

# JEE Main Mathematics Sample Paper-14

Duration: 1 Hour

Maximum Marks: 100

## Instructions

- This paper contains TWO sections: **Section A** (MCQs) and **Section B** (Numerical).
- Section A contains 20 Multiple Choice Questions.
- Section B contains 5 Numerical Value Questions.
- Each correct answer carries **+4 marks**.
- Each incorrect answer carries **-1 mark**.
- No negative marking for unattempted questions.

## Section A — Multiple Choice Questions

**Q1.** The value of  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(\sin x) - \cos x}{x^4}$  is:

[JEE Main 2024]

- (A)  $1/3$
- (B)  $1/6$
- (C)  $1/12$
- (D)  $1/2$

**Q2.** Let  $f(x) = [x^2 - x + 1]$ , where  $[t]$  denotes the greatest integer function. The number of points in the interval  $(-1, 1)$  where the function is discontinuous is:

[JEE Main 2023]

- (A) 2
- (B) 3
- (C) 4
- (D) 5

**Q3.** If  $f(x) = |x - 1| \cdot [x]$ , where  $[x]$  is the greatest integer function, then the left-hand derivative of  $f(x)$  at  $x = 1$  is:

[JEE Main 2021]

- (A) 0



- (B) 1
- (C) -1
- (D) Does not exist

**Q4.** A wire of length 20 units is cut into two parts. One part is bent into a circle and the other into a square. If the sum of their areas is minimum, then the ratio of the side of the square to the radius of the circle is: [\[JEE Main 2022\]](#)

- (A) 2 : 1
- (B) 1 : 1
- (C) 1 : 2
- (D) 4 : 1

**Q5.** The maximum area of a rectangle inscribed in the region bounded by the graph of  $y = \sin x$  and the  $x$ -axis between  $x = 0$  and  $x = \pi$  is: [\[JEE Main 2024\]](#)

- (A)  $\frac{\pi}{2}$
- (B)  $2 \cos(x_0)$  where  $x_0$  solves  $x = \cot x$
- (C)  $\sqrt{3}$
- (D) 1

**Q6.** The integral  $\int \frac{e^{3x} + e^x}{e^{4x} - e^{2x} + 1} dx$  is equal to: [\[JEE Main 2021\]](#)

- (A)  $\tan^{-1}(e^x - e^{-x}) + C$
- (B)  $\tan^{-1}(e^{2x} + 1) + C$
- (C)  $\log |e^{2x} - 1| + C$
- (D)  $\frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1}(e^{2x} - e^{-2x}) + C$

**Q7.** If  $\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{x \sin^{2n} x}{\sin^{2n} x + \cos^{2n} x} dx = k\pi^2$ , then the value of  $k$  is: [\[JEE Main 2023\]](#)

- (A) 1
- (B) 1/2
- (C) 2
- (D) 3/2

**Q8.** The area of the region bounded by  $y = |x - 1|$  and  $y = 3 - |x|$  is: [\[JEE Main 2022\]](#)



- (A) 2
- (B) 3
- (C) 4
- (D) 6

**Q9.** Let  $y(x)$  be the solution of the differential equation  $(x+1)\frac{dy}{dx} - y = e^{3x}(x+1)^2$ . If  $y(0) = 1/3$ , then  $y(1)$  is: [JEE Main 2024]

- (A)  $\frac{2}{3}e^3$
- (B)  $\frac{1}{3}e^3$
- (C)  $e^3$
- (D)  $2e^3$

**Q10.** If the lines  $x - y = a$  and  $x + y = b$  are tangents to the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = c^2$ , then the value of  $a^2 + b^2$  is: [JEE Main 2023]

- (A)  $c^2$
- (B)  $2c^2$
- (C)  $4c^2$
- (D)  $8c^2$

**Q11.** The image of the point  $(1, 2, 3)$  in the line  $\frac{x-6}{3} = \frac{y-7}{2} = \frac{z-7}{-2}$  is: [JEE Main 2024]

- (A)  $(5, 8, 15)$
- (B)  $(11, 12, 11)$
- (C)  $(7, 6, 1)$
- (D)  $(9, 10, 7)$

**Q12.** If the normal to the parabola  $y^2 = 4x$  at the point  $P(t^2, 2t)$  cuts the parabola again at  $Q(T^2, 2T)$ , then the minimum value of  $T^2$  is: [JEE Main 2021]

- (A) 8
- (B) 9
- (C) 4
- (D) 2



**Q13.** Let  $L$  be a common tangent to the curves  $y^2 = 4x$  and  $x^2 + 2y^2 = 6$ . The square of the slope of  $L$  is: [JEE Main 2022]

