

Math Subject GRE Questions

Calculus and Differential Equations

- If $f(x) = e^x - e^{-x}$, then $[f'(x)]^2 - [f(x)]^2$ equals
(a) 4 (b) $4e^{-2x}$ (c) $2e^{-x}$ (d) 2 (e) $2e^x$
- An integrating factor for the ordinary differential equation $-\frac{2y}{x} dx + (x^2y \cos(y) + 1) dy = 0$ is
(a) 1 (b) $-\frac{2}{x}$ (c) $\frac{1}{x^2}$ (d) $-2x$ (e) x^2
- Assuming convergence, find $x = \sqrt{3 + \sqrt{3 + \sqrt{3 + \dots}}}$
(a) $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5} + 1)$ (b) $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{13} - 1)$ (c) $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5} - 1)$ (d) $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{13} + 1)$ (e) $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{13} - \sqrt{5})$
- What is the maximum perimeter of all rectangles that can be inscribed in $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$?
(a) $4\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ (b) $\frac{8}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}$ (c) $2\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ (d) $a^2 + b^2$ (e) $2(a^2 + b^2)$
- Let $x_n = \frac{n^n}{n!}$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n}$ equals
(a) \sqrt{e} (b) e (c) $\sqrt{e^3}$ (d) e^2 (e) e^{-1}
- The derivative of $f(x) = \int_x^0 \frac{\cos(xt)}{t} dt$ is
(a) $\frac{1}{x} [1 - 2 \cos(x^2)]$ (b) $-\frac{\cos(2x^2)}{x}$ (c) $\frac{1}{x} [1 + 2 \sin(x^2)]$ (d) $-\frac{\sin(2x^2)}{x}$ (e) $\frac{\cos(x^2)}{x}$
- The maximum value of the directional derivative on the surface $z = f(x, y) = xe^{xy} + y \cos(x)$ at $P(0, 1)$ is
(a) 1 (b) $\sqrt{2}$ (c) $\sqrt{3}$ (d) $\sqrt{4}$ (e) $\sqrt{5}$
- The inflection point for $f(x) = \frac{\ln(x)}{x}$ occurs at $x =$
(a) \sqrt{e} (b) e (c) $\sqrt{e^3}$ (d) e^{-1} (e) $\sqrt{e^{-1}}$
- Given the linear second-order difference equation $y_{k+2} - y_{k+1} - 2y_k = 0$, for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and $y_0 = 9$ and $y_1 = -12$, find y_6 .
(a) -54 (b) 64 (c) -32 (d) 27 (e) 54
- What is the general solution of $3xy^3 dx - (x + 2) dy = 0$?
(a) $3x - 4 \ln(|x + 2|) + \frac{1}{y^2} = c$ (b) $3x - \ln(|x + 2|) + \frac{1}{3y^2} = c$
(c) $3x - 5 \ln(|x + 2|) + \frac{3}{y^2} = c$ (d) $3x - 6 \ln(|x + 2|) + \frac{1}{2y^2} = c$

(e) $3x - 2 \ln(|x + 2|) + \frac{2}{y^2} = c$

11. The absolute maximum of $f(x) = \cos(2x) - 2 \cos(x)$ on $[0, 2\pi]$ occurs at $x =$

(a) $\frac{\pi}{3}$ (b) $\frac{\pi}{2}$ (c) π (d) $\frac{5\pi}{3}$ (e) $\frac{3\pi}{4}$

12. Evaluate the sum $\sum_{n=1}^m \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{n^2 + n + 1} \right)$

(a) $m^2 + 1$ (b) $\frac{1}{m^2 + m}$ (c) $\cot(m + 1) - \frac{1}{m^2 + 1}$ (d) $\tan^{-1}(m + 1) - \frac{\pi}{4}$
 (e) $(-1)^m \sin(m + 1) + \tan(m)$

13. The smallest positive integer n for which the inequality $2^n > n^2$ is true for $\{n, n + 1, \dots\}$ is

(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) 5

14. The first Newton approximation x_1 for a zero of $f(x) = x^3 - 2x$ with initial approximation $x_0 = 2$ is

(a) $\frac{12}{5}$ (b) 2 (c) $\frac{8}{5}$ (d) $\frac{6}{5}$ (e) $\frac{7}{5}$

15. The value of $\int_1^4 |x - 2| dx$ is

(a) 3 (b) $\frac{5}{2}$ (c) 2 (d) $\frac{3}{2}$ (e) $\frac{7}{2}$

16. The equation $r = 2 \sin(\theta) - \cos(\theta)$ in rectangular coordinates is given by

(a) $x^2 + y^2 + x - 2y = 0$ (b) $x^2 - x + 2y = 0$ (c) $x^2 + y^2 + 2x - y = 0$ (d) $x^2 - y^2 - x + 2y = 0$
 (e) $y^2 - x^2 - x + 2y = 0$

