

**Precalculus Exam - University of Houston Math Contest**  
**January 30, 2021**

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1) Given:  $f(x) = 3e^{2x}$  and  $g(x) = \log_5(4x + 1)$ , evaluate  $(f^{-1} \circ g^{-1})(2)$ .

- a)  $\ln(2)$       b)  $\ln(\sqrt{2})$       c)  $\ln(3)$       d)  $\ln(4)$       e)  $2\ln(2)$       f)  $\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$       g) None of the above

2) Let  $f(x^2 + 1) = x^4 + 3x^2 + 5$ ; find  $f(-1) + f(-5) + 4f\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = ?$

- a) 42      b) 34      c) 16      d) 40      e) 21      f) 37      g) None of the above

3) Order the following numbers from smallest to greatest.

$$a = \sin\left(\frac{7\pi}{3}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{35\pi}{6}\right) \quad b = \sin\left(\frac{31\pi}{6}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{49\pi}{3}\right) \quad c = \sin\left(\frac{21\pi}{4}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{61\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$d = \sin\left(\frac{43\pi}{4}\right) + \sec\left(\frac{83\pi}{4}\right) \quad e = \tan\left(\frac{85\pi}{4}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{32\pi}{3}\right)$$

- a)  $c < d < b < a < e$       b)  $d < c < b < e < a$       c)  $c < d < e < b < a$       d)  $d < c < e < b < a$   
 e)  $d < c < b < a < e$       f)  $c < d < b < e < a$       g) None of the above

4) Given:  $m - n = 3$  and  $n - k = 5$ , let  $a = 5m^2 - 8n^2 + 3k^2$ .

If  $f(x) = 2x\cos(\pi x) + \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)$ , find the value of  $f(a)$ .

- a) 480      b) 120      c) 600      d) 300      e) 360      f) 240      g) None of the above

5) Given  $f(x) = 120 - 5\sin(\pi x + 1)$  and  $g(x) = 20\tan(4x - 2)$ ; let  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  be the periods for the functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ , respectively.

Find the value of:  $\sin\left(\frac{P_2}{P_1}\right) \cos\left(\frac{P_2}{P_1}\right)$

- a)  $\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}$       b)  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$       c)  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}$       d)  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$       e)  $\frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}$       f)  $2\sqrt{2}$       g) None of the above

6) The following function is graphed over the interval  $[0, \pi]$ :  $f(x) = 2\sin^2(4x) - 3\sin(4x) + 1$

Find the sum of the smallest and the largest  $x$ -intercepts of this function over this interval.

- a)  $\frac{3\pi}{4}$       b)  $\frac{11\pi}{24}$       c)  $\frac{13\pi}{24}$       d)  $\frac{3\pi}{8}$       e)  $\frac{19\pi}{24}$       f)  $\frac{\pi}{4}$       g) None of the above

7) Given:  $x^x = \frac{1}{\sqrt[9]{3}}$ , find the value of:  $81x^2 + \frac{1}{3x} = ?$

- a)  $\frac{730}{27}$       b)  $\frac{26}{3}$       c)  $\frac{89}{9}$       d)  $\frac{82}{9}$       e)  $\frac{28}{9}$       f)  $\frac{28}{3}$       g) None of the above

8) Given:  $(1 + \sin t)(1 + \cos t) = \frac{5}{4}$ , find the value of  $(1 - \sin t)(1 - \cos t) = ?$

- a)  $\frac{13 + 4\sqrt{10}}{4}$       b)  $\frac{13 - 4\sqrt{10}}{4}$       c)  $\frac{13 - \sqrt{10}}{4}$       d)  $\frac{11 + 2\sqrt{10}}{4}$   
 e)  $\frac{11 - 2\sqrt{10}}{4}$       f)  $\frac{15 - \sqrt{10}}{4}$       g) None of the above

9) Let:  $x = \sqrt{\frac{2 - \sqrt{2}}{2 + \sqrt{2}}} + \frac{2\sqrt{2} - 2}{\sqrt{2}}$  and  $y = \sqrt{\frac{3 + \sqrt{3}}{3 - \sqrt{3}}}$

Which of the following is equivalent to  $\frac{x}{y}$ ?