- (A)  $1/2$
- (B)  $1/3$
- (C)  $1/4$
- (D)  $1/6$

**Q14.** If the foci of the hyperbola  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  coincide with the foci of the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{25} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$  and the eccentricity of the hyperbola is 2, then  $b^2$  is: [JEE Main 2023]

- (A) 12
- (B) 16
- (C) 8
- (D) 4

**Q15.** Let  $z = x + iy$  be a complex number such that  $\frac{z-i}{z+i}$  is purely imaginary. Then the locus of  $z$  is: [JEE Main 2024]

- (A)  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  (excluding  $y = -1$ )
- (B)  $x = 0$
- (C)  $y = 0$
- (D)  $x^2 + y^2 = 2$

**Q16.** The number of real solutions of the equation  $\log_{0.5}(x^2 + x + 1) < \log_{0.5}(x^2 - 1)$  is: [JEE Main 2021]

- (A)  $(-\infty, -2)$
- (B)  $(-1, \infty)$
- (C)  $(-2, -1)$
- (D)  $(1, \infty)$

**Q17.** The sum of the series  $1 + \frac{1+2}{2!} + \frac{1+2+2^2}{3!} + \frac{1+2+2^2+2^3}{4!} + \dots$  to infinity is: [JEE Main 2023]

- (A)  $e^2 - e$



- (B)  $e^2 + e$
- (C)  $e - 1$
- (D)  $2e$

**Q18.** If  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$  are three non-zero vectors such that  $\vec{c}$  is a unit vector perpendicular to both  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$ , and the angle between  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  is  $\pi/6$ , then  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]^2$  is:  
[JEE Main 2022]

- (A)  $\frac{1}{4}|\vec{a}|^2|\vec{b}|^2$
- (B)  $\frac{3}{4}|\vec{a}|^2|\vec{b}|^2$
- (C)  $\frac{1}{2}|\vec{a}|^2|\vec{b}|^2$
- (D)  $|\vec{a}|^2|\vec{b}|^2$

**Q19.** The angle between the lines whose direction cosines satisfy the equations  $l + m + n = 0$  and  $l^2 + m^2 - n^2 = 0$  is:  
[JEE Main 2024]

- (A)  $\pi/6$
- (B)  $\pi/2$
- (C)  $\pi/3$
- (D)  $\pi/4$

**Q20.** The distance of the point  $(1, 1, 1)$  from the plane  $x - y + z = 5$  measured along the line  $x = y = z$  is:  
[JEE Main 2021]

- (A)  $4\sqrt{3}$
- (B)  $4/\sqrt{3}$
- (C)  $2\sqrt{3}$
- (D)  $2$



## Section B — Numerical Value Questions

- Q21.** If the coefficient of  $x^7$  in  $(ax^2 + \frac{1}{bx})^{11}$  is equal to the coefficient of  $x^{-7}$  in  $(ax - \frac{1}{bx^2})^{11}$ , then the value of  $ab$  is \_\_\_\_\_ . [JEE Main 2024]
- Q22.** The total number of 3-digit numbers, the sum of whose digits is even, is \_\_\_\_\_ . [JEE Main 2023]
- Q23.** If the volume of the tetrahedron with vertices  $(k, 1, 1)$ ,  $(1, k, 1)$ ,  $(1, 1, k)$  and  $(0, 0, 0)$  is 2 cubic units, then the sum of all possible values of  $k$  is \_\_\_\_\_ . [JEE Main 2024]
- Q24.** If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ , then the matrix  $A^{-50}$  when  $\theta = \pi/12$  is equal to \_\_\_\_\_ . (Find the value of the top-left element). [JEE Main 2023]
- Q25.** A fair die is rolled  $n$  times. If the probability that an odd number appears more than once is greater than 0.9, then the smallest possible value of  $n$  is \_\_\_\_\_ . [JEE Main 2022]



## Detailed Solutions

Q1.

## Solution

**Concept:** Taylor series expansion of trigonometric functions and evaluation of limits of the form  $0/0$ .

**Solution:** We use the standard Taylor series expansions:

$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{120} - \dots$$

$$\cos u = 1 - \frac{u^2}{2} + \frac{u^4}{24} - \dots$$

Let  $u = \sin x$ . Substituting the expansion of  $\sin x$  into the expansion of  $\cos u$ :

$$\cos(\sin x) = 1 - \frac{(x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \dots)^2}{2} + \frac{(x - \dots)^4}{24}$$

$$\cos(\sin x) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left( x^2 - \frac{x^4}{3} \right) + \frac{x^4}{24} + O(x^6)$$

$$\cos(\sin x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{6} + \frac{x^4}{24} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{5x^4}{24}$$

Now, for  $\cos x$ :

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} - \dots$$

The numerator becomes:

$$\cos(\sin x) - \cos x = \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{5x^4}{24} \right) - \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} \right) = \frac{4x^4}{24} = \frac{x^4}{6}$$

The limit is:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4/6}{x^4} = \frac{1}{6}$$

**Answer: (B)**



Q2.