17. The general term of the Maclaurin series for xe^{-x^2} is

(a) $\frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{(n + 1)!}$ (b) $\frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{2n+1}}{n!}$ (c) $\frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(n + 1)!}$ (d) $\frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{n!}$ (e) $\frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{2n}}{n!}$

18. Find the value of the sum $1 + \frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{9} + \frac{8}{27} + \dots$

(a) $\frac{11}{3}$ (b) $\frac{5}{2}$ (c) 2 (d) 3 (e) ∞

19. The circles $c_1 : x^2 + y^2 + 2ax + 2by + c = 0$ and $c_2 : x^2 + y^2 + 2a'x + 2b'y + c' = 0$ are orthogonal if

(a) $2aa' + 2bb' = c + c'$ (b) $a + a' + b + b' = cc'$ (c) $aa' - bb' = c - c'$ (d) $2aa' - 2bb' = c - c'$
 (e) $a + b + c = a' + b' + c'$

20. The volume (in cubic units) generated by rotating the region defined by the curves $y = x$ and $y = 2\sqrt{x}$ around the x -axis is

(a) $\frac{16\pi}{5}$ (b) $\frac{32\pi}{15}$ (c) $\frac{16\pi}{3}$ (d) $\frac{32\pi}{3}$ (e) π

Abstract Algebra/Topology

- The number generators of a cyclic group of order 8 is
(a) 6 (b) 4 (c) 3 (d) 2 (e) 1
- Find the number of solutions of the set of algebraic equations of height two.
(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3 (e) 4
- Define a metric on $\mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ by $d[(x_1, y_1); (x_2, y_2)] = |x_2 - x_1| + |y_2 - y_1|$. The unit ball $d[(0, 0); (x, y)] < 1$ is
(a) the interior of a circle with center $(0, 0)$ and radius 1.
(b) $(0, 0)$
(c) the interior of a square with vertices $(-1, 1)$, $(1, 1)$, $(1, -1)$, and $(-1, -1)$.
(d) the interior of a square with vertices $(-1, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, $(1, 0)$, and $(0, -1)$.
(e) the interior of a triangle with vertices $(-1, -1)$, $(0, \sqrt{3})$, and $(1, -1)$.
- Which of the following is a topological property?
(a) boundedness (b) being a Cauchy sequence (c) completeness
(d) being an accumulation (limit) point (e) length
- The number of ordered partitions of the positive integer 5 is
(a) 20 (b) 18 (c) 16 (d) 14 (e) 12
- The conjugates of an element are the other roots of the irreducible polynomial of which the given element is a root. The conjugate of $\sqrt{\sqrt{3} + 1}$ over the field of rational numbers are
(a) $\sqrt{\sqrt{3} + 1}, \sqrt{\sqrt{3} - 1}$ (b) $\sqrt{\sqrt{3} + 1}, -\sqrt{\sqrt{3} + 1}$ (c) $\pm\sqrt{1 + \sqrt{3}}, \pm\sqrt{1 - \sqrt{3}}$
(d) $\pm\sqrt{\sqrt{3} + 1}, \pm\sqrt{\sqrt{3} - 1}$ (e) $\sqrt{\sqrt{3} + 1}, -\sqrt{\sqrt{3} - 1}$
- A Sylow 3-subgroup of a group of order 72 has order
(a) 3 (b) 9 (c) 18 (d) 27 (e) 36
- Which of the following set, together with the given binary operation $*$, does not form a group?
(a) $G = \{a + b\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R} - \{0\} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$, $*$: usual multiplication of real numbers
(b) $G = \{a + bi\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$, $*$: usual multiplication of complex numbers
(c) $G = \{\sqrt[3]{a} \in \mathbb{R} \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, $*$: for $a, b \in G$, $\sqrt[3]{a} * \sqrt[3]{b} = \sqrt[3]{a + b}$
(d) $G = \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$, $*$: for $a, b \in G$, $a * b = |a|b$
(e) $G = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$, $*$: usual multiplication of complex numbers
- Find the number of left cosets of the cyclic subgroup generated by $(1, 1)$ of $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$ where \mathbb{Z} denotes the cyclic group of $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}$ under addition modulo n .
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 4 (d) 6 (e) 8
- Up to isomorphism, how many Abelian groups are there of order 36?
(a) 1 (b) 4 (c) 9 (d) 12 (e) 18

