

Name

Class



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Probability

(9 – 1) Topic booklet

Higher

These questions have been collated from previous years GCSE Mathematics papers.

You must have: Ruler graduated in centimetres and millimetres, protractor, pair of compasses, pen, HB pencil, eraser.

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- Diagrams are NOT accurately drawn, unless otherwise indicated.
- You must **show all your working out.**
- If the question is a **1H** question you are not allowed to use a calculator.
- If the question is a **2H** or a **3H** question, you may use a calculator to help you answer.

Information

- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Answer ALL questions
Write your answers in the space provided.
You must write down all the stages in your working.

1 There are only blue cubes, red cubes and yellow cubes in a box.

The table shows the probability of taking at random a blue cube from the box.

Colour	blue	red	yellow
Probability	0.2		

The number of red cubes in the box is the same as the number of yellow cubes in the box.

(a) Complete the table.

(2)

There are 12 blue cubes in the box.

(b) Work out the total number of cubes in the box.

(2)

1 The table shows the probabilities that a biased dice will land on 2, on 3, on 4, on 5 and on 6

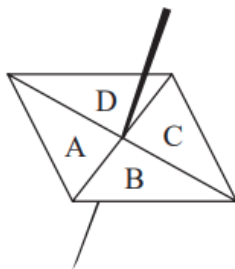
Number on dice	1	2	3	4	5	6
Probability		0.17	0.18	0.09	0.15	0.1



Neymar rolls the biased dice 200 times.

Work out an estimate for the total number of times the dice will land on 1 or on 3

2 Here is a biased spinner.



The table shows the probabilities that when the spinner is spun it will land on A, on B, on C and on D.

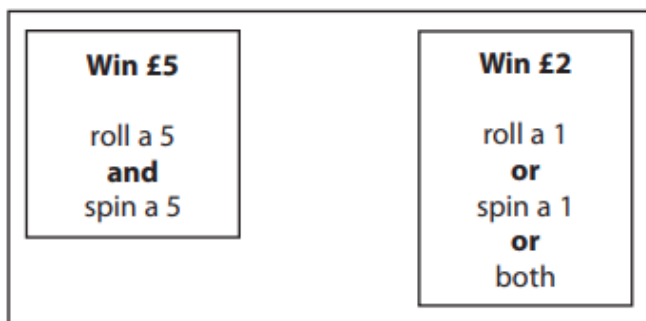
Letter	A	B	C	D
Probability	0.4	0.21	0.32	0.07

Luka will spin the spinner 200 times.

Work out an estimate for the number of times the spinner will land on A.

- 3 David has designed a game.
He uses a fair 6-sided dice and a fair 5-sided spinner.
The dice is numbered 1 to 6
The spinner is numbered 1 to 5

Each player rolls the dice once and spins the spinner once.
A player can win £5 or win £2



David expects 30 people will play his game.
Each person will pay David £1 to play the game.

- (a) Work out how much profit David can expect to make.

£.....
(4)

- (b) Give a reason why David's actual profit may be different to the profit he expects to make.

.....
.....
(1)

3 There are only red counters, blue counters, green counters and yellow counters in a bag.

The table shows the probabilities of picking at random a red counter and picking at random a yellow counter.

Colour	red	blue	green	yellow
Probability	0.24			0.32

The probability of picking a blue counter is the same as the probability of picking a green counter.

Complete the table.

Specimen 1 – Paper 1H

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 There are only blue cubes, yellow cubes and green cubes in a bag.

There are

twice as many blue cubes as yellow cubes
and four times as many green cubes as blue cubes.

Hannah takes at random a cube from the bag.

Work out the probability that Hannah takes a yellow cube.



November 2017 – Paper 2H

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

- 6 There are some counters in a bag.
The counters are red or white or blue or yellow.



Bob is going to take at random a counter from the bag.

The table shows each of the probabilities that the counter will be blue or will be yellow.

Colour	red	white	blue	yellow
Probability			0.45	0.25

There are 18 blue counters in the bag.

The probability that the counter Bob takes will be red is twice the probability that the counter will be white.

- (a) Work out the number of red counters in the bag.

(4)

A marble is going to be taken at random from a box of marbles.
The probability that the marble will be silver is 0.5

There must be an even number of marbles in the box.

- (b) Explain why.