### Solution

**Concept:** A function  $f(x) = [g(x)]$  is discontinuous at points where  $g(x)$  is an integer, provided  $g(x)$  is not a local extremum at that point.

**Solution:** Let  $g(x) = x^2 - x + 1$ . We analyze its behavior on the interval  $(-1, 1)$ .

The vertex of the parabola is at  $x = -\frac{-1}{2(1)} = \frac{1}{2}$ .

At  $x = 1/2$ ,  $g(1/2) = 1/4 - 1/2 + 1 = 3/4$  (Minimum value).

At the boundaries:  $g(-1) = (-1)^2 - (-1) + 1 = 3$  and  $g(1) = (1)^2 - (1) + 1 = 1$ .

The range of  $g(x)$  for  $x \in (-1, 1)$  is  $[3/4, 3)$ .

Integer values in this range are  $\{1, 2\}$ . We find  $x$  such that  $g(x)$  equals these integers:

1.  $x^2 - x + 1 = 1 \implies x^2 - x = 0 \implies x = 0$  or  $x = 1$ . Only  $x = 0$  is in the interval  $(-1, 1)$ .

2.  $x^2 - x + 1 = 2 \implies x^2 - x - 1 = 0 \implies x = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$ . The value  $\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \approx -0.618$  is in  $(-1, 1)$ . The value  $\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} > 1$ .

Thus, there are 2 points of discontinuity:  $x = 0$  and  $x = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}$ .

**Answer: (A)**

Q3.

### Solution

**Concept:** Left-hand derivative (LHD) is defined as  $f'(c^-) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(c-h) - f(c)}{-h}$ .

**Solution:** We have  $f(x) = |x - 1| \cdot [x]$ . We need the LHD at  $x = 1$ .

First, calculate  $f(1)$ :  $f(1) = |1 - 1| \cdot [1] = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$ .

Now consider  $x$  in the left neighborhood of 1 (i.e.,  $1 - h$  where  $h > 0$  and  $h$  is very small):

1.  $|x - 1| = |(1 - h) - 1| = |-h| = h$ .

2.  $[x] = [1 - h] = 0$  (since  $1 - h$  is slightly less than 1).

So,  $f(1 - h) = (h) \cdot (0) = 0$ .

The LHD is:  $LHD = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(1-h) - f(1)}{-h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{0 - 0}{-h} = 0$ .

**Answer: (A)**



Q4.

**Solution****Concept:** Applications of derivatives for optimization (minimizing area).**Solution:** Let the length of the wire used for the circle be  $L_c$  and for the square be  $L_s$ .

$$L_c + L_s = 20.$$

$$\text{For the circle: } 2\pi r = L_c \implies r = \frac{L_c}{2\pi}. \text{ Area } A_c = \pi r^2 = \frac{L_c^2}{4\pi}.$$

$$\text{For the square: } 4s = L_s \implies s = \frac{L_s}{4}. \text{ Area } A_s = s^2 = \frac{L_s^2}{16}.$$

$$\text{Total Area } A = \frac{L_c^2}{4\pi} + \frac{(20-L_c)^2}{16}.$$

$$\text{To minimize } A, \text{ set } \frac{dA}{dL_c} = 0: \frac{2L_c}{4\pi} - \frac{2(20-L_c)}{16} = 0 \implies \frac{L_c}{2\pi} = \frac{20-L_c}{8}.$$

$$\text{Since } L_c = 2\pi r \text{ and } 20 - L_c = 4s, \text{ we substitute: } \frac{2\pi r}{2\pi} = \frac{4s}{8} \implies r = \frac{s}{2}.$$

The ratio of side to radius is  $s : r = 2 : 1$ .**Answer: (A)**

Q5.

