Welcome to Algeboard!

Scoring. For answering a question correctly, add the dollar value of that question to your total. For missing a question, subtract the dollar value for the question from your score.

Instructions. One or two can play.

1 For one person. Solve the problems in any order you wish. Passing grade is to accumulate total wealth of $3,500. Upon passing, the title of The Grand Poohbah of Algeboard will be conferred on you.

2 For two people. Take turns answering questions. Each player must keep track of their own total earnings. The one with the highest total earnings is declared the winner and new champion of Algeboard!

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Category: Potpourri

For $100$: A number having an infinite, non-repeating decimal expansion. What is . . .

(a) an integer
(b) a rational number
(c) an irrational number
(d) a real number
(e) a complex number.
For $200$: In interval notation, the set of all real numbers that exceeds 3. What is ...

(a) $(-\infty, 3)$  
(b) $(-\infty, 3]$  
(c) $(3, +\infty)$  
(d) $[3, +\infty)$  
(e) n.o.t.
For $300$: A simplification of the expression \((-x^2y^{-3})(-2x^2y^4)^3\).

What is . . .

(a) \(-8x^7y^4\)  
(b) \(8x^7y^{10}\)  
(c) \(-8x^8y^{12}\)

(d) \(8x^8y^9\)  
(e) \(8x^8y^4\)  
(f) n.o.t.
For $400$: A simplification of \( \left( \frac{2x^{-2}y^3}{x^{-1}} \right)^{-2} \). What is . . .

(a) \( \frac{2y}{x} \)  (b) \( \frac{y^2}{4x^2} \)  (c) \( \frac{x^2}{4y^6} \)  (d) \( \frac{4x^6}{y^6} \)  (e) n.o.t.
For $500$: The distance between the points $P(-1,5)$ and $Q(3,-3)$ in the plane. What is...

(a) 9
(b) $2\sqrt{5}$
(c) $4\sqrt{5}$
(d) $2\sqrt{2}$
(e) $2\sqrt{17}$
For $100$: The result of combining similar terms in the expression $2(3x^2 - 4x + 2) - (5x^2 - 6x + 5)$. What is . . .

(a) $x^2 - 2x + 1$
(b) $x^2 - 2x - 1$
(c) $x^2 + 2x - 3$
(d) $x^2 + 2x - 1$
(e) n.o.t.
For $200$: The Least Common Denominator of the expression:

$$\frac{1}{x} - \frac{2}{x^2} + \frac{3}{x^2 - x}.$$ 

What is . . .

(a) $x^2(x - 1)$  (b) $x^3(x - 1)$  (c) $x^2(x^2 - x)$
(d) $x^3(x^2 - x)$  (e) n.o.t.
For $300$: Consider the equations:

1. $a^n a^m = a^{nm}$
2. $\frac{c}{a+b} = \frac{c}{a} + \frac{c}{b}$
3. $\sqrt{a+b} = \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}$
4. $\sqrt{a^2} = a$

The statements that are false. What is/are . . .

- (a) 1
- (b) 2
- (c) 3
- (d) 4
- (e) 1 & 2
- (f) 1 & 3
- (g) 1 & 4
- (h) 2 & 3
- (i) 2 & 4
- (j) 3 & 4
- (k) 1, 2 & 3
- (l) 1, 3 & 4
- (m) 1, 2, 3 & 4
- (n) The correct “false” choice is not listed.
For $400$: The result of combining the terms of the expression

\[
\frac{2}{x} - \frac{2}{x - 1} + \frac{1}{(x - 1)^2}.
\]

What is . . .

(a) \(\frac{1 - x}{x(x - 1)^2}\)

(b) \(\frac{1 - 6x}{x(x - 1)^2}\)

(c) \(\frac{2 - 5x}{x(x - 1)^2}\)

(d) \(\frac{2 - x}{x(x - 1)^2}\)

(e) \(\frac{1 + x}{x(x - 1)^2}\)

(f) n.o.t.
For $500$: The simplification of the following expression:

\[
\frac{x^2 - 4}{x + 3} \cdot \frac{3x^2 + 9x}{x^2 - 2x}
\]

What is . . .

