2021 AMC 12A (November)
Problems and Answer Key [*]

PROFESSOR CHEN EDUCATION PALACE

1. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 1)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 1)

What is the value of $\frac{(2112-2021)^2}{169}$?

A. 7   B. 21   C. 49   D. 64   E. 91

Solution: $\boxed{(C)}$

2. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 2)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 2)

Menkara has a 4×6 index card. If she shortens the length of one side of this card by 1 inch, the card would have areas 18 square inches. What would the area of the card be in square inches if instead she shortens the length of the other side by 1 inch?

A. 16   B. 17   C. 18   D. 19   E. 20

Solution: $\boxed{(E)}$

3. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 4)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 3)

Mr. Lopez has a choice of two routes to get to work. Route A is 6 miles long, and his average speed along this route is 30 miles per hour. Route B is 5 miles long, and his average speed along this route is 40 miles per hour, except for a $\frac{1}{2}$-mile stretch in a school zone where his average speed is 20 miles per hour. By how many minutes is Route B quicker than Route A?

A. $2\frac{3}{4}$ B. $3\frac{3}{4}$ C. $4\frac{1}{2}$ D. $5\frac{1}{2}$ E. $6\frac{3}{4}$

Solution: $\boxed{(B)}$

4. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 5)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 4)

   The six-digit number $\underline{20210A}$ is prime for only one digit A. What is A?

   A. 1   B. 3   C. 5   D. 7   E. 9

   Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(E)}}$

5. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 6)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 5)

   Elmer the emu takes 44 equal strides to walk between consecutive telephone poles on a rural road. Oscar the ostrich can cover the same distance in 12 equal leaps. The telephone poles are evenly spaced, and the 41st pole along this road is exactly one mile (5280 feet) from the first pole. How much longer, in feet, is Oscar's leap than Elmer's stride?

   A. 6   B. 8   C. 10   D. 11   E. 15

   Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(B)}}$

6. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 7)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 6)

   As shown in the figure below, point E lies in the opposite half-plane determined by line CD from point A so that $\angle CDE = 110°$. Point F lies on $\overline{AD}$ so that $DE = DF$, and $ABCD$ is a square. What is the degree measure of $\angle AFE$?

   A. 160   B. 164   C. 166   D. 170   E. 174

   Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(D)}}$

7. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 10)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 7)

   A school has 100 students and 5 teachers. In the first period, each student is taking one class, and each teacher is teaching one class. The enrollments in the classes are 50, 20, 20, 5, and 5. Let t be the average value obtained if a teacher is picked at random and the number of students in their class is noted. Let s be the average value obtained if a student is picked at random and the number of students in their class, including that student, is noted. What is $t - s$?

   A. -18.5   B. -13.5   C. 0   D. 13.5   E. 18.5

   Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(B)}}$

8. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 8)

   Let M be the leat common multiple of all the integers 10 through 30, inclusive. Let N be the least common multiple of $M, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39$, and 40. What is the value of $\frac{N}{M}$?