(1)

- 6 Four friends each throw a biased coin a number of times.
The table shows the number of heads and the number of tails each friend got.

	Ben	Helen	Paul	Sharif
heads	34	66	80	120
tails	8	12	40	40

The coin is to be thrown one more time.

- (a) Which of the four friends’ results will give the best estimate for the probability that the coin will land heads?
Justify your answer.

(1)

Paul says,
“With this coin you are twice as likely to get heads as to get tails.”

- (b) Is Paul correct?
Justify your answer.

(2)

The coin is to be thrown twice.

- (c) Use all the results in the table to work out an estimate for the probability that the coin will land heads both times.

(2)

- 8 There are some counters in a bag.
The counters are blue or green or red or yellow.



The table shows the probabilities that a counter taken at random from the bag will be blue or will be green.

Colour	blue	green	red	yellow
Probability	0.32	0.20		

The probability that a counter taken at random from the bag will be red is five times the probability that the counter will be yellow.

There are 300 counters in the bag.

Work out the number of yellow counters in the bag.

8 When a drawing pin is dropped it can land point down or point up.

Lucy, Mel and Tom each dropped the drawing pin a number of times.

The table shows the number of times the drawing pin landed point down and the number of times the drawing pin landed point up for each person.



	Lucy	Mel	Tom
point down	31	53	16
point up	14	27	9

Rachael is going to drop the drawing pin once.

- (a) Whose results will give the best estimate for the probability that the drawing pin will land point up?
Give a reason for your answer.

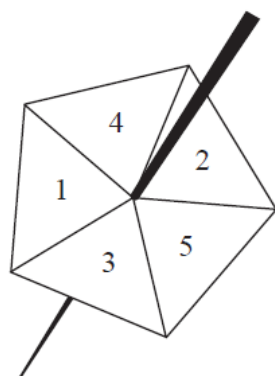
(1)

Stuart is going to drop the drawing pin twice.

- (b) Use all the results in the table to work out an estimate for the probability that the drawing pin will land point up the first time and point down the second time.

(2)

10 Lina spins a biased 5-sided spinner 40 times.



Here are her results.

Score	1	2	3	4	5
Frequency	6	8	9	7	10

Lina is now going to spin the spinner another two times.

(a) Work out an estimate for the probability that she gets a score of 5 both times.

.....
(2)

Derek is going to spin the spinner a large number of times.

(b) Work out an estimate for the percentage of times Derek can expect to get a score of 1

..... %
(2)

10 A biased dice is thrown 60 times.



The table shows information about the number that the dice lands on each time.

Number on dice	1	2	3	4	5	6
Frequency	12	7	8	9	9	15

Gethin throws the dice twice.

(a) Work out an estimate for the probability that the dice will land on 6 both times.

(3)

Sally is going to throw the same dice n times and record the number it lands on each time.

She will use her results to work out a more reliable estimate for the probability in part (a).

(b) What can you say about the value of n ?

(1)

10 There are only blue counters, yellow counters, green counters and red counters in a bag.
A counter is taken at random from the bag.



The table shows the probabilities of getting a blue counter or a yellow counter or a green counter.

Colour	blue	yellow	green	red
Probability	0.2	0.35	0.4	

(a) Work out the probability of getting a red counter.

(1)

(b) What is the least possible number of counters in the bag?
You must give a reason for your answer.

(2)

- 14** Sally plays two games against Martin.
In each game, Sally could win, draw or lose.

In each game they play,
the probability that Sally will win against Martin is 0.3
the probability that Sally will draw against Martin is 0.1

Work out the probability that Sally will win **exactly** one of the two games against Martin.

November 2020 – Paper 1H

(Total for Question 14 is 3 marks)

- 16** There are only red counters, blue counters and purple counters in a bag.
The ratio of the number of red counters to the number of blue counters is 3 : 17

Sam takes at random a counter from the bag.
The probability that the counter is purple is 0.2

Work out the probability that Sam takes a red counter.

June 2018 – Paper 1H

(Total for Question 16 is 3 marks)

16 Zia has to set a 4-digit security passcode on her phone.



Each digit of the passcode is a number from 1 to 9
She can use each number more than once.

Zia tells her friend Amber that

- the first digit is a cube number
- the second digit is a prime number
- the third digit is greater than 6
- the fourth digit is an odd number.

The diagram shows one possible 4-digit passcode.