11. The set of gaussian integers $R = \{a + ib \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is a commutative subring of the complex numbers. An element $u = e + id$ is a unit of R if there exists $v \in R$ such that $uv = 1$. The unit(s) of R is(are)

- (a) ± 1 (b) $\pm i$ (c) $1, i$ (d) $\pm 1, \pm i$ (e) 1

12. The number of solutions (equivalence classes) of the congruence $3x + 11 \equiv 20 \pmod{21}$ is:

- (a) no solutions (b) 1 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) 6

13. Find the index of the subgroup generated by the permutation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

in the alternating group A_5 .

- (a) 20 (b) 40 (c) 24 (d) 3 (e) 5

14. Let $S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \dots\}$ be a topological space where the open sets are $U_n = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Let $E = \{x_2, x_4, \dots, x_{2k}, \dots\}$. Find the set of cluster points of E .

- (a) $S - \{x_1, x_2\}$ (b) $\{x_1\}$ (c) $\{x_2\}$ (d) $E - \{x_2\}$ (e) $S - E$

15. A subgroup H in a group G is invariant if $gH = Hg$ for every $g \in G$. If H and K are both invariant subgroups of G , which of the following is also an invariant subgroup?

- (a) $H \cap K$ (b) HK (c) $H \cup K$ (d) Both (a) and (b) (e) Both (b) and (c)

16. Let R be a ring such that $x^2 = x$ for each $x \in R$. Which of the following must be true?

- (a) $x = -x$ for all $x \in R$ (b) R is commutative (c) $xy + yx = 0$ for all $x, y \in R$
 (d) Both (a) and (c) (e) All of (a), (b), and (c)

17. In the integral domain $D = \{r + s\sqrt{17} \mid r, s \text{ integers}\}$, which of the following is irreducible?

- (a) $8 + 2\sqrt{7}$ (b) $3 - \sqrt{17}$ (c) $9 - 2\sqrt{17}$ (d) $7 + \sqrt{17}$ (e) $13 + \sqrt{17}$

18. How many topologies are possible on a set of 2 points?

- (a) 5 (b) 4 (c) 3 (d) 2 (e) 1

19. In the finite field \mathbb{Z}_{17} , what is the multiplicative inverse of 10?

- (a) 13 (b) 12 (c) 11 (d) 9 (e) 7

Linear Algebra

- Let $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$. The determinant of the adjoint of M is
 (a) 9 (b) 6 (c) 27 (d) 18 (e) 3
- Let $M = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 10 \\ -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$. The trace of M^5 equals
 (a) 27 (b) 3^5 (c) 5^3 (d) $6^5 + (-3)^5$ (e) 33
- The degree of the minimum polynomial satisfied by a nonscalar, 8 by 8, idempotent matrix M is
 (a) 4 (b) 2 (c) 8 (d) 3 (e) 6
- The Wronskian of $f_1(x) = x^2 \sin(x)$ and $f_2(x) = x^2 \cos(x)$ is
 (a) x^2 (b) $-x^2$ (c) x^4 (d) $-x^4$ (e) $2x^4$
- The dimension of the null space of

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

is:

- (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 4 (d) 3 (e) 0
- The eigenvalues which corresponds to the eigenvector $\langle 3, 2 \rangle$ for $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ is
 (a) 1 (b) 4 (c) -1 (d) -4 (e) 2
- Let $M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. Then $M^6 = kM$ for $k =$
 (a) 2^6 (b) 2^8 (c) 2^{10} (d) 2^{12} (e) 2^{14}
- The cross product $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$ of the vectors $\vec{u} = 2\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$ and $\vec{v} = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}$ is given by
 (a) $7\vec{i} + \vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$ (b) $5\vec{i} + 5\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$ (c) -3 (d) $-5\vec{i} + 5\vec{j} + 5\vec{k}$ (e) $7\vec{i} - \vec{j}$
- Let T be a linear transformation of the plane such that $T(1, 1) = (-1, 1)$ and $T(2, 3) = (1, 2)$. Then $T(2, 4)$ equals
 (a) $(4, 2)$ (b) $(2, -4)$ (c) $(3, -2)$ (d) $(2, 4)$ (e) $(-3, 2)$
- Let T represent a nonsingular linear transformation from \mathbb{E}^n into \mathbb{E}^n . Which of the following is not true?
 (a) Null space of $T = \{0\}$
 (b) T is one-to-one
 (c) Dimension of null space is zero: $\text{Dim } N(T) = 0$
 (d) Dimension of range space is n : $\text{Dim } R(T) = n$