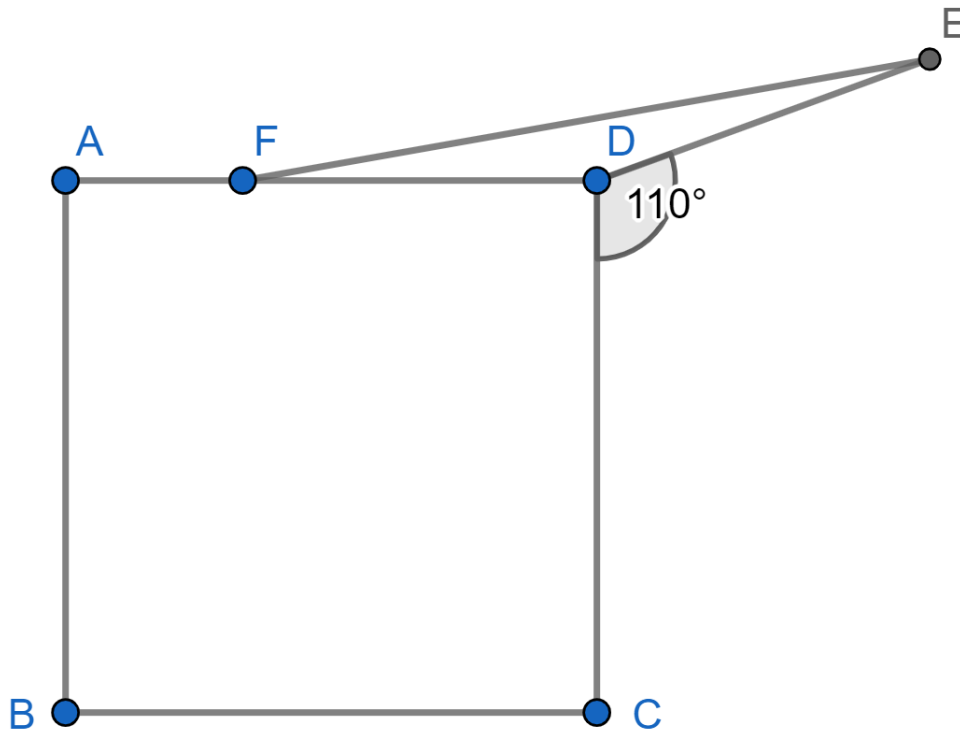   A. 1   B. 2   C. 37   D. 74   E. 2886

Figure 1: 2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 6

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(D)}}$

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9. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 9)

   A right rectangular prism whose surface area and volume are numerically equal has edge lengths $\log_2 x$, $\log_3 x$, and $\log_4 x$. What is x?

   A. $2\sqrt{6}$ B. $6\sqrt{6}$ C. 24   D. 48   E. 576

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(E)}}$

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10. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 12)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 10)

   The base-nine representation of the number N is $27,006,000,052_{nine}$. What is the remainder when N is divided by 5?

   A. 0   B. 1   C. 2   D. 3   E. 4

Solution: (D)

11. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 11)

Consider two concentric circles of radius 17 and radius 19. The larger circle has a chord, half of which lies inside the smaller circle. What is the length of the chord in the larger circle?

A. $12\sqrt{2}$ B. $10\sqrt{3}$ C. $\sqrt{17 \cdot 19}$ D. 18   E. $8\sqrt{6}$

Solution: (E)

12. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 12)

What is the number of terms with rational coefficients among the 1001 terms in the expansion of $\left(x\sqrt[3]{2} + y\sqrt{3}\right)^{1000}$?

A. 0   B. 166   C. 167   D. 500   E. 501

Solution: (C)

13. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 13)

The angle bisector of the acute angle formed at the origin by the graphs of the lines $y = x$ and $y = 3x$ has equation $y = kx$. What is k?

A. $\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ B. $\frac{1+\sqrt{7}}{2}$ C. $\frac{2+\sqrt{3}}{2}$ D. 2   E. $\frac{2+\sqrt{5}}{2}$

Solution: (A)

14. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 14)

In the figure, equilateral hexagon $ABCDEF$ has three nonadjacent acute interior angles that each measure 30°. The enclosed area of the hexagon is $6\sqrt{3}$. What is the perimeter of the hexagon?