- a)  $\sqrt{4 - \sqrt{3}}$       b)  $\sqrt{1 - \sqrt{3}}$       c)  $\sqrt{2 + \sqrt{3}}$       d)  $\sqrt{4 - 2\sqrt{3}}$   
 e)  $\sqrt{2 - \sqrt{3}}$       f)  $\sqrt{2\sqrt{3} - 2}$       g) None of the above

10) Let  $S$  be the set of all integers that are in the domain of the following function:

$$f(x) = \frac{\arcsin\left(\frac{x^2 - 2x}{8}\right)}{\log_6(2x^2 - 4x)}$$

Find the sum of the absolute values of all elements in  $S$ . That is, find  $\sum_{k \in S} |k|$ .

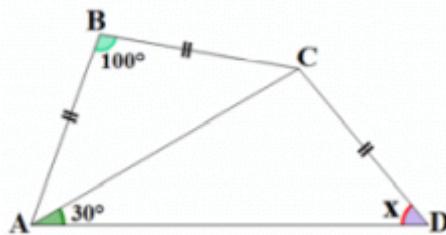
- a) 10      b) 3      c) 9      d) 8      e) 13      f) 11      g) None of the above

11) Given:  $\frac{x^{-x}(x^2 - 2x) + x^{-x+2}}{x - x^2} = -\frac{1}{128}$ . Find the remainder when  $5x$  is divided by 7.

- a) 6      b) 5      c) 3      d) 4      e) 1      f) 2      g) None of the above

**12)** Given:  $AB = BC = CD$ ,  $m(\angle ABC) = 100^\circ$ ,  $m(\angle DAC) = 30^\circ$  and  $m(\angle CDA) = x$ .

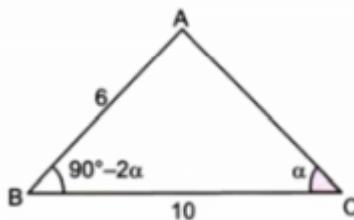
Find the value of:  $6\sin(3x)\tan(6x) = ?$  (Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.)



- a)  $2\sqrt{3}$       b)  $-3\sqrt{3}$       c)  $3\sqrt{3}$       d)  $-6\sqrt{3}$       e)  $-\sqrt{3}$       f)  $-2\sqrt{3}$       g) None of the above

**13)** For  $\triangle ABC$ , we have the following information:  $AB = 6$ ,  $BC = 10$ ,  $m(\angle ACB) = \alpha$ ,

$m(\angle ABC) = 90 - 2\alpha$ . Find the value of:  $34\sin(4\alpha)$ . (Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.)



- a)  $\frac{17}{45}$       b)  $\frac{240}{17}$       c)  $\frac{320}{17}$       d) 120      e)  $\frac{480}{17}$       f) 240      g) None of the above

**14)** Assume that  $\tan(3^\circ) = a$ . Write the value of the following expression in terms of  $a$ :

$$2 \left( \frac{\tan(3^\circ)\tan(31^\circ)}{\tan(1^\circ)\tan(61^\circ)} \right) \left( \frac{\tan(63^\circ) + \tan(33^\circ)}{1 - \tan(63^\circ)\tan(33^\circ)} \right)$$

- a)  $1 - \frac{1}{a}$       b)  $\frac{1}{a} - a$       c)  $a - \frac{1}{a}$       d)  $a + \frac{1}{a}$       e)  $\frac{a}{a^2 - 1}$       f) None of the above

**15)** Given  $\cos(4x) = \frac{1}{10}$ , find the value of the following expression:

$$\frac{(\sin^8(x) - \cos^8(x))}{2\cos(2x)} = ?$$

- a)  $\frac{31}{40}$       b)  $\frac{31}{80}$       c)  $-\frac{31}{80}$       d)  $-\frac{51}{80}$       e)  $\frac{51}{80}$       f)  $-\frac{21}{40}$       g) None of the above

**16)** Consider the functions:  $f(x) = \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{2\sin^2(x) - \sin(x) - 1}$  and  $g(x) = \frac{1 - \sin(x)}{4\sin(x)\cos^2(x) - 3\sin(x)}$ .

Find the smallest positive real number that is not in the domain of either of these functions.

- a)  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$       b)  $\frac{5\pi}{6}$       c)  $\frac{\pi}{6}$       d)  $\frac{\pi}{3}$       e)  $\frac{11\pi}{6}$       f)  $\frac{7\pi}{6}$       g) None of the above

**17)** Let  $K = \cos\left(2\arcsin\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)\right)$ ,  $L = \sin\left(2\arccos\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)\right)$ ,  $M = \cot\left(2\arctan\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\right)$ .