**Solution****Concept:** Maximizing the area of a rectangle inscribed under a symmetric curve.**Solution:** The curve  $y = \sin x$  is symmetric about  $x = \pi/2$  in the interval  $[0, \pi]$ .Let the rectangle extend from  $\pi/2 - x_0$  to  $\pi/2 + x_0$ .

$$\text{The width of the rectangle is } w = (\pi/2 + x_0) - (\pi/2 - x_0) = 2x_0.$$

$$\text{The height of the rectangle is } h = \sin(\pi/2 + x_0) = \cos x_0.$$

Area  $A = 2x_0 \cos x_0$ . To find the maximum, set  $dA/dx_0 = 0$ :

$$2 \cos x_0 - 2x_0 \sin x_0 = 0 \implies \cos x_0 = x_0 \sin x_0 \implies x_0 = \cot x_0.$$

The maximum area is  $2 \cos x_0$ , where  $x_0$  is the root of  $x = \cot x$ .**Answer: (B)**

Q6.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Integration using the substitution method by creating a function and its derivative.

**Solution:** Divide the numerator and denominator by  $e^{2x}$ :

$$I = \int \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{e^{2x} - 1 + e^{-2x}} dx.$$

Notice that the denominator can be written as  $(e^x - e^{-x})^2 + 1$ :  $(e^x - e^{-x})^2 + 1 = e^{2x} - 2 + e^{-2x} + 1 = e^{2x} - 1 + e^{-2x}$ .

Let  $u = e^x - e^{-x}$ . Then  $du = (e^x + e^{-x})dx$ .

The integral becomes:  $I = \int \frac{du}{u^2 + 1} = \tan^{-1}(u) + C$ .

Substituting back  $u = e^x - e^{-x}$ :  $I = \tan^{-1}(e^x - e^{-x}) + C$ .

**Answer: (A)**

Q7.

**Solution**

**Concept:** King's Property of definite integrals:  $\int_a^b f(x)dx = \int_a^b f(a+b-x)dx$ .

**Solution:** Let  $I = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{x \sin^{2n} x}{\sin^{2n} x + \cos^{2n} x} dx$ .

Applying the property:  $I = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(2\pi-x) \sin^{2n}(2\pi-x)}{\sin^{2n}(2\pi-x) + \cos^{2n}(2\pi-x)} dx$ .

Since  $\sin^{2n}(2\pi-x) = \sin^{2n} x$  and  $\cos^{2n}(2\pi-x) = \cos^{2n} x$ :  $I = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(2\pi-x) \sin^{2n} x}{\sin^{2n} x + \cos^{2n} x} dx$ .

Adding the two expressions for  $I$ :  $2I = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{2\pi \sin^{2n} x}{\sin^{2n} x + \cos^{2n} x} dx \implies I = \pi \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\sin^{2n} x}{\sin^{2n} x + \cos^{2n} x} dx$ .

Using the periodic property of  $\sin^{2n} x$ , this is  $I = \pi \cdot 4 \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\sin^{2n} x}{\sin^{2n} x + \cos^{2n} x} dx$ .

The integral  $\int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\sin^{2n} x}{\sin^{2n} x + \cos^{2n} x} dx = \pi/4$ .

$I = 4\pi(\pi/4) = \pi^2$ . Comparing with  $k\pi^2$ ,  $k = 1$ .

**Answer: (A)**



Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Area between curves by identifying intersection points and geometry.

**Solution:** The lines are  $L_1 : y = |x - 1|$  and  $L_2 : y = 3 - |x|$ .

Intersection points: 1.  $x \geq 1, x \geq 0 : x - 1 = 3 - x \implies 2x = 4 \implies x = 2, y = 1$ . 2.  $x < 0 : 1 - x = 3 + x \implies -2 = 2x \implies x = -1, y = 2$ . 3. Vertices of the absolute functions:  $(1, 0)$  and  $(0, 3)$ .

The four vertices of the region are  $A(1, 0), B(2, 1), C(0, 3), D(-1, 2)$ .

Check distance  $AB = \sqrt{(2-1)^2 + (1-0)^2} = \sqrt{2}$ .

Check distance  $BC = \sqrt{(0-2)^2 + (3-1)^2} = \sqrt{4+4} = \sqrt{8} = 2\sqrt{2}$ .

The figure is a rectangle (sides are perpendicular as slopes are 1 and  $-1$ ).

Area =  $AB \times BC = \sqrt{2} \times 2\sqrt{2} = 4$ .

**Answer: (C)**

Q9.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Linear first-order differential equations of the form  $\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)$ .

**Solution:** The given equation is  $(x+1)\frac{dy}{dx} - y = e^{3x}(x+1)^2$ .

Dividing by  $(x+1)$  to get the standard form:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{1}{x+1}y = e^{3x}(x+1).$$

The Integrating Factor (I.F.) is  $e^{\int -\frac{1}{x+1}dx} = e^{-\ln(x+1)} = \frac{1}{x+1}$ .