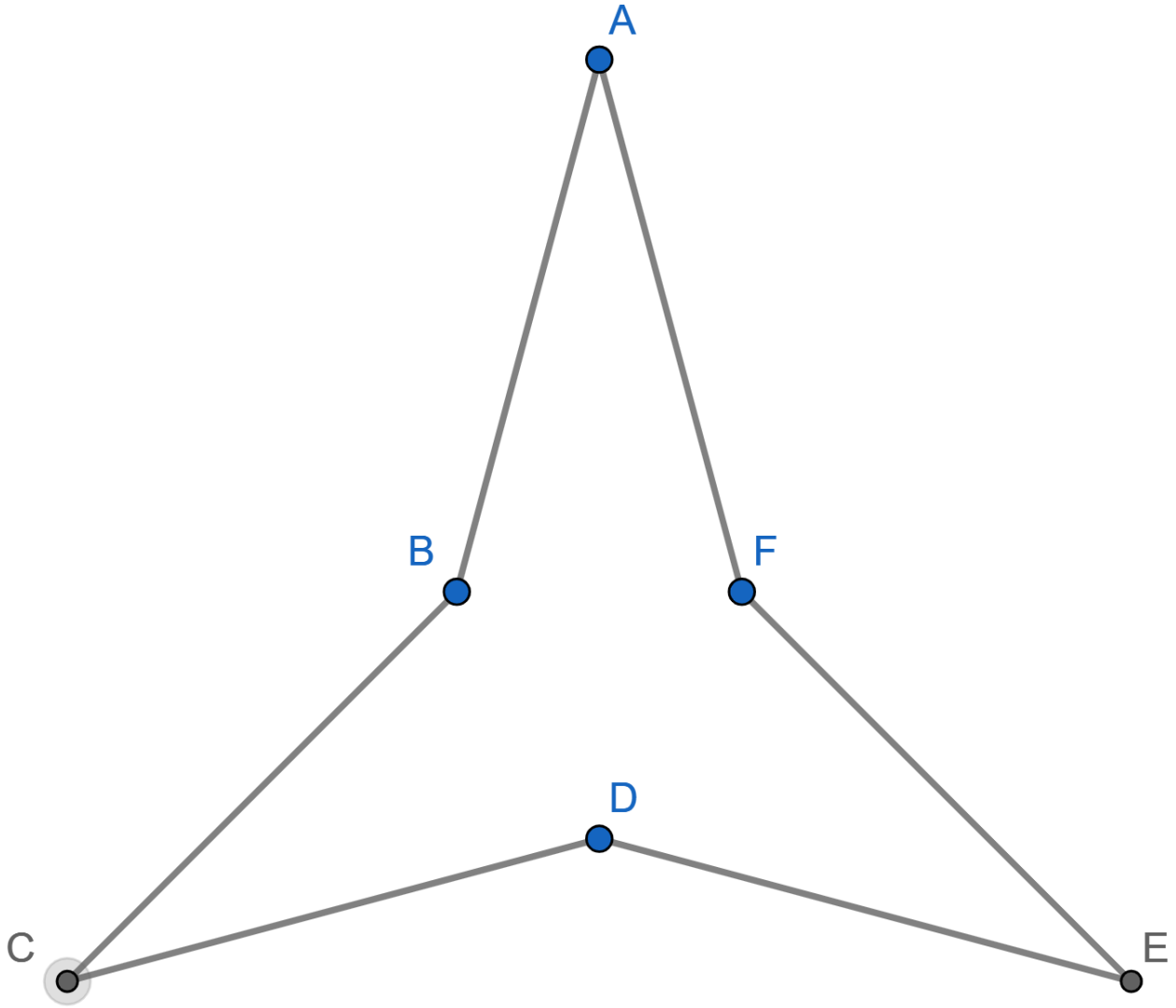A. 4   B. $4\sqrt{3}$ C. 12   D. 18   E. $12\sqrt{3}$

Solution: (E)

Figure 2: 2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 14

15. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 15)

Recall that the conjugate of the complex number $w = a + bi$, where a and b are real numbers and $i = \sqrt{-1}$, is the complex number $\bar{w} = a - bi$. For any complex number z, let $f(z) = 4i\bar{z}$. The polynomial

$$P(z) = z^4 + 4z^3 + 3z^2 + 2z + 1$$

has four complex roots: z_1, z_2, z_3, and z_4. Let

$$Q(z) = z^4 + Az^3 + Bz^2 + Cz + D$$

be the polynomial whose roots are $f(z_1)$, $f(z_2)$, $f(z_3)$, and $f(z_4)$, where the coefficients A,

B, C, and D are complex numbers. What is $B + D$?

A. -304   B. -208   C. $12i$ D. 208   E. 304

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(D)}}$

16. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 16)

An organization has 30 employees, 20 of whom have a brand A computer while the other 10 have a brand B computer. For security, the computers can only be connected to each other and only by cables. The cables can only connect a brand A computer to a brand B computer. Employees can communicate with each other if their computers are directly connected by a cable or by relaying messages through a series of connected computers. Initially, no computer is connected to any other. A technician arbitrarily selects one computer of each brand and installs a cable between them, provided there is not already a cable between that pair. The technician stops once every employee can communicate with every other. What is the maximum possible number of cables used?