(e) $\text{Dim } N(T^{-1}) = \text{Dim}R(T)$

11. The inverse of the matrix $M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \\ 4 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is the matrix $M^{-1} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{bmatrix} -7 & 8 & a \\ 8 & -10 & -4 \\ 4 & b & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ where
 (a) $a = 5; b = -2$ (b) $a = 3; b = 2$ (c) $a = 1; b = -3$ (d) $a = 2; b = -3$ (e) $a = 2; b = 3$

12. Given that S and T are subspaces of a vector space, which of the following is also a subspace?
 (a) $S \cap T$ (b) $S \cup T$ (c) $2S$ (d) Both (a) and (c) (e) Both (b) and (c)

13. In a homogeneous system of 5 linear equations in 7 unknowns, the rank of the coefficient matrix is 4. What is the maximum number of independent solution vectors to the system?

(a) 5 (b) 2 (c) 4 (d) 1 (e) 3

14. If A is an $n \times n$ matrix with diagonal entries all a , and all other entries b , then one eigenvalue of A is $a - b$. Find another eigenvalue of A .

(a) $b - a$ (b) $nb + a - b$ (c) $nb - a + b$ (d) 0 (e) None of these

15. Find k so that the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} k & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & k \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

has eigenvalue $\lambda = 1$.

(a) $\frac{1}{2}$ (b) $-\frac{1}{2}$ (c) 0 (d) 1 (e) -1

Complex Analysis

- The fixed point(s) of the Möbius transformation $w(z) = \frac{z-2}{z-1}$ is (are)
 - $1 \pm \sqrt{3}$
 - $1 \pm 2i$
 - $2i$
 - $1 \pm i$
 - $-1 \pm \sqrt{2}i$
- The sum of the 9th roots of unity is
 - 0
 - 1
 - 9
 - 10
 - $1 + i$
- The value of $I = \oint_C \frac{\cos(z)}{z(z-\pi)} dz$ where C is the circle $|z-1|=2$ is
 - 0
 - $2i$
 - $-2i$
 - $-4i$
 - $4i$
- If $i = \sqrt{-1}$, then $\sum_{j=0}^{10} (-i)^j$ is
 - i
 - -1
 - $-i$
 - $1 + i$
 - $i - 1$
- The function $f(x) = \sin(x) \cosh(y) + v(x, y)i$ is analytic for $v(x, y)$ equal to
 - $\cos(x) \cosh(y)$
 - $\cos(x) \sinh(y)$
 - $-\sin(y) \cosh(x)$
 - $\sin(x) \sinh(y)$
 - $\sin(y) \cosh(x)$
- Find the point $x + iy$ at which the complex function $f(x + iy) = x^2 + y^2 + 2xi$ is differentiable.
 - 0
 - i
 - $i - 1$
 - $1 + i$
 - $-i$
- Express z^{14} in the form $a + bi$ if $z = \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}}$.
 - $-i$
 - -1
 - 1
 - i
 - $\frac{1+i}{128}$

Miscellaneous

- The graph of the arccosine function is the graph of the arcsine function
 - translated horizontally $\pi/2$ units to the right.
 - first reflected in the horizontal axis and then translated vertically $\pi/2$ units upward
 - first translated horizontally $\pi/2$ units to the left and then reflected in the horizontal axis
 - first translated vertically $\pi/2$ units downward and then reflected in the vertical axis
 - translated horizontally $\pi/2$ units to the left

- The domain of $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt[3]{x+2}}{x-6}$ is given by
 - $(6, \infty)$
 - $[-2, \infty)$
 - $\mathbb{R} - \{-2, 6\}$
 - $[-2, \infty) - \{6\}$
 - $\mathbb{R} - \{6\}$

- Let x be a random variable possessing the probability density function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} cx, & x \in [0, 10] \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $c \in \mathbb{R}$. The probability that $x \in [1, 2]$ is

- $\frac{1}{100}$
- $\frac{3}{100}$
- $\frac{5}{100}$
- $\frac{7}{100}$
- $\frac{9}{100}$

- Let the variable X have the probability density function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{x}{2}, & x \in (0, 2) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The expected value of the random variable X^2 is

- $\frac{1}{3}$
- $\frac{5}{6}$
- $\frac{1}{2}$
- $\frac{1}{6}$
- $\frac{2}{3}$

- Which of the following is not equal to $f(x) = \frac{x+1}{x-1}$ when both are defined?