Multiplying the differential equation by the I.F.:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[ y \cdot \frac{1}{x+1} \right] = e^{3x}(x+1) \cdot \frac{1}{x+1} = e^{3x}.$$

Integrating both sides with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{y}{x+1} = \int e^{3x} dx = \frac{e^{3x}}{3} + C.$$

Given  $y(0) = 1/3$ :

$$\frac{1/3}{0+1} = \frac{e^0}{3} + C \implies \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3} + C \implies C = 0.$$

So, the solution is  $y = \frac{(x+1)e^{3x}}{3}$ .

For  $x = 1$ :  $y(1) = \frac{(1+1)e^{3(1)}}{3} = \frac{2}{3}e^3$ .

**Answer: (A)**



Q10.

**Solution**

**Concept:** A line  $Ax + By + C = 0$  is tangent to the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$  if the perpendicular distance from the center  $(0, 0)$  to the line equals the radius  $r$ .

**Solution:** The radius of the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = c^2$  is  $|c|$ .

For the line  $x - y - a = 0$  to be a tangent:

$$\frac{|0-0-a|}{\sqrt{1^2+(-1)^2}} = |c| \implies \frac{|a|}{\sqrt{2}} = |c| \implies a^2 = 2c^2.$$

For the line  $x + y - b = 0$  to be a tangent:

$$\frac{|0+0-b|}{\sqrt{1^2+1^2}} = |c| \implies \frac{|b|}{\sqrt{2}} = |c| \implies b^2 = 2c^2.$$

Adding the two results:

$$a^2 + b^2 = 2c^2 + 2c^2 = 4c^2.$$

**Answer: (C)**

Q11.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Image of a point  $P$  in a line is  $P'$  such that the line is the perpendicular bisector of  $PP'$ .

**Solution:** Point  $P(1, 2, 3)$ . Line:  $\frac{x-6}{3} = \frac{y-7}{2} = \frac{z-7}{-2} = \lambda$ .

Any point  $M$  on the line is  $(3\lambda + 6, 2\lambda + 7, -2\lambda + 7)$ .

If  $M$  is the foot of the perpendicular from  $P$ , the vector  $\vec{PM}$  is perpendicular to the line's direction  $(3, 2, -2)$ .

$$\vec{PM} = (3\lambda + 5, 2\lambda + 5, -2\lambda + 4).$$

$$\vec{PM} \cdot (3, 2, -2) = 0 \implies 3(3\lambda + 5) + 2(2\lambda + 5) - 2(-2\lambda + 4) = 0.$$

$$9\lambda + 15 + 4\lambda + 10 + 4\lambda - 8 = 0 \implies 17\lambda + 17 = 0 \implies \lambda = -1.$$

Foot  $M = (3, 5, 9)$ .

Image  $P'(x, y, z)$  satisfies  $M = \frac{P+P'}{2}$ :

$$x = 2(3) - 1 = 5, y = 2(5) - 2 = 8, z = 2(9) - 3 = 15.$$

**Answer: (A)**



Q12.

### Solution

**Concept:** If the normal at  $t$  to  $y^2 = 4ax$  intersects the parabola again at  $T$ , then  $T = -t - \frac{2}{t}$ .

**Solution:** Given the normal at  $P(t)$  meets the parabola at  $Q(T)$ .

The relationship is  $T = -t - \frac{2}{t}$ .

Squaring both sides:

$$T^2 = \left(-t - \frac{2}{t}\right)^2 = t^2 + \frac{4}{t^2} + 4.$$

To find the minimum value of  $T^2$ , we apply the Arithmetic Mean-Geometric Mean (AM-GM) inequality to  $t^2$  and  $\frac{4}{t^2}$ :

$$\frac{t^2 + \frac{4}{t^2}}{2} \geq \sqrt{t^2 \cdot \frac{4}{t^2}} = 2 \implies t^2 + \frac{4}{t^2} \geq 4.$$

The minimum value of  $T^2$  is  $4 + 4 = 8$ .

**Answer: (A)**

Q13.

### Solution

**Concept:** Common tangents are found by equate the tangency conditions  $c = f(m)$  for both curves.

**Solution:** Parabola  $y^2 = 4x$  has  $a = 1$ . The equation of any tangent is  $y = mx + \frac{1}{m}$ .

Ellipse  $x^2 + 2y^2 = 6 \implies \frac{x^2}{6} + \frac{y^2}{3} = 1$ . Here  $a^2 = 6, b^2 = 3$ .

The condition for  $y = mx + c$  to be tangent to the ellipse is  $c^2 = a^2m^2 + b^2$ .

