



Question A1 (4 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

---

Suppose  $x$  is a real number such that  $x(x + 3) = 154$ . Determine the value of  $(x + 1)(x + 2)$ .

**Your solution:**

**Your final answer:**

Question A2 (4 points)

Let  $v, w, x, y$ , and  $z$  be five distinct integers such that  $45 = v \times w \times x \times y \times z$ . What is the sum of the integers?

**Your solution:**

**Your final answer:**

Question A3 (4 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

---

Points  $(0, 0)$  and  $(3\sqrt{7}, 7\sqrt{3})$  are the endpoints of a diameter of circle  $\Gamma$ . Determine the other  $x$  intercept of  $\Gamma$ .

**Your final answer:**

Question A4 (4 points)

---

In the sequence of positive integers, starting with 2018, 121, 16, ... each term is the square of the sum of digits of the previous term. What is the 2018<sup>th</sup> term of the sequence?

**Your solution:**

**Your final answer:**

Question B1 (6 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

---

Let  $(1 + \sqrt{2})^5 = a + b\sqrt{2}$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers. Determine the value of  $a + b$ .

**Your solution:**

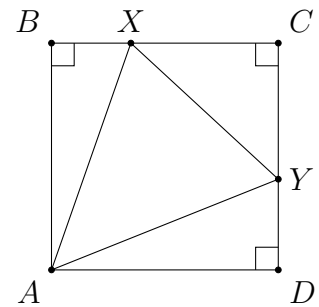
**Your final answer:**

Question B2 (6 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

Let  $ABCD$  be a square with side length 1. Points  $X$  and  $Y$  are on sides  $BC$  and  $CD$  respectively such that the areas of triangles  $ABX$ ,  $XCY$ , and  $YDA$  are equal. Find the ratio of the area of  $\triangle AXY$  to the area of  $\triangle XCY$ .

**Your solution:**



**Your final answer:**

The *doubling sum* function is defined by

$$D(a, n) = \overbrace{a + 2a + 4a + 8a + \dots}^{n \text{ terms}}$$

For example, we have

$$D(5, 3) = 5 + 10 + 20 = 35$$

and

$$D(11, 5) = 11 + 22 + 44 + 88 + 176 = 341.$$

Determine the smallest positive integer  $n$  such that for every integer  $i$  between 1 and 6, inclusive, there exists a positive integer  $a_i$  such that  $D(a_i, i) = n$ .

**Your solution:**

<p><b>Your final answer:</b></p>
----------------------------------

Question B4 (6 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

---

Determine the number of 5-tuples of integers  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5)$  such that

(a)  $x_i \geq i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 5$ ;

(b)  $\sum_{i=1}^5 x_i = 25$ .

**Your solution:**

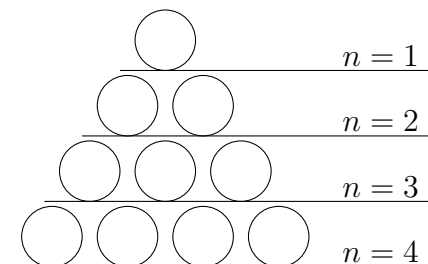
**Your final answer:**

Question C1 (10 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

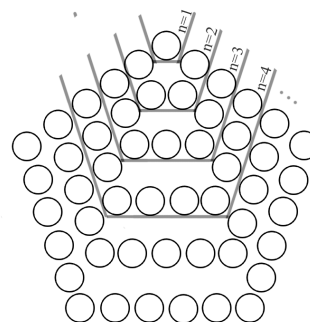
At Math- $e^e$ -Mart, cans of cat food are arranged in an pentagonal pyramid of 15 layers high, with 1 can in the top layer, 5 cans in the second layer, 12 cans in the third layer, 22 cans in the fourth layer etc, so that the  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer is a pentagon with  $k$  cans on each side.

- (a) How many cans are on the bottom,  $15^{\text{th}}$ , layer of this pyramid?
- (b) The pentagonal pyramid is rearranged into a prism consisting of 15 identical layers. How many cans are on the bottom layer of the prism?
- (c) A triangular prism consist of identical layers, each of which has a shape of a triangle. (The number of cans in a triangular layer is one of the triangular numbers: 1,3,6,10,...) For example, a prism could be composed of the following layers:

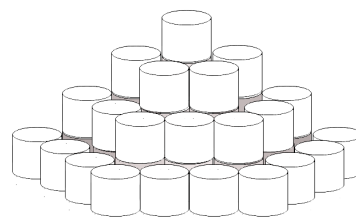


Prove that a pentagonal pyramid of cans with any number of layers  $l \geq 2$  can be rearranged (without a deficit or leftover) into a triangular prism of cans with the same number of layers  $l$ .

**Your solution:**



top view



front view







Question C2 (10 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

---

Alice has two boxes  $A$  and  $B$ . Initially box  $A$  contains  $n$  coins and box  $B$  is empty. On each turn, she may either move a coin from box  $A$  to box  $B$ , or remove  $k$  coins from box  $A$ , where  $k$  is the current number of coins in box  $B$ . She wins when box  $A$  is empty.