- $-f(x^{-1})$
- $[f(-x)]^{-1}$
- $f^{-1}(x)$
- $f^{-1}(x^{-1})$
- $\frac{1}{2}[f^{-1}(x) - f(x^{-1})]$

- Let x, y, z represent Boolean variables. Which of the following is not a Boolean function?

- $f(x, y) = x\sqrt{y}$
- $f(x, y, z) = \max\{x, y, z\}$
- $f(x, y) = x^2 + y - xy$
- $f(x, y, z) = x + y + z - xy - yz$
- $f(x, y, z) = xyz$

- Let $p(x)$, $q(x)$, and $r(x)$ be open statements relative to the set S . Then $\sim (\exists x \in S)[(p(x) \vee q(x)) \wedge r(x)]$ is equivalent to

- $(\forall x \in S) \{[(\sim p(x)) \vee (\sim q(x))] \vee [\sim r(x)]\}$
- $(\forall x \in S) \{[(\sim p(x)) \wedge (\sim q(x))] \vee [\sim r(x)]\}$
- $(\forall x \in S) \{[(\sim p(x)) \wedge (\sim q(x))] \vee [r(x)]\}$
- $(\forall x \in S) \{[(\sim p(x)) \vee (\sim q(x))] \wedge [\sim r(x)]\}$
- $(\forall x \in S) \{[(\sim p(x)) \vee (\sim q(x))] \wedge [r(x)]\}$

- Which of the following numbers is divisible by 9?

- (a) 7224466 (b) 9224466 (c) 3224466 (d) 5224466 (e) 1224466

9. Which of the following is equivalent to $\sin^3(x) \cos^2(x)$?

- (a) $\frac{1}{16} [2 \sin(x) - \sin(3x) - 2 \sin(5x)]$
 (b) $\frac{1}{16} [\sin(x) - 2 \sin(3x) - \sin(5x)]$
 (c) $\frac{1}{16} [2 \sin(x) - \sin(3x) - \sin(5x)]$
 (d) $\frac{1}{16} [2 \sin(x) + \sin(3x) - \sin(5x)]$
 (e) $\frac{1}{16} [\sin(x) + \sin(3x) - \sin(5x)]$

10. Consider the two player (P_1, P_2) game G with payoff matrix

$$P_1 \begin{matrix} & P_2 \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

The minimax value of G is

- (a) $\frac{5}{3}$ (b) 1 (c) $\frac{3}{2}$ (d) 5 (e) 0

11. From a group of 15 mathematics graduate school applicants, 10 are selected at random. Let P be the probability that 4 of the 5 applicants who would make the best graduate students are included in the 10 selected. Which of the following statements is true?

- (a) $0 \leq P \leq \frac{1}{5}$ (b) $\frac{1}{5} < P \leq \frac{2}{5}$ (c) $\frac{2}{5} < P \leq \frac{3}{5}$ (d) $\frac{3}{5} < P \leq \frac{4}{5}$ (e) $\frac{4}{5} < P \leq 1$

12. The decimal $2.0259\overline{259}$ is equivalent to which of the following?

- (a) $\frac{20237}{9990}$ (b) $\frac{547}{270}$ (c) $\frac{20239}{9999}$ (d) $\frac{747}{370}$ (e) $\frac{737}{380}$

13. The solution set for the inequality $x - \frac{3}{x} > 2$ is given by

- (a) $(0, \infty)$ (b) $(3, \infty)$ (c) $(-1, 0) \cup (3, \infty)$ (d) $(-\infty, 0) \cup (3, \infty)$ (e) $(-\infty, 3)$

14. Let A and B be subsets of U and denote the complement of subset X of U by X^c . Find $[[A \cap (A \cap B^c)] \cap B]^c$.

- (a) B^c (b) A^c (c) $A \cup B^c$ (d) U (e) \emptyset

15. The number of vertices of an ordinary polyhedron with 12 faces and 17 edges is

- (a) 7 (b) 5 (c) 11 (d) 9 (e) 13