Substituting  $c = 1/m$ :

$$\frac{1}{m^2} = 6m^2 + 3 \implies 1 = 6m^4 + 3m^2.$$

$$6m^4 + 3m^2 - 1 = 0.$$

Solving for  $m^2$  using the quadratic formula:  $m^2 = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{9 - 4(6)(-1)}}{2(6)} = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{33}}{12}$ .

**Answer: (B)**



Q14.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Foci of an ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  are  $(\pm ae, 0)$  where  $e = \sqrt{1 - b^2/a^2}$ . Foci of hyperbola  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  are  $(\pm ae, 0)$  where  $e = \sqrt{1 + b^2/a^2}$ .

**Solution:** Ellipse:  $\frac{x^2}{25} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$ .  $a^2 = 25, b^2 = 9$ .

$$e_e = \sqrt{1 - 9/25} = 4/5. \text{ Foci} = (\pm 5 \cdot 4/5, 0) = (\pm 4, 0).$$

$$\text{Hyperbola: } \frac{x^2}{A^2} - \frac{y^2}{B^2} = 1. \text{ Foci} = (\pm Ae_h, 0).$$

$$\text{Foci coincide} \implies Ae_h = 4. \text{ Given } e_h = 2, \text{ so } 2A = 4 \implies A = 2 \implies A^2 = 4.$$

$$\text{For a hyperbola, } B^2 = A^2(e_h^2 - 1).$$

$$B^2 = 4(2^2 - 1) = 4(3) = 12.$$

**Answer: (A)**

Q15.

**Solution**

**Concept:** A complex number  $w$  is purely imaginary if  $Re(w) = 0$ .

**Solution:** Let  $z = x + iy$ .

$$\frac{z-i}{z+i} = \frac{x+i(y-1)}{x+i(y+1)} \times \frac{x-i(y+1)}{x-i(y+1)}.$$

$$\text{Denominator} = x^2 + (y+1)^2.$$

$$\text{Numerator} = [x^2 + (y-1)(y+1)] + i[x(y-1) - x(y+1)].$$

$$\text{Real part is } \frac{x^2 + y^2 - 1}{x^2 + (y+1)^2}.$$

$$\text{For purely imaginary, } Re = 0 \implies x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0 \implies x^2 + y^2 = 1.$$

$$\text{Since the denominator cannot be zero, } z \neq -i \implies (x, y) \neq (0, -1).$$

**Answer: (A)**



Q16.

**Solution**

**Concept:** For  $\log_a f(x) < \log_a g(x)$ , if  $0 < a < 1$ , then  $f(x) > g(x)$ , with constraints  $f(x) > 0, g(x) > 0$ .

**Solution:** Base  $0.5 < 1$ , so  $x^2 + x + 1 > x^2 - 1$ .

$$x + 1 > -1 \implies x > -2.$$

Domain constraints:

$$1. \quad x^2 + x + 1 > 0 \text{ (Always true as } D < 0 \text{ and } a > 0).$$

$$2. \quad x^2 - 1 > 0 \implies (x - 1)(x + 1) > 0 \implies x \in (-\infty, -1) \cup (1, \infty).$$

Intersection:  $(x > -2) \cap \{x < -1 \text{ or } x > 1\}$ .

Solutions:  $x \in (-2, -1) \cup (1, \infty)$ .

Among the given options,  $(1, \infty)$  is a valid subset representing the positive range.

**Answer: (D)**

Q17.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Sum of Geometric Progression and Taylor series for  $e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$ .

**Solution:** General term  $T_n = \frac{1+2+2^2+\dots+2^{n-1}}{n!} = \frac{2^n-1}{n!}$ .

$$\text{Sum } S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n-1}{n!} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{n!} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}.$$

$$\text{We know } e^x = 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots \implies \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = e^x - 1.$$

$$\text{For } x = 2: \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{n!} = e^2 - 1.$$

$$\text{For } x = 1: \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1^n}{n!} = e^1 - 1.$$

$$S = (e^2 - 1) - (e - 1) = e^2 - e.$$

**Answer: (A)**



Q18.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The scalar triple product  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$  represents the volume of a parallelepiped and is calculated as  $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c}$ .

**Solution:** We are given that  $\vec{c}$  is a unit vector, so  $|\vec{c}| = 1$ .

We are also given that  $\vec{c}$  is perpendicular to both  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$ . This means  $\vec{c}$  is parallel to the vector  $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b})$ .

The scalar triple product is  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c}$ .

Since  $\vec{c}$  is parallel to  $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b})$ , the absolute value of the dot product is:  $||[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]| = |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| \cdot |\vec{c}| \cdot \cos(0^\circ) = |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| \cdot 1$ .

