ends

$= 3(2x)d + 2 \times \frac{1}{2}(2x)\left(x\sqrt{3}\right) = 6xd + 2x^2\sqrt{3}$

Volume $=$ Surface Area $\Rightarrow x^2 d\sqrt{3} = 6xd + 2x^2\sqrt{3}$

$\Rightarrow d\left(x^2\sqrt{3} - 6x\right) = 2x^2\sqrt{3}$

$\Rightarrow d = \frac{2x\sqrt{3}}{x\sqrt{3}-6} = \frac{2x}{x-2\sqrt{3}}$

Answer: D

13. How many real roots does the equation $x^4 - 4x^3 + 4x^2 - 10 = 0$ have?

A 0

B 1

C 2

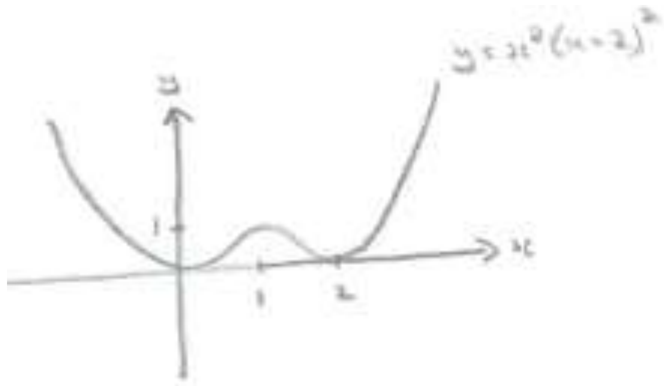
D 3

E 4

Solution

Equivalently, consider the roots of $x^2(x^2 - 4x + 4) = 10$

ie $x^2(x - 2)^2 = 10$



Referring to the graph, there are 2 roots.

[$y = f(x) = x^2(x - 2)^2$ has symmetry about $x = 1$, as the translation of $f(x)$ by 1 to the left is

$g(x) = f(x + 1) = (x + 1)^2(x - 1)^2$,

and $g(-x) = (-x + 1)^2(-x - 1)^2 = (x - 1)^2(x + 1)^2 = g(x)$,

and thus $g(x)$ is an even function (with symmetry about the y-axis)]

Answer: C

14. a, b, x, and y are real and positive.

a and b are constants.

x and y are related.

A graph of $\log y$ against $\log x$ is drawn.

For which one of the following relationships will this graph be a straight line?

A $y^b = a^x$

B $y = ab^x$

C $y^2 = a + x^b$

D $y = ax^b$

E $y^x = a^b$

Solution

A: $blogy = xloga$ - not the required straight line

B: $logy = loga + xlogb$ - not the required straight line

C: $2logy = log(a + x^b)$ - not the required straight line

D: $logy = loga + blogx$, which is the required straight line

Answer: D

15. The smallest possible value of $\int_0^1 (x-a)^2\,dx$ as a varies is

A $\frac{1}{12}$

B $\frac{1}{3}$

C $\frac{1}{2}$

D $\frac{7}{12}$

E 2

Solution

$\int_0^1 (x-a)^2 dx = \int_0^1 x^2 - 2ax + a^2 dx$

$= \left[\frac{1}{3}x^3 - ax^2 + a^2x\right]\begin{matrix}1\\0\end{matrix} = \frac{1}{3} - a + a^2$

$= (a - \frac{1}{2})^2 - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3}$

The smallest value is therefore $-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{12}$

Answer: A

16. Given that c and d are non-zero integers, the expression $\frac{10^{c-2d} \times 20^{2c+d}}{8^c \times 125^{c+d}}$ is an integer if

A $c < 0$

B $d < 0$

C $c < 0$ and $d < 0$

D $c < 0$ and $d > 0$

E $c > 0$ and $d < 0$

F $c > 0$ and $d > 0$

G $d > 0$

H $c > 0$

Solution

$$\frac{10^{c-2d}\times 20^{2c+d}}{8^c\times 125^{c+d}} = \frac{2^{c-2d}5^{c-2d}2^{2(2c+d)}5^{2c+d}}{2^{3c}5^{3(c+d)}}$$

$$= 2^{c-2d+4c+2d-3c}5^{c-2d+2c+d-3c-3d}$$

$$= 2^{2c}5^{-4d}$$

This will be an integer when $c \geq 0$ and $d \leq 0$.

As c and d are non-zero integers, this condition becomes

$c > 0$ and $d < 0$.

Answer: E

17. For what values of the non-zero real number a does the quadratic equation $ax^2 + (a-2)x = 2$ have real distinct roots?

A All values of a

B $a = -2$

C $a > -2$

D $a \neq -2$

E No values of a

Solution

There will be real distinct roots when the discriminant of

$ax^2 + (a-2)x - 2 = 0$ is positive;

ie when $(a-2)^2 - 4a(-2) > 0$

$\Leftrightarrow a^2 - 4a + 4 + 8a > 0$

ie $a^2 + 4a + 4 > 0$

or $(a+2)^2 > 0$

Hence required condition is $a \neq -2$.

Answer: D

18. The angle x is measured in radians and is such that $0 \le x \le \pi$.

The total length of any intervals for which $-1 \le \tan x \le 1$ and $\sin 2x \ge 0.5$ is

A $\frac{\pi}{12}$

B $\frac{\pi}{6}$

C $\frac{\pi}{4}$

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

E $\frac{5\pi}{12}$

F $\frac{\pi}{2}$

G $\frac{5\pi}{6}$

Solution

$\sin(2x) = 0.5$ when $2x = \frac{\pi}{6}$ & $\pi - \frac{\pi}{6}$; ie when $x = \frac{\pi}{12}$ & $\frac{5\pi}{12}$

So, considering the graph of $y = \sin(2x)$,

$\sin(2x) \geq 0.5$ for $\frac{\pi}{12} \leq x \leq \frac{5\pi}{12}$

In this interval, $tanx > 0$, and $tanx \leq 1$ for $x \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$, so that the interval for which $-1 \leq tanx \leq 1$ and $\sin(2x) \geq 0.5$ is

$\frac{\pi}{12} \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$, which has length $\frac{3\pi}{12} - \frac{\pi}{12} = \frac{\pi}{6}$

Answer: B

19. A geometric series has first term 4 and common ratio r, where $0 < r < 1$.

The first, second, and fourth terms of this geometric series form three successive terms of an arithmetic series.

The sum to infinity of the geometric series is

A $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5} - 1)$

B $2(3 - \sqrt{5})$

C $2(1 + \sqrt{5})$

D $2(3 + \sqrt{5})$

Solution

$4r - 4 = 4r^3 - 4r$

$\Rightarrow r^3 - 2r + 1 = 0$

$\Rightarrow (r-1)(r^2 + r - 1) = 0$

$r \neq 1$, and $r^2 + r - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \frac{-1\pm\sqrt{5}}{2}$

So, as $r > 0, r = \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$

and $S_\infty = \frac{4}{1-(\frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{2})} = \frac{8}{2+1-\sqrt{5}} = \frac{8(3+\sqrt{5})}{9-5} = 2(3+\sqrt{5})$

Answer: D

20. The coefficient of x^2 in the expansion of $(4-x^2)[(1+2x+3x^2)^6-(1+4x^3)^5]$ is

A 28

B 72

C 78

D 192

E 240

F 310

G 312

Solution

Required coefficient is

$4(\text{coefficient of } x^2 \text{ in } 6(2x + 3x^2) + 15(2x + 3x^2)^2)$

$-$ constant term in $(1 - 1)$

$= 4\big(18 + 15(4)\big) = 312$

Answer: G