A. 190   B. 191   C. 192   D. 195   E. 196

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(B)}}$

17. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 20)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 17)

For how many ordered pairs (b, c) of positive integers does neither $x^2+bx+c = 0$ nor $x^2+cx+b = 0$ has two distinct real solutions?

A. 4   B. 6   C. 8   D. 12   E. 16

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(B)}}$

18. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 21)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 18)

Each of 20 balls is tossed independently and at random into one of 5 bins. Let p be the probability that some bin ends up with 3 balls, another with 5 balls, and the other three with 4 balls each. Let q be the probability that every bin ends up with 4 balls. What is $\frac{p}{q}$?

A. 1   B. 4   C. 8   D. 12   E. 16

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(E)}}$

19. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 19)

   Let x be the least real number greater than 1 such that

$$\sin x = \sin\left(x^2\right),$$

   where the arguments are in degrees. What is x rounded up to the closest integer?

   A. 10   B. 13   C. 14   D. 19   E. 20

   Solution: (B)

20. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 23)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 20)

   For each positive integer n, let $f_1(n)$ be twice the number of positive integer divisors of n, and for $j \geq 2$, let $f_j(n) = f_1(f_{j-1}(n))$. For how many values of $n \leq 50$ is $f_{50}(n) = 12$?

   A. 7   B. 8   C. 9   D. 10   E. 11

   Solution: (D)

21. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 21)

   Let $ABCD$ be an isosceles trapezoid with $\overline{BC} \parallel \overline{AD}$ and $AB = CD$. Points X and Y tie on diagonal $\overline{AC}$ with X between A and Y, as shown in the figure. Suppose $\angle AXD = \angle BYC = 90°$, $AX = 3$, $XY = 1$, and $YC = 2$. What is the area of $ABCD$?

   A. 15   B. $5\sqrt{11}$ C. $3\sqrt{35}$ D. 18   E. $7\sqrt{7}$

   Solution: (C)

22. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 22)