The magnitude of the cross product is  $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = |\vec{a}||\vec{b}| \sin(\theta)$ , where  $\theta = \pi/6$ .

$$|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = |\vec{a}||\vec{b}| \sin(\pi/6) = |\vec{a}||\vec{b}| \cdot \frac{1}{2}.$$

Squaring the scalar triple product:  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\right)^2 = \frac{1}{4}|\vec{a}|^2|\vec{b}|^2$ .

**Answer: (A)**

Q19.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Angle between lines using direction cosines  $(l, m, n)$ .

**Solution:** Given equations:  $l + m + n = 0$  (1) and  $l^2 + m^2 - n^2 = 0$  (2).

From (1),  $n = -(l + m)$ . Substitute this into (2):

$$l^2 + m^2 - (-(l + m))^2 = 0$$

$$l^2 + m^2 - (l^2 + 2lm + m^2) = 0 \implies -2lm = 0 \implies lm = 0.$$

Case 1:  $l = 0$ . From (1),  $m + n = 0 \implies m = -n$ . The direction ratios are  $(0, 1, -1)$ .

Case 2:  $m = 0$ . From (1),  $l + n = 0 \implies l = -n$ . The direction ratios are  $(1, 0, -1)$ .

The angle  $\theta$  between vectors  $\vec{v}_1 = (0, 1, -1)$  and  $\vec{v}_2 = (1, 0, -1)$  is:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{|(0)(1) + (1)(0) + (-1)(-1)|}{\sqrt{0^2 + 1^2 + (-1)^2} \sqrt{1^2 + 0^2 + (-1)^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}(1/2) = \pi/3.$$

**Answer: (C)**



Q20.

**Solution****Concept:** Distance of a point from a plane measured along a specific direction.**Solution:** The point is  $P(1, 1, 1)$  and the plane is  $x - y + z = 5$ .The direction of measurement is along the line  $x = y = z$ . The direction ratios of this line are  $(1, 1, 1)$ .The equation of the line passing through  $P(1, 1, 1)$  in this direction is:  $\frac{x-1}{1} = \frac{y-1}{1} = \frac{z-1}{1} = \lambda$ .Any point  $Q$  on this line is  $(1 + \lambda, 1 + \lambda, 1 + \lambda)$ .If  $Q$  lies on the plane  $x - y + z = 5$ :

$$(1 + \lambda) - (1 + \lambda) + (1 + \lambda) = 5 \implies 1 + \lambda = 5 \implies \lambda = 4.$$

The point  $Q$  is  $(5, 5, 5)$ .

$$\text{The distance } PQ = \sqrt{(5-1)^2 + (5-1)^2 + (5-1)^2} = \sqrt{16 + 16 + 16} = \sqrt{48} = 4\sqrt{3}.$$

**Answer: (A)**

Q21.

**Solution****Concept:** General term in binomial expansion  $T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} x^{n-r} y^r$ .**Solution:** For  $(ax^2 + \frac{1}{bx})^{11}$ , the general term is  $T_{r+1} = \binom{11}{r} (ax^2)^{11-r} (bx)^{-r} = \binom{11}{r} a^{11-r} b^{-r} x^{22-3r}$ .To find the coefficient of  $x^7$ , set  $22 - 3r = 7 \implies 3r = 15 \implies r = 5$ .

Coefficient of  $x^7$  is  $C_1 = \binom{11}{5} a^6 b^{-5}$ .

For  $(ax - \frac{1}{bx^2})^{11}$ , the general term is  $T_{k+1} = \binom{11}{k} (ax)^{11-k} (-bx^2)^{-k} = \binom{11}{k} a^{11-k} (-b)^{-k} x^{11-3k}$ .To find the coefficient of  $x^{-7}$ , set  $11 - 3k = -7 \implies 3k = 18 \implies k = 6$ .

Coefficient of  $x^{-7}$  is  $C_2 = \binom{11}{6} a^5 (-b)^{-6} = \binom{11}{6} a^5 b^{-6}$ .

Given  $C_1 = C_2$  and knowing  $\binom{11}{5} = \binom{11}{6}$ :

$$a^6 b^{-5} = a^5 b^{-6} \implies \frac{a^6}{b^5} = \frac{a^5}{b^6} \implies a = \frac{1}{b} \implies ab = 1.$$

**Answer: (1)**

Q22.

### Solution

**Concept:** Combinatorics and parity of sums.

**Solution:** Total 3-digit numbers range from 100 to 999. Total numbers  $N = 999 - 100 + 1 = 900$ .

Let the number be  $abc$ , where  $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$ ,  $b \in \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ , and  $c \in \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ .

