

# Placement Exam (Foundations) Solutions

CyberMath Academy

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## Section 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the value of  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \cdots + 25$ ?

- (a) 250
- (b) 275
- (c) 300
- (d) 325
- (e) 350

Answer:  D

Solution: An important fact to remember in general is the equation

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}.$$

This is Gauss' famous method of summing the first  $n$  positive integers, and works because we are "pairing together" the first and last terms, then the second and second-to-last terms, and so forth. We get  $\frac{25 \cdot 26}{2} = 25 \cdot 13 = \boxed{325}$  as our sum, in this case, with  $n = 25$ .

2. How many seventeens are in ten ones plus three fifteens plus four sixteens?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 9

Answer:  C

Solution: This is  $\frac{10 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 15 + 4 \cdot 16}{17} = \frac{119}{17} = \boxed{7}$ .

3. What is the largest positive integer  $n$  for which half of  $n$  plus one is at least two-thirds of  $n$ ?

- (a) 4
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 9

Answer:  $\boxed{B}$

Solution: We have  $\frac{1}{2}n + 1 \geq \frac{2}{3}n$ , so  $1 \geq \frac{1}{6}n$ , upon subtracting  $\frac{1}{2}n$  from both sides of the inequality. Then, multiplying through by 6, we have  $\boxed{6} \geq n$ .

4. How many  $2 \times 4$  squares can fit inside a  $12 \times 16$  rectangle?

- (a) 24
- (b) 32
- (c) 36
- (d) 48
- (e) 72

Answer:  $\boxed{A}$

Solution: Because 12 is divisible by 2 and 16 is divisible by 4 (and this would work in either order; for good measure, 12 is divisible by 4 and 16 is divisible by 2 as well), this is  $\frac{12 \cdot 16}{2 \cdot 4} = \boxed{24}$ .

5. Today is Tuesday. What day of the week will it be 60 days from today?

- (a) Thursday
- (b) Friday
- (c) Saturday
- (d) Sunday
- (e) Monday

Answer:  $\boxed{C}$

Solution: The remainder when 60 is divided by 7 is 4, and the day 4 days after Tuesday is  $\boxed{\text{Saturday}}$ .

6. I have a bunch of apples. If I sort them into groups of five, I will have two left over, but if I sort them into groups of eight, I will have three left over. What is the fewest number of apples I may have?

- (a) 12
- (b) 27
- (c) 42
- (d) 57
- (e) 77

Answer:  $\boxed{B}$

Solution:

7. What is the sum of all numbers that are twice as far away from 24 as from 48?

- (a) 40
- (b) 72
- (c) 96
- (d) 112
- (e) 136

Answer:  $\boxed{D}$

Solution: If  $x$  is twice as far away from 24 as from 48, and  $x > 48$ , then  $x - 24 = 2(x - 48)$ , or  $x - 24 = 2x - 96$ , and  $x = 72$ . If  $x < 24$  instead, then  $24 - x = 2(48 - x)$ , or  $x = 72$ , but this is a contradiction. Finally, if  $24 < x < 48$ , then  $x - 24 = 2(48 - x) = 96 - 2x$ , so that  $x = 40$ . Hence, the requested sum is  $72 + 40 = \boxed{112}$ .

8. A rectangle has integer side lengths and diagonal length  $3\sqrt{10}$ . What is its perimeter?

- (a) 16
- (b) 18
- (c) 20
- (d) 22
- (e) 24

Answer:  $\boxed{E}$

Solution: By the Pythagorean Theorem, the sum of the squares of the side lengths is  $(3\sqrt{10})^2 = 90$ . One-third of the side lengths must also have a sum of squares of 10, but the only integers whose squares sum to 10 are 1 and 3, so the side lengths must be 3 and 9. Indeed,  $3^2 + 9^2 = 90$ , so the perimeter is  $2(3 + 9) = \boxed{24}$ .

9. How many different ways are there to arrange the letters in the word SUMMER?

- (a) 180
- (b) 240
- (c) 360
- (d) 480
- (e) 720

Answer:  $\boxed{C}$

Solution: This is  $\frac{6!}{2!} = \boxed{360}$ , because there are  $6! = 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$  ways to permute a string of 6 different letters, but we divide by  $2!$  to account for the fact that the order of the two Ms does not matter.

10. What is the value of  $\frac{27^4}{243^2}$ ?

- (a) 1
- (b) 3
- (c) 9
- (d) 27
- (e) 81

Answer:  $\boxed{C}$

Solution: This is  $\frac{(3^3)^4}{(3^5)^2} = \frac{3^{3 \cdot 4}}{3^{5 \cdot 2}} = \frac{3^{12}}{3^{10}} = 3^{12-10} = 3^2 = \boxed{9}$ .

11. A *triangular number* is a positive integer that can be written as  $1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n$  for some positive integer  $n$ . How many three-digit triangular numbers are there?

- (a) 31
- (b) 32

- (c) 35
- (d) 40
- (e) 45

Answer:  $\boxed{A}$

Solution: Recall that  $1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ . The smallest three-digit triangular number is  $1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + 14 = 15 \cdot 7 = 105$ , and the largest comes from the largest  $n$  such that  $n(n+1) \leq 1998$ . Since  $45 \cdot 44 = 1980$ , this  $n$  is 44, and so there are  $44 - 14 + 1 = \boxed{31}$  three-digit triangular numbers.

