



## Vaccinate against Maths Confusion

*Any solution based entirely on graphical  
or numerical methods is not acceptable*

Marks Available : 30

### Question 1

- (i) Find the first four terms, in ascending powers of  $x$ , of the binomial expansion of  $\frac{1}{1 + 2x}$  giving each coefficient in its simplest form.

[ 4 marks ]

- (ii) Write down the coefficient of  $x^8$  were the part (i) expansion to be extended further.

[ 1 mark ]

**Question 2**

$y = 5x^3 + ax^2 + 3x + 2$  where  $a$  is an integer constant.

Given that there is a point of inflection when  $x = \frac{1}{5}$  determine the value of  $a$

[ 4 marks ]

**Question 3**

Two circles have equations;

$$(x + 4)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = 25$$

$$(x - 7)^2 + (y + 3)^2 = 16$$

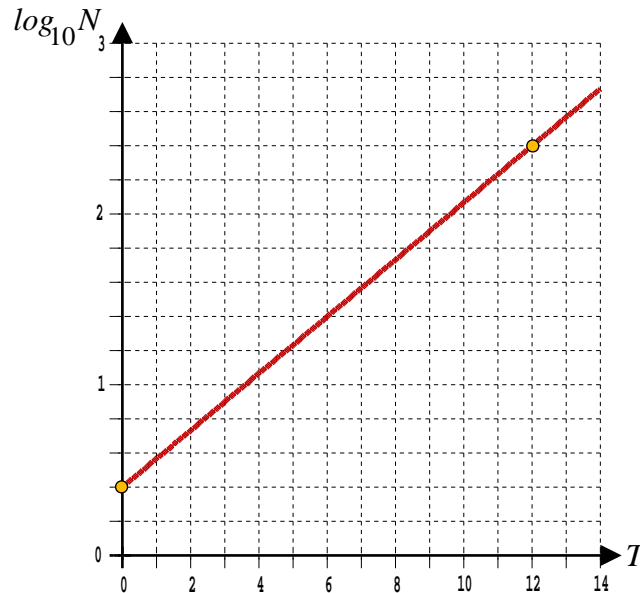
What is the minimum distance between the circles ?

Give your answer correct to 3 decimal places.

[ 4 marks ]

#### Question 4

An epidemiologist is modelling the number of people,  $N$ , who have tested positive for a virus after  $T$  days. From looking at a graph of the results, he suggests that the number of people sick be modelled by the equation  $N = ab^T$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants to be found. The graph passes through  $(0, 0.4)$  and  $(12, 2.4)$



(i) Write down the equation of the line.

[ 2 marks ]

(ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the values of  $a$  and  $b$ .  
Work to an accuracy of 4 significant figures.

[ 4 marks ]

(iii) Interpret the meaning of the constant  $a$  in this model.

[ 1 mark ]

(iv) Use your model to predict the number of sick people after 21 days.  
Give one reason why this might be an overestimate.

[ 2 marks ]

**Question 5**

The vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  are given as,

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 23 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -15 \\ x \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} -13 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $x$  is an integer.

Given that  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{c}$ , find the value of  $x$

[ 4 marks ]

**Question 6**

The functions  $p$  and  $q$  are defined by:  $p(x) = x^2$ ,  $q(x) = 5 - 2x$

(i) Given that  $pq(x) = qp(x)$  show that  $3x^2 - 10x + 10 = 0$

[ 3 marks ]

(ii) Explain why  $3x^2 - 10x + 10 = 0$  has no real solutions

[ 1 mark ]

This document is a part of a **Mathematics Community Outreach Project** initiated by Shrewsbury School

It may be freely duplicated and distributed, unaltered, for non-profit educational use

In October 2020, Shrewsbury School was voted "**Independent School of the Year 2020**"

© 2025 Number Wonder

Teachers may obtain detailed worked solutions to the exercises by email from [MHShrewsbury@gmail.com](mailto:MHShrewsbury@gmail.com)