- (a) If initially box  $A$  contains 6 coins, show that Alice can win in 4 turns.
- (b) If initially box  $A$  contains 31 coins, show that Alice cannot win in 10 turns.
- (c) What is the minimum number of turns needed for Alice to win if box  $A$  initially contains 2018 coins?

**Your solution:**





Question C3 (10 points)

Uniquely-identified page  
**NO PHOTOCOPIES!**

---

Consider a convex quadrilateral  $ABCD$ . Let rays  $BA$  and  $CD$  intersect at  $E$ , rays  $DA$  and  $CB$  intersect at  $F$ , and the diagonals  $AC$  and  $BD$  intersect at  $G$ . It is given that the triangles  $DBF$  and  $DBE$  have the same area.

- (a) Prove that  $EF$  and  $BD$  are parallel.
- (b) Prove that  $G$  is the midpoint of  $BD$ .
- (c) Given that the area of triangle  $ABD$  is 4 and the area of triangle  $CBD$  is 6, compute the area of triangle  $EFG$ .

**Your solution:**







Given a positive integer  $N$ , Matt writes  $N$  in decimal on a blackboard, without writing any of the leading 0s. Every minute he takes two consecutive digits, erases them, and replaces them with the last digit of their product. Any leading zeroes created this way are also erased. He repeats this process for as long as he likes. We call the positive integer  $M$  *obtainable* from  $N$  if starting from  $N$ , there is a finite sequence of moves that Matt can make to produce the number  $M$ . For example, 10 is obtainable from 251023 via

$$2510\underline{23} \rightarrow \underline{25}106 \rightarrow 1\underline{06} \rightarrow 10$$

- (a) Show that 2018 is obtainable from 2567777899.
- (b) Find two positive integers  $A$  and  $B$  for which there is no positive integer  $C$  such that both  $A$  and  $B$  are obtainable from  $C$ .
- (c) Let  $S$  be any finite set of positive integers, none of which contains the digit 5 in its decimal representation. Prove that there exists a positive integer  $N$  for which all elements of  $S$  are obtainable from  $N$ .

**Your solution:**





## Premier Sponsors

---



**Expertise. Insight.  
Solutions.**



**SOCIETY OF  
ACTUARIES**

---

in association with  crowdmark

---

### **Sponsors:**

Aqueduct  
Banff International  
Research Station  
Centre de recherche  
mathématiques  
The Fields Institute  
Maplesoft  
The McLean Foundation  
Popular Book Company  
RBC Foundation  
S.M. Blair Foundation  
The Samuel Beatty Fund

### **Academic Partners:**

University of British Columbia  
University of Calgary  
Dalhousie University  
University of Manitoba  
Memorial University  
University of New Brunswick  
University of Prince Edward Island  
Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics,  
(University of Saskatchewan)  
University of Toronto  
York University  
ASDAN China

### **Government Partners:**

Alberta Education  
Manitoba  
New Brunswick  
Northwest Territories  
Nova Scotia  
Nunavut  
Ontario  
Prince Edward Island



---

## STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

### General Instructions:

- 1) Do not open the exam booklet until instructed to do so by your proctor (supervising teacher).
- 2) **Before the exam time starts, the proctor will give you a few minutes to fill in the Participant Identification on the cover page of the exam.** You don't need to rush. Be sure to fill in all required information fields and write legibly.
- 3) **Readability counts:** Make sure the pencil(s) you use are dark enough to be clearly legible throughout your exam solutions.
- 4) Once you have completed the exam and given it to the proctor/teacher you may leave the room.
- 5) The questions and solutions of the COMC exam must not be publicly discussed or shared (including online) for at least 24 hours.



### Exam Format:

There are three parts to the COMC to be completed in a total of 2 hours and 30 minutes:

- PART A:** Four introductory questions worth 4 marks each. You do not have to show your work. A correct final answer gives full marks. However, if your final answer is incorrect and you have shown your work in the space provided, you might earn partial marks.
- PART B:** Four more challenging questions worth 6 marks each. Marking and partial marks follow the same rule as part A.
- PART C:** Four long-form proof problems worth 10 marks each. Complete work must be shown. Partial marks may be awarded.

Diagrams provided are *not* drawn to scale; they are intended as aids only.

**Scrap paper/extra pages:** You *may* use scrap paper, but you have to throw it away when you finish your work and hand in your booklet. Only the work you do on the pages provided in the booklet will be evaluated for marking. Extra pages are not permitted to be inserted in your booklet.

**Exact solutions:** It is expected that all calculations and answers will be expressed as exact numbers such as  $4\pi$ ,  $2 + \sqrt{7}$ , etc., rather than as 12.566, 4.646, etc.

**Awards:** The names of all award winners will be published on the Canadian Mathematical Society website.