Find the value of:  $K \cdot L \cdot M$ .

- a)  $\frac{7\sqrt{15}}{96}$     b)  $\frac{7\sqrt{15}}{48}$     c)  $\frac{\sqrt{15}}{288}$     d)  $\frac{14\sqrt{15}}{45}$     e)  $\frac{5\sqrt{10}}{96}$     f)  $\frac{7\sqrt{10}}{288}$     g) None of the above

**18)** Consider the following functions over the interval  $[0, 2\pi]$ . At how many points do the graphs of these functions intersect?

$$f(x) = 8\sin^2(3x) - \sin(3x)$$

$$g(x) = 5 - 5\cos^2(3x)$$

- a) 16    b) 13    c) 12    d) 9    e) 5    f) 11    g) None of the above

**19)** In triangle  $ABC$ , we have the following relations:

$$3\sin(\angle A) - 4\sin(\angle B) = \sin(\angle C) \text{ and } 3a - 4b = 20 - c$$

Find the side length  $c$ .

- a) 10    b) 5    c) 8    d) 6    e) 12    f) 4    g) None of the above

**20)** For  $\triangle ABC$ , we have the following information regarding side lengths:

$$b^3 - c^3 = ba^2 - ca^2 \text{ and } b \neq c$$

Find the measure of the angle  $A$ .

- a)  $30^\circ$     b)  $150^\circ$     c)  $45^\circ$     d)  $90^\circ$     e)  $120^\circ$     f)  $60^\circ$     g) None of the above

**21)** Assume that  $\tan(10^\circ) = a$  and  $\sec(10^\circ) = b$ .

Which of the following would be equivalent to the expression:  $\frac{\sin(20^\circ)\cos(20^\circ)}{\cos^2(80^\circ) + \sin(50^\circ) + \cos^2(10^\circ)}$ ?

- a)  $\frac{a}{2-b^2}$     b)  $\frac{a+b}{2-b^2}$     c)  $\frac{2a}{2-b^2}$     d)  $\frac{b^2}{a}$     e)  $\frac{2a}{b^2}$     f)  $\frac{a}{b^2}$     g) None of the above

**22)** Let  $y = \arccos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$  where  $0 < x \leq 0.1$ . Which of the following is an expression for  $2\cos(3y)$  in terms of  $x$ ?

- a)  $\frac{5x - 2x^3}{2}$     b)  $\frac{x\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2-x^2}$     c)  $\frac{2x - x^3}{4}$     d)  $-2x^3 + 6x$
- e)  $\frac{x\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2}$     f)  $x^3 - 3x$     g) None of the above

**23)** Let  $f(x) = 13 + 6\sin(x) - 9\cos^2(x)$ . What is the maximum value of this function?

- a) 19      b) 17      c) 14      d) 15      e) 12      f) 22      g) None of the above

**24)** Find the domain of the following function:  $f(x) = 2\arccos\left(\frac{5x}{6} - 3\right) + 1$ .

- a)  $[-1, 3]$       b)  $\left[\frac{12}{5}, \frac{19}{5}\right]$       c)  $\left[\frac{17}{6}, \frac{9}{6}\right]$       d)  $\left[\frac{19}{6}, \frac{24}{5}\right]$   
e)  $\left[\frac{12}{5}, \frac{24}{5}\right]$       f)  $\left[\frac{1}{5}, \frac{7}{5}\right]$       g) None of the above

**25)** For an arithmetic sequence  $\{a_k\}$ , let  $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$  denote the sum of the first  $n$  terms of this sequence. Given:  $S_5 + S_6 = 44$  and  $S_{11} = 47$ , find  $S_{22}$ .

- a) 106.1      b) 112.1      c) 108.2      d) 98.2      e) 102.1      f) 95.3      g) None of the above

**26)** Given:  $\tan(x) - \cot(x) = 1$ , find the value of:  $\tan^6(x) + \cot^6(x) = ?$

- a) 16      b) 4      c) 8      d) 18      e) 12      f) 10      g) None of the above

**27)** Given:  $\sin(x) - \cos(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ ; find the value of  $\tan(x) + \cot(x) + \cos(2x)$ .