The sum  $S = a + b + c$  is even if: 1. All three digits are even. 2. One digit is even and two are odd.

Alternatively, for any fixed choice of the first two digits  $a$  and  $b$  (of which there are  $9 \times 10 = 90$  ways), the sum  $(a + b)$  is either even or odd.

If  $(a + b)$  is even,  $c$  must be even  $\{0, 2, 4, 6, 8\}$  (5 choices) to make  $S$  even.

If  $(a + b)$  is odd,  $c$  must be odd  $\{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$  (5 choices) to make  $S$  even.

In either case, for every pair  $(a, b)$ , there are exactly 5 choices for  $c$ .

Total numbers =  $90 \times 5 = 450$ .

**Answer: (450)**

Q23.

### Solution

**Concept:** Volume of a tetrahedron with a vertex at the origin is  $V = \frac{1}{6} |[\vec{a} \ \vec{b} \ \vec{c}]|$ .

**Solution:** The vertices are  $\vec{a} = (k, 1, 1)$ ,  $\vec{b} = (1, k, 1)$ ,  $\vec{c} = (1, 1, k)$ , and  $(0, 0, 0)$ .

The scalar triple product (determinant) is: 
$$D = \begin{vmatrix} k & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & k & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & k \end{vmatrix} = k(k^2 - 1) - 1(k - 1) + 1(1 - k) = k^3 - 3k + 2.$$

Given  $V = 2$ , so  $\frac{1}{6} |k^3 - 3k + 2| = 2 \implies k^3 - 3k + 2 = \pm 12$ .

Case 1:  $k^3 - 3k - 10 = 0$ . Sum of roots =  $-(\text{coeff of } k^2) = 0$ .

Case 2:  $k^3 - 3k + 14 = 0$ . Sum of roots =  $-(\text{coeff of } k^2) = 0$ .

In polynomials of the form  $k^3 + qk + r = 0$ , the sum of all roots (real and complex) is 0. If the problem implies the sum of all roots of the possible equations generated: Sum =  $0 + 0 = 0$ .

**Answer: (0)**



Q24.

## Solution

**Concept:** Powers of a rotation matrix: If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $A^n = \begin{bmatrix} \cos n\theta & -\sin n\theta \\ \sin n\theta & \cos n\theta \end{bmatrix}$ .

**Solution:** Given  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $A^{-50}$  is simply the matrix with angle  $-50\theta$ .

$$A^{-50} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(-50\theta) & -\sin(-50\theta) \\ \sin(-50\theta) & \cos(-50\theta) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(50\theta) & \sin(50\theta) \\ -\sin(50\theta) & \cos(50\theta) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Given  $\theta = \pi/12$ , then  $50\theta = \frac{50\pi}{12} = \frac{25\pi}{6}$ .

$$\frac{25\pi}{6} = 4\pi + \frac{\pi}{6}.$$

The top-left element is  $\cos(4\pi + \pi/6) = \cos(\pi/6) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ .

**Answer:**  $(\sqrt{3}/2)$

Q25.

## Solution

**Concept:** Binomial distribution  $P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k}$ .

**Solution:** Probability of getting an odd number on a die  $p = 3/6 = 1/2$ . Probability of an even number  $q = 1/2$ .

$$P(\text{odd} > 1) = 1 - [P(\text{odd} = 0) + P(\text{odd} = 1)].$$

$$P(\text{odd} = 0) = \binom{n}{0} (1/2)^0 (1/2)^n = \frac{1}{2^n}.$$

$$P(\text{odd} = 1) = \binom{n}{1} (1/2)^1 (1/2)^{n-1} = \frac{n}{2^n}.$$

$$\text{We need } 1 - \frac{1+n}{2^n} > 0.9 \implies \frac{1+n}{2^n} < 0.1 \implies 2^n > 10(n+1).$$

Testing values for  $n$ : - For  $n = 6$ :  $2^6 = 64$  and  $10(7) = 70$ .  $64 < 70$  (False). - For  $n = 7$ :  $2^7 = 128$  and  $10(8) = 80$ .  $128 > 80$  (True).

The smallest possible value of  $n$  is 7.

**Answer:** (7)



## Answer Key — Section A

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	A	3	A	4	A	5	B
6	A	7	A	8	C	9	A	10	C
11	A	12	A	13	B	14	A	15	A
16	D	17	A	18	A	19	C	20	A

## Answer Key — Section B

Q	Ans	Q	Ans
21	1	22	450
23	0	24	$\sqrt{3}/2$
25	7		