   Azar and Carl play a game of tic-tac-toe. Azar places an X in one of the boxes in a 3-by-3 array of boxes, then Carl places an O in one of the remaining boxes. After that, Azar places an X in one of the remaining boxes, and so on until all 9 boxes are filled or one of the players has 3 of their symbols in a row — horizontal, vertical, or diagonal — whichever comes first, in which case that player wins the game. Suppose the players make their moves at random, rather than trying to follow a rational strategy, and that Carl wins the game when he places his third O. How many ways can the board look after the game is over?
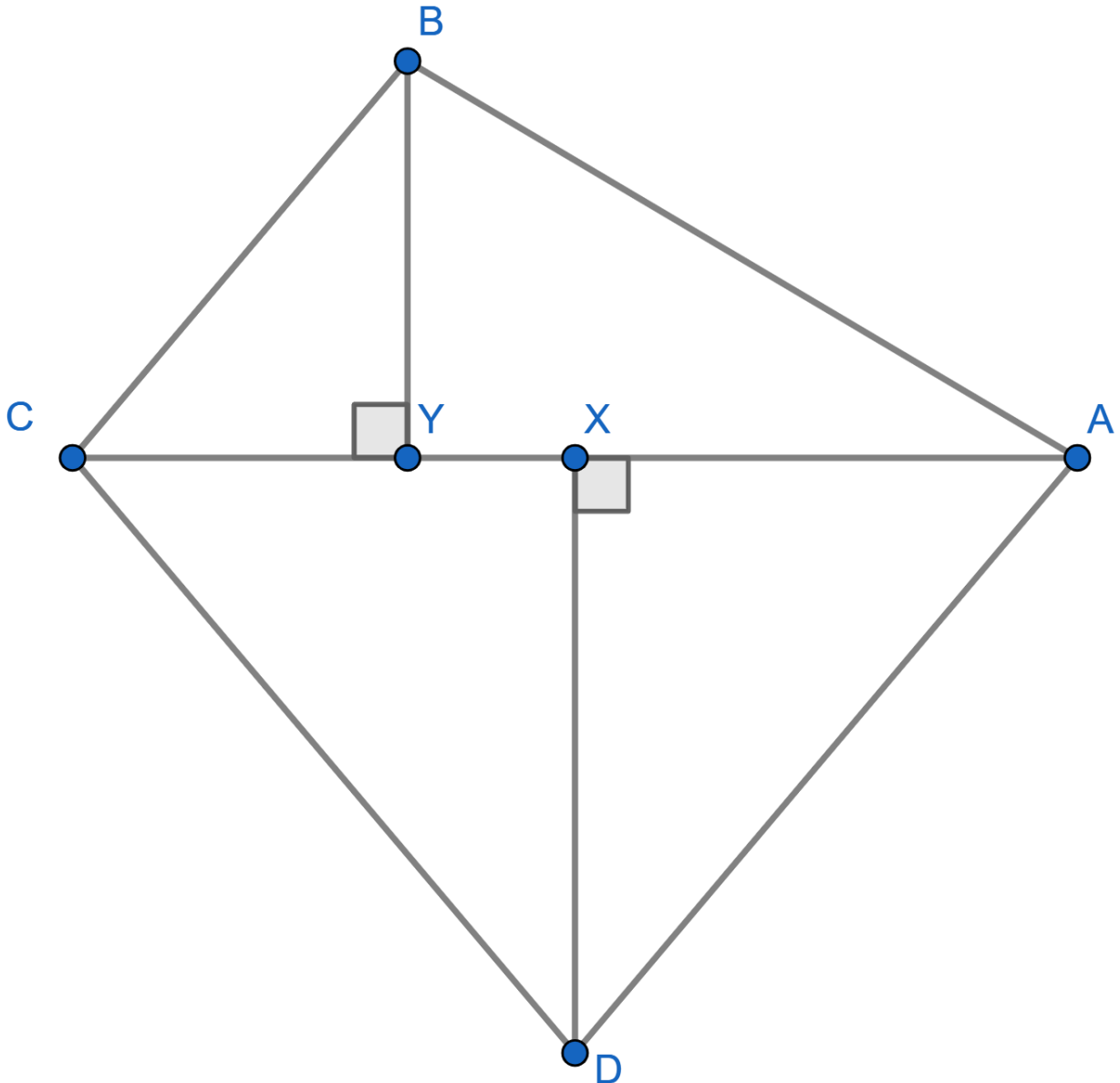
   A. 36   B. 112   C. 120   D. 148   E. 160

Figure 3: 2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 21

Solution: (D)

23. (2021 AMC 10A (Nov) Problem 25)(2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 23)

A quadratic polynomial $p(x)$ with real coefficients and leading coefficient 1 is called *disrespectful* if the equation $p(p(x)) = 0$ is satisfied by exactly three real numbers. Among all the disrespectful quadratic polynomials, there is a unique such polynomial $\tilde{p}(x)$ for which the sum

of the roots is maximized. What is $\tilde{p}(1)$?

A. $\frac{5}{16}$ B. $\frac{1}{2}$ C. $\frac{5}{8}$ D. 1   E. $\frac{9}{8}$

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(A)}}$

24. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 24)

Convex quadrilateral $ABCD$ has $AB = 18$, $\angle A = 60°$, and $\overline{AB} \parallel \overline{CD}$. In some order, the lengths of the four sides form an arithmetic progression, and side $\overline{AB}$ is a side of maximum length. The length of another side is a. What is the sum of all possible values of a?

A. 24   B. 42   C. 60   D. 66   E. 84

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(E)}}$

25. (2021 AMC 12A (Nov) Problem 25)

Let $m \geq 5$ be an odd integer, and let $D(m)$ denote the number of quadruples (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) of distinct integers with $1 \leq a_i \leq m$ for all i such that m divides $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4$. There is a polynomial

$$q(x) = c_3 x^3 + c_2 x^2 + c_1 x + c_0$$

such that $D(m) = q(m)$ for all odd integers $m \geq 5$. What is c_1?

A. -6   B. -1   C. 4   D. 6   E. 11

Solution: $\boxed{\textbf{(E)}}$