Amber is going to have one attempt at guessing Zia's passcode.

Work out the probability that Amber guesses Zia's passcode on the first attempt.

- 16** A first aid test has two parts, a theory test and a practical test.
The probability of passing the theory test is 0.75
The probability of passing only one of the two parts is 0.36
The two events are independent.
Work out the probability of passing the practical test.

16 There are only 3 red counters and 5 yellow counters in a bag.

Jude takes at random 3 counters from the bag.

Work out the probability that he takes exactly one red counter.

- 16** Marek has 9 cards.
There is a number on each card.



Marek takes at random two of the cards.
He works out the product of the numbers on the two cards.
Work out the probability that the product is an even number.

16 There are only red counters and blue counters in a bag.

Joe takes at random a counter from the bag.
The probability that the counter is red is 0.65
Joe puts the counter back into the bag.

Mary takes at random a counter from the bag.
She puts the counter back into the bag.

(a) What is the probability that Joe and Mary take counters of different colours?



.....
(2)

There are 78 red counters in the bag.

(b) How many blue counters are there in the bag?

.....
(2)

November 2018 – Paper 2H

(Total for Question 16 is 4 marks)

16 The probability that Sanay is late for school tomorrow is 0.05
The probability that Jaden is late for school tomorrow is 0.15

Alfie says that the probability that Sanay and Jaden will both be late for school tomorrow is 0.0075 because $0.05 \times 0.15 = 0.0075$

What assumption has Alfie made?

.....
.....
Specimen 2 – Paper 1H

(Total for Question 16 is 1 mark)

- 18** Thelma spins a biased coin twice.
The probability that it will come down heads both times is 0.09
Calculate the probability that it will come down tails both times.



Specimen 1 – Paper 3H

(Total for Question 18 is 3 marks)

- 19** There are only blue counters, red counters and green counters in a box.

The probability that a counter taken at random from the box will be blue is 0.4
The ratio of the number of red counters to the number of green counters is 7 : 8



Sameena takes at random a counter from the box.
She records its colour and puts the counter back in the box.
Sameena does this a total of 50 times.

Work out an estimate for the number of times she takes a green counter.

November 2022 – Paper 3H

(Total for Question 19 is 3 marks)

20 In a village,

if it rains on one day, the probability that it will rain on the next day is 0.8

if it does **not** rain on one day, the probability that it will rain on the next day is 0.6



A weather forecaster says,

“There is a 70% chance that it will rain in the village on Monday.”

Work out an estimate for the probability that it will rain in the village on Wednesday.

You must show all your working.

20 There are only red sweets and yellow sweets in a bag.



There are n red sweets in the bag.

There are 8 yellow sweets in the bag.

Sajid is going to take at random a sweet from the bag and eat it.

He says that the probability that the sweet will be red is $\frac{7}{10}$

(a) Show why the probability cannot be $\frac{7}{10}$

(3)

After Sajid has taken the first sweet from the bag and eaten it, he is going to take at random a second sweet from the bag.

Given that the probability that both the sweets he takes will be red is $\frac{3}{5}$

(b) work out the number of red sweets in the bag.

You must show all your working.

(5)

20 Pat throws a fair coin n times.

Find an expression, in terms of n , for the probability that Pat gets at least 1 head and at least 1 tail.



November 2021 – Paper 3H

(Total for Question 20 is 2 marks)

21 When a biased coin is thrown 4 times, the probability of getting 4 heads is $\frac{16}{81}$

Work out the probability of getting 4 tails when the coin is thrown 4 times.



November 2019 – Paper 3H

(Total for Question 21 is 2 marks)

21 Ray has nine cards numbered 1 to 9



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Ray takes at random three of these cards.
He works out the sum of the numbers on the three cards and records the result.
Work out the probability that the result is an even number.

21 There are 12 counters in a bag.

There is an equal number of red counters, blue counters and yellow counters in the bag.
There are no other counters in the bag.



3 counters are taken at random from the bag.

(a) Work out the probability of taking 3 red counters.

(2)

The 3 counters are put back into the bag.

Some more counters are now put into the bag.

There is still an equal number of red counters, blue counters and yellow counters in the bag.
There are no counters of any other colour in the bag.

3 counters are taken at random from the bag.

(b) Is it now less likely or equally likely or more likely that the 3 counters will be red?

You must show how you get your answer.

(2)