

#0 Theta Ciphering

MA \odot National Convention 2015

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f is a polynomial of least degree n such that
 $f(1) = -5, f(2) = f(6) = 0, f(3) = 9, f(4) = 16,$
and $f(5) = 15$. Find the value of n .

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A function $y = a \cdot x^b$, where a and b are real, passes through the points $(2,1)$ and $(6,5)$. If $\log_5 a = \log_3 c$, find the value of c .

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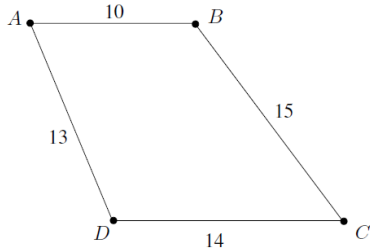
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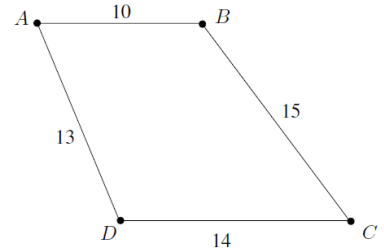
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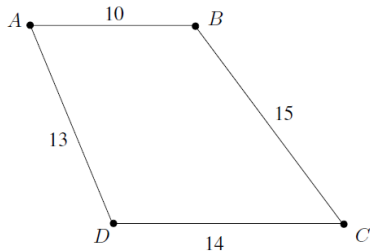
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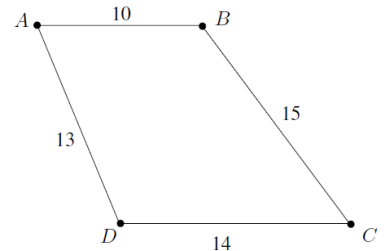
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$$\text{Evaluate: } \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & -3 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & -2 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

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When Pablito is dealt three cards from a standard deck of 52 playing cards, the chances of his being dealt three cards of three unique ranks (rank is the “number” on the card: 2, 3, ..., Q, K, A) is how many more times likely than being dealt one pair and a third card of a different rank than the pair? Write your answer in decimal form, rounded to the nearest tenth.

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