(a) \(x + 2\)  
(b) \(x - 2\)  
(c) \(3(x + 2)\)

(d) \(3(x - 2)\)  
(e) \(\frac{(x + 2)(3x^2 + 9)}{x(x + 3)}\)  
(f) \(\frac{(x - 2)(3x^2 + 9)}{x + 3}\)

(g) \(\frac{3(x^2 - 4)}{x - 2}\)  
(h) n.o.t.
For $100$: The $x$-intercepts of the polynomial $p(x) = 4x^2 - x$.

What is/are . . .

(a) 0  (b) $1/4$  (c) 4  (d) 0 and 4  
(e) 0 and $1/4$  (f) n.o.t.
For $\$200$: The factorization of $x^2 - 6x - 16$? What is . . .

(a) $(x - 4)(x + 4)$
(b) $(x - 2)(x + 8)$
(c) $(x + 2)(x - 8)$
(d) $(x - 1)(x + 16)$
(e) $(x + 1)(x - 16)$
For $300$: The factorization of $6x^2 + 5x - 21$. What is . . .

(a) $(x + 7)(6x - 3)$
(b) $(x - 3)(6x + 7)$
(c) $(2x - 3)(3x - 7)$
(d) $(2x - 3)(3x + 7)$
(e) $(2x + 3)(3x - 7)$
For $\textbf{400}$: The factorization of $8x^3 + 27$. What is . . .

(a) $(2x - 3)(4x^2 - 6x + 9)$
(b) $(2x - 3)(4x^2 + 6x + 9)$
(c) $(2x + 3)(4x^2 + 6x + 9)$
(d) $(2x + 3)(4x^2 - 6x + 9)$
(e) n.o.t.
For $500$: The *factorization*, with the aid of the much celebrated Quadratic Formula, of the polynomial $2x^2 - 2x - 1$. What is . . .

(a) $\frac{1}{2}(2x - 1 - \sqrt{3})(2x - 1 + \sqrt{3})$
(b) $\frac{1}{4}(x - 1 - \sqrt{3})(x - 1 + \sqrt{3})$
(c) $\frac{1}{2}(2x + 1 - \sqrt{3})(2x + 1 + \sqrt{3})$
(d) $2(x - 2 - \sqrt{12})(x - 2 + \sqrt{12})$
(e) $\frac{1}{2}(2x - 2 - \sqrt{12})(2x - 2 + \sqrt{12})$
(f) n.o.t.
For $100$: The solution to the equation

$$3x - 2 = 2 \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}x \right).$$

What is . . .

(a) $x = -\frac{1}{11}$  
(b) $x = \frac{1}{9}$  
(c) $x = \frac{9}{11}$  
(d) $x = \frac{9}{7}$

(e) n.o.t.
For $200$: The solution set to the equation
\[ 3x^2 = 4x + 1 \]
What is . . .

(a) \[ \left\{ \frac{4}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right\} \]
(b) \[ \left\{ \frac{2 + \sqrt{7}}{3}, \frac{2 - \sqrt{7}}{3} \right\} \]
(c) \[ \left\{ \frac{4 + 3\sqrt{2}}{6}, \frac{4 - 3\sqrt{2}}{6} \right\} \]
(d) \[ \left\{ \frac{2 + \sqrt{2}}{3}, \frac{2 - \sqrt{2}}{3} \right\} \]
(e) n.o.t.
For $300$: The ordinate of intersection of the two lines $2x - 3y = 3$ and $4x + 2y = 2$. What is . . .

(a) $x = \frac{3}{4}$
(b) $x = 0$
(c) $y = -\frac{1}{2}$
(d) $y = -\frac{1}{4}$
(e) n.o.t.
For $400$: The solution set to the equation \( \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{2x + 1}} \). What is ... 
(a) \( \{4\} \)  
(b) \( \{0, 4\} \)  
(c) \( \{\frac{1}{7}, 4\} \)  
(d) \( \{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{3}, 4\} \)  
(e) n.o.t.
For $500$: The solution set, in interval notation, to the inequality

\[ \frac{x - 1}{4 - 3x} \leq 0. \]

What is . . .

