AoPS

Art of Problem Solving Textbooks

Do You Know **Precalculus**

If you can solve nearly all of the following problems with little difficulty *without a calculator*, then the text **Precalculus** would only serve as a review for you.

- 1. What is the value of $\tan 75^{\circ}$?
- 2. Simplify $\cos (12^{\circ}) \cos (24^{\circ}) \cos (48^{\circ}) \cos (96^{\circ})$.
- 3. Let $n \ge 3$ be a positive integer, and let $P_0P_1 \cdots P_{n-1}$ be a regular n-gon inscribed in a circle with radius 1. Compute $P_0P_1 \cdot P_0P_2 \cdot P_0P_3 \cdots P_0P_{n-1}$ in terms of n.
- 4. What is the value of $\cos^2 10^\circ + \cos^2 50^\circ \sin 40^\circ \sin 80^\circ$?
- 5. Find the roots of $z^6 + z^4 + z^2 + 1$.
- 6. Suppose $\frac{\cos 3x}{\cos x} = \frac{1}{3}$ for some angle x, $0 \le x \le \frac{\pi}{2}$. Determine $\frac{\sin 3x}{\sin x}$ for the same x.
- 7. Find the volume of the tetrahedron with vertices (-1, 3, 0), (2, 1, 7), (-4, 3, 2), (3, 1, -2).
- 8. A sequence (a_1, b_1) , (a_2, b_2) , (a_3, b_3) , ... of points in the coordinate plane satisfies

$$(a_{n+1}, b_{n+1}) = (\sqrt{3}a_n - b_n, \sqrt{3}b_n + a_n)$$

for all positive integers n. Suppose that $(a_{100}, b_{100}) = (2, 4)$. What is $a_1 + b_1$?

- 9. Find $\text{Im} \left((\cos 12^{\circ} + i \sin 12^{\circ} + \cos 48^{\circ} + i \sin 48^{\circ})^{6} \right)$.
- 10. Evaluate $\sin 10^{\circ} \sin 20^{\circ} \sin 30^{\circ} \cdots \sin 170^{\circ}$.



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The answers to Do You Know Precalculus are below. (The solutions in the text and the solutions manual include detailed explanations, as opposed to the mere answers provided below.)

- 1. $2 + \sqrt{3}$
- 2. $-\frac{1}{16}$
- 3. *n*
- 4. $\frac{3}{4}$
- 5. $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i$, i, $-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i$, $-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i$, -i, $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i$
- 6. $\frac{7}{3}$
- 7. 25/3
- 8. $1/2^{98}$
- 9. 0
- 10. $\frac{9}{65536}$