- a)  $\frac{22}{5}$       b)  $\frac{13}{5}$       c)  $\frac{31}{10}$       d)  $\frac{23}{10}$       e)  $\frac{33}{5}$       f)  $\frac{33}{10}$       g) None of the above

**28)** If  $f(\cos x) = \cot x$  and  $0 < x < 0.2$ , find a formula for  $f(2x)$ .

- a)  $\frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$       b)  $\frac{2}{\sqrt{1-4x^2}}$       c)  $\frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$       d)  $\frac{2x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$   
e)  $\frac{2x}{\sqrt{1+4x^2}}$       f)  $\frac{2x}{\sqrt{1-4x^2}}$       g) None of the above

**29)** Given:  $\frac{1 - \cos(2\theta)}{\sin(2\theta)} = \cot\left(\frac{\pi}{10}\right)$  and  $\theta > 0$ ; find the sum of the two smallest possible values for  $\theta$ .

- a)  $\frac{9\pi}{10}$       b)  $\frac{11\pi}{10}$       c)  $\frac{19\pi}{10}$       d)  $\frac{6\pi}{5}$       e)  $\frac{13\pi}{10}$       f)  $\frac{9\pi}{5}$       g) None of the above

**30)** Consider the following equation over the interval  $(\pi, 2\pi)$ :  $(\tan(x) + \cot(x))^2 = 16$   
Find the sum of the two largest solutions in this interval.

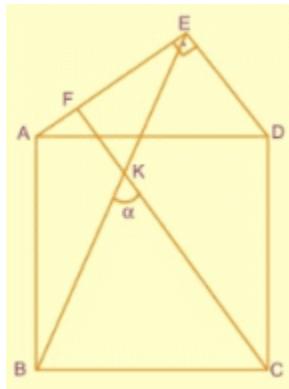
- a)  $\frac{5\pi}{2}$       b)  $\frac{41\pi}{12}$       c)  $\frac{10\pi}{3}$       d)  $\frac{31\pi}{12}$       e)  $\frac{11\pi}{6}$       f)  $\frac{7\pi}{2}$       g) None of the above

**31)** How many solutions does the following system have?

$$\begin{aligned} 25x^2 + 16y^2 - 200x - 32y + 16 &= 0 \\ 4y^2 - x^2 &= 16 \end{aligned}$$

- a) 4      b) 3      c) 1      d) 2      e) 6      f) 0      g) None of the above

**32)** Given:  $ABCD$  is a square,  $m(\angle EDA) = m(\angle BCF)$ ,  $m(\angle BKC) = \alpha$ ,  $ED = 1$ , and  $FC = 3$ . Find:  $\tan(\alpha) = ?$  (*Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.*)



- a)  $\frac{3}{4}$       b)  $\frac{7}{5}$       c)  $\frac{5}{3}$       d)  $\frac{3}{2}$       e)  $\frac{1}{3}$       f)  $\frac{4}{3}$       g) None of the above

**33)** Consider the equation:  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\sin(3x) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}\cos(3x)$ . Find the sum of all solutions of this equation over the interval  $[2\pi, 3\pi]$ .

- a)  $\frac{23\pi}{3}$       b)  $\frac{46\pi}{9}$       c)  $\frac{26\pi}{9}$       d)  $\frac{13\pi}{3}$       e)  $\frac{23\pi}{6}$       f)  $\frac{34\pi}{9}$       g) None of the above

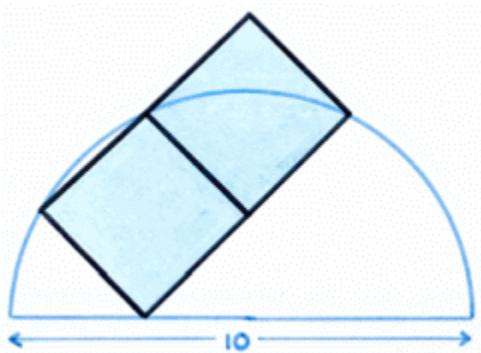
34) If  $x$  is an acute angle satisfying:  $\frac{\sin(5x)}{\sin(2x)\sin(3x)} - \cot(2x) = \sqrt{3}$ ; find the sum of all possible values of  $x$ .

- a)  $\frac{5\pi}{18}$       b)  $\frac{2\pi}{9}$       c)  $\frac{4\pi}{9}$       d)  $\frac{5\pi}{9}$       e)  $\frac{3\pi}{20}$       f)  $\frac{\pi}{18}$       g) None of the above

35) Consider the equation:  $\sin(5x)\cos(3x) = \sin(9x)\cos(7x)$ . How many solutions does this equation have over the interval  $[0, 2\pi]$ ?