12. A regular polygon has at least 100 interior diagonals. What is the fewest number of sides it may have?
- (a) 10
  - (b) 11
  - (c) 13
  - (d) 15
  - (e) 16

Answer:  $\boxed{E}$

Solution: The number of diagonals in a regular  $n$ -gon is  $\frac{n(n-3)}{2}$  (because, given a choice of vertex, all but 3 vertices are not adjacent to that vertex, and hence can be the ending point of a diagonal). We want  $n(n-3) \geq 200$ , so  $n \geq \boxed{16}$ .

13. The sum of three positive integer multiples of 3 is a positive integer ending in 5. What is the smallest possible product of the three integers?
- (a) 72
  - (b) 81
  - (c) 90
  - (d) 108
  - (e) 120

Answer:  $\boxed{B}$

Solution: The sum of three multiples of 3 is itself a multiple of 3. The smallest multiple of 3 ending in 5 is 15, so the integers can be 3, 3, and 9, or 3, 6, and 6, in some order. The smaller of the two resulting products is  $\boxed{81}$ .

14. An even positive integer less than or equal to 10, and a positive integer multiple of 3 less than or equal to 10, are selected at random. What is the probability that their sum is a multiple of 6?
- (a)  $\frac{1}{15}$
  - (b)  $\frac{2}{15}$
  - (c)  $\frac{1}{5}$
  - (d)  $\frac{4}{15}$
  - (e)  $\frac{1}{3}$

Answer:  $\boxed{A}$

Solution: Note that 6 is not a possible sum, and neither is 18. The only way in which 12 can be expressed as a sum of these two integers is as  $6 + 6$ , so the probability is  $\frac{1}{5 \cdot 3} = \boxed{\frac{1}{15}}$ .

15. If we multiply 2 by itself  $n$  times, and then divide the result by 105, the remainder will be 1. What is the smallest possible value of  $n$ ?

- (a) 9
- (b) 10
- (c) 12
- (d) 15
- (e) 16

Answer:

Solution: By the Chinese remainder theorem, we can consider  $2^n$  modulo 7 and 15. Notice that  $7 = 2^3 - 1$  and  $15 = 2^4 - 1$ , so  $2^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$  and  $2^4 \equiv 1 \pmod{15}$ . Then the  $n$  must be a multiple of both 3 and 4, so it can be as small as .

## Section 2: Short Answer

16. What is the total number of digits in all of the question numbers (1-24) on this test?

Answer:  $\boxed{39}$

Solution: The numbers 1-9 have 9 digits in total, and the 15 two-digit numbers from 10-24 have 30 digits in total, giving  $\boxed{39}$  digits in all.

17. How many positive integers have a square root that is at least 4, but less than 5?

Answer:  $\boxed{9}$

Solution: These integers are 16 through 24, since  $4^2 = 16$  and  $5^2 = 25$ ; there are  $24 - 16 + 1 = \boxed{9}$  of these.

18. How many three-digit positive integers are perfect squares?

Answer:  $\boxed{22}$

Solution: The smallest three-digit perfect square is  $10^2 = 100$  and the largest is  $31^2 = 961$ , so we have  $31 - 10 + 1 = \boxed{22}$  three-digit squares.

19. A rectangle with integer side lengths, in units, has perimeter 22 units. What is its largest possible area, in square units?

Answer:  $\boxed{30}$

Solution: We want the side lengths to be as close to each other as possible; they sum to 11, so they should be 5 and 6, and their product is  $\boxed{30}$ .

20. What is the volume, in cubic units, of a cube whose edge lengths sum to 60 units?

Answer:  $\boxed{125}$

Solution: A cube has 12 congruent edges, so each edge has length 5. The volume of a cube with edge length  $s$  is  $s^3$ , so the volume is  $5^3 = \boxed{125}$ .

21. What is the exponent of the largest power of 3 that is a factor of  $22! = 22 \cdot 21 \cdot 20 \cdots 1$ ?

Answer:  $\boxed{9}$

Solution: We have 7 multiples of 3, 2 multiples of 9, and no multiples of 27 or any larger power of 3. This gives us a factor of  $3^9$  but not  $3^{10}$ , and so the exponent is  $\boxed{9}$ .

22. What is the sum of all the possible remainders when a number of the form  $2^k$ , where  $k$  is a non-negative integer, is divided by 20?

Answer:  $\boxed{43}$

Solution: Starting from 1 and multiplying by 2 repeatedly, the possible remainders are 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, and 12, after which we get 4 again and the cycle repeats. The sum of these is  $\boxed{43}$ .

23. What is the value of

$$1 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 4 + 5 \cdot 6 + 7 \cdot 8 + \cdots + 99 \cdot 100?$$

Answer:  $\boxed{169150}$

Solution: This is the sum of  $(2k - 1)(2k)$  from  $k = 1$  to  $k = 50$ , which is the sum of  $4k^2 - 2k$  from  $k = 1$  to  $k = 50$ . Because we have

$$1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \cdots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

and

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, \tag{1}$$

the sum is  $4 \cdot \frac{50 \cdot 51 \cdot 101}{6} - 2 \cdot \frac{50 \cdot 51}{2} = 100 \cdot 17 \cdot 101 - 50 \cdot 51 = 10100 \cdot 17 - 150 \cdot 17 = 9950 \cdot 17 = \boxed{169150}$ .