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Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Mathematics Section

Test Prep PRAXIS-Mathematics-Section

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QUESTION NO: 1

The five starters on a basketball team each scored at least 5 points and no more than 17 points in a basketball game. Which of the following values is a reasonable estimate of the average score of each player?

A. 6

B. 17

C. 20

D. 22

E. 12

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

It is reasonable to assume that the average score will be close to the middle of the range.

QUESTION NO: 2

If the value of x is between 0.00776 and 0.0506, which of the following numbers could be x?

A. 0.008

B. 0.890

C. 0.0008

D. 0.8009

E. 0.809

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

When solving this sort of problem, it may help to write the two given numbers so that one is under the other and the decimal points are aligned.

QUESTION NO: 3

$12x - 4x + 8 =$

A. 16x

B. 10x

C. x

D. 8x + 8

E. 20x

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Remember that unlike terms cannot be combined.

QUESTION NO: 4

George buys 6 T-shirts for $5 each and 4 pairs of jeans for $8.50 each. He uses the following expression to calculate the total amount of money spent: 6 (5) + 4 (8.5). Which of the following expressions could George also have used?

A. 2 (5 + 8.5) + 4 (8.5)

B. 4 (5 + 8.5) + 2 (5)

C. (4 + 2) + (5 + 8.5)

D. 8.5 (2 + 4) + 5 (2 +4)

E. 6(4) + 5(8.5)

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

George bought four items at both $5 and $8.5, but he also bought two more items at $5.

QUESTION NO: 5

Solve: 3/5 – (-2) =

A. - 12/5

B. 5/13

C. - 13/5

D. 13/5

E. - 5/13

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Subtracting a negative number is the same as adding it.

QUESTION NO: 6

Don gets paid $9 an hour, but if he works more than 30 hours in a week his rate of pay is increased by ½. How much would Don get paid for a 38-hour work week?

A. $342

B. $390

C. $367

D. $378

E. $365

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The problem can be solved with the following expression: 30 (9) + 8 (9 x 1.5)

QUESTION NO: 7

If Edgar eats 8 2/3 doughnuts in a week and Ellen eats 4 ½ doughnuts in a week, how many more doughnuts will Edgar have eaten?

A. 3 1/5

B. 4 1/6

C. 4 1/2

D. 4

E. 4 3/4

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Convert the fractions to the lowest common denominator, sixths, before you subtract.

QUESTION NO: 8

17/68 =

A. 30%

B. 1/3

C. 45%

D. 1/4

E. 2/5

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The simplest form of this fraction can be found by dividing both sides by 17.

QUESTION NO: 9

John’s sock drawer contains 4 pairs of green socks, 7 pairs of black socks, and 7 pairs of red socks. If John reaches into the drawer at random, what are his chances of NOT selecting a pair of green socks?

A. 1/3

B. 7/9

C. 2/5

D. 10/18

E. 3/4

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

14 of the 18 pairs of socks are not green; the fraction 14/18 can be simplified as 7/9.

QUESTION NO: 10

A number is multiplied by 6 and then has 4 subtracted from it. The answer is 14. Which of the following equations matches these statements?

A. 14 = 4 - 6x

B. 4x – 6 = 14

C. 6x – 4 = 14

D. 6(x – 4) = 14

E. -6x = -14

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

In this equation, the order of operations will dictate that the multiplication takes place before the subtraction.