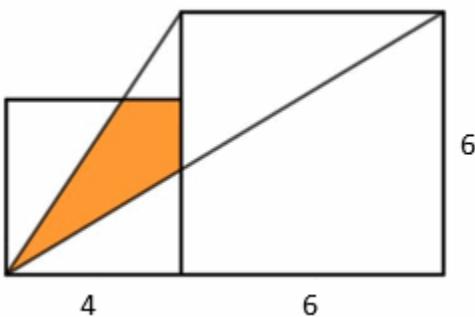
- a) 33      b) 13      c) 32      d) 34      e) 28      f) 26      g) None of the above

36) The diameter of the semi-circle on the image below is 10. What is the total area of the two squares on the figure below? (*Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.*)



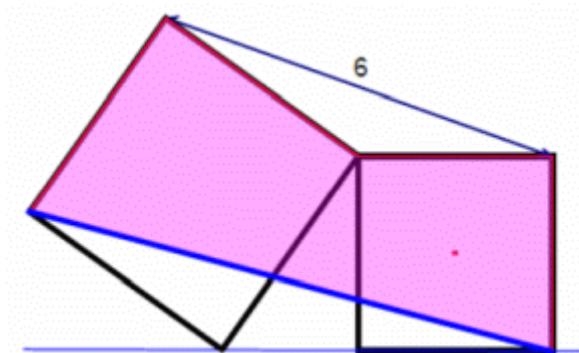
- a) 25      b) 24      c) 10      d) 15      e) 20      f) 40      g) None of the above

37) The following figure has two squares; one with side length 4 and the other with side length 6. What is the area of the shaded region? (*Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.*)



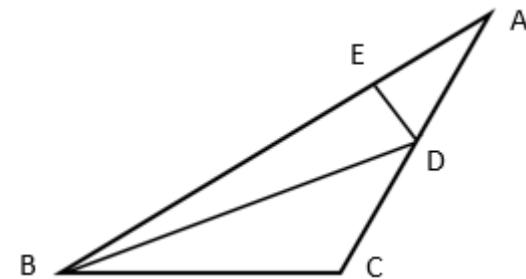
- a)  $\frac{81}{15}$       b)  $\frac{88}{15}$       c)  $\frac{55}{10}$       d)  $\frac{57}{10}$       e)  $\frac{91}{15}$       f)  $\frac{61}{10}$       g) None of the above

- 38)** There are two squares (non-identical) on the figure below. Find the area of the shaded region.  
*(Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.)*



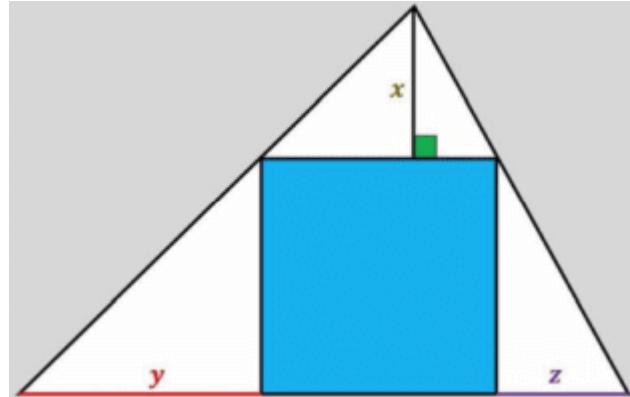
- a) 16      b) 18      c) 21      d) 20      e) 24      f) 27      g) None of the above

- 39)** Given:  $m(\angle EBD) = m(\angle DBC) = 15^\circ$ ,  $m(\angle BED) = 90^\circ$ ,  $ED = 2$ ,  $BC = 6$ .  
Find the area of the triangle  $ABC$ . *(Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.)*



- a) 27      b) 24      c) 16      d) 36      e) 20      f) 18      g) None of the above

- 40)** The figure below contains a square inscribed in a triangle. Given:  $x = 2$ ,  $y = 3.1$ ,  $z = 1.2$ .  
Find the area of the square. *(Note: The image may not be drawn to scale.)*



- a)  $\frac{41}{6}$       b)  $\frac{43}{5}$       c)  $\frac{33}{4}$       d)  $\frac{79}{10}$       e)  $\frac{81}{10}$       f)  $\frac{38}{5}$       g) None of the above