(a) \((-\infty, 1]\)

(b) \(\left[\frac{4}{3}, \infty\right)\)

(c) \((-\infty, 1] \cup \left(\frac{4}{3}, \infty\right)\)

(d) \((-\infty, 1] \cup \left[\frac{4}{3}, \infty\right)\)

(e) \((-\infty, 1] \cap \left[\frac{4}{3}, \infty\right)\)

(f) n.o.t.
For $100$: A graphic artist has created a 2 inch by 3 inch rectangle on a computer. Now she wants “rescale” this rectangle to enclose twice the area of the original rectangle. The dimensions of this rescaled rectangle have the form $2k$ by $3k$, where $k$ is the “scaling factor.” The value of the scaling factor, $k$. What is . . .

(a) $k = 2$  (b) $k = 4$  (c) $k = \sqrt{2}$
(d) $k = 2\sqrt{2}$  (e) $k = \sqrt{5}$  (f) n.o.t.
For $200$: A aluminum can, closed on both ends, is constructed in the shape of a right circular cylinder. The dimensions of the can have not been set yet: let radius of the base of the can be denoted by $r$ and the height be denoted by the symbol $h$.

The surface area of the can. What is . . .

(a) $4\pi r^2h$
(b) $2\pi r + \pi r^2h$
(c) $(2\pi r + \pi r^2)h$
(d) $\pi r(4 + rh)$
(e) $2\pi r(r + h)$
(f) n.o.t.
For $300$: A six-foot high man stands 12 feet from a 15-foot high street light. It is night and the street light is turned on.

The length of the man’s shadow. What is . . .

(a) 6 feet (b) 8 feet (c) 9 feet (d) $9 \frac{1}{9}$ feet (e) n.o.t.
For $400$: A man has a lawn mower with a 2 foot cutting blade.\(^1\) The man can mow at a speed of 3 feet per second. The man brings the lawn mower onto a straight stretch of lawn, starts the mower on the grass, walks in a straight line for 60 seconds, then turns off the mower. (Ignore the initial acceleration and terminal deceleration times.)

The total area cut by the lawn mower. Accurate to 2 decimal places, what is . . .

(a) 360 square feet  
(b) 361.57 square feet  
(c) 363.14 square feet  
(d) n.o.t.

\(^1\)Recall: Such a blade spins on a center axis.
For $500$: A professional lawn service wants to understand how to use their resources most efficiently. Two-man crews are sent out on a job with two small mowers and one large one. The small lawn mowers can cut grass at a rate of 40 square yards per minute and the large one can cut at 80 square yards per minute. However, when the large mower is used, there is a 15 minute set up and tear down period, during this time interval, typically, one crew member sets up or tears down the large mower, while the other cuts grass using the small mower. Of course, if it is decided that the large lawn mower is not to be used, both crew members use small mowers to do the job.

This smallest job, measured in square yards, needed to justify the use of the large mower. What is . . .

(a) 480  (b) 2,400  (c) 2,600
(d) 3,200  (e) 3,800  (f) n.o.t.
Message from the Management

That’s Right! Way to go, Kiddo!
Wonderfully Done! Congrats!
Message from the Management

Very Good! Keep up the good work!
Good, good, good, good!
Message from the Management

Gee, you’re smart! Try a harder one!
You’re pretty sharp! Continuez, s’il vous plaît!
You’re the tops! But wait ... try another.
That’s wrong! Sorry. Try Again.
Message from the Management

Error again. Don’t guess, I’m watching! 😅
Message from the Management

Please! Please! Work it out first!
Message from the Management

An error has insinuated itself into your calculations. Recalibrate your thinking! 🤔
Message from the Management

Bah! Humbug! You’re haunted by Errors!
Message from the Management

Try again. This time with order and method.
Wrong again! Use your little gray cells!