

Re: decimal arithmetics--gre

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- *From:* "Nick" <tulse04-news1@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 21 Dec 2006 14:18:56 -0000
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"john" <johnboy98105@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1166679073.377388.302710@xx>

Thanks to those who have posted helpful informatin.

And, yes, GRE is for entry into graduate school and this is from exercise section of general GRE which is required for all grad school.

In my case, I haven't done that level of arithmetics since I was 12.

Nick asked what other type of arithmetics are seen, and a few examples are as follows:

1. What is the greatest positive integer n such that 2^n is a factor of 12^{10}
a. 19 b. 12 c. 16 d. 20 e. 60

(this question triggers some vague memories of my youth... not what it is)

2. which of the following is divisible by 8?
a. 312 b. 98 c. 112 d. 144

(how does one do this without having to do it one at a time?)

My undergraduate major was in Biochemistry which is a physical sciences and I did quite well. It's just that I haven't seen or had the need to do this level of of math since I was like 12- 14. I do have more experiences writing programs for simulations though. I'm stil baffled at the level of arithmetics expected for acceptance into grad school. Knowing thi shelps me very little in running simulations for Biochemical reactions... I don't do the math--comupter does.

I agree that 1 is a bit tricky if you have not been used to indices. Is there not a syllabus that can be revised for this. Otherwise you need to go on a refresher course.

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Presumably they could ask anything on a particular syllabus and so asking how to do particular questions which you have picked out is not much help.

With respect I wonder how you got through a science degree without knowing the answer to 2.

You clearly know your own abilities.

I have a maths degree and I could therefore do it just by looking at it. After all, that would have been the sort of thing that would have shown my teachers that I was good at maths.

Note that they are not asking you the result but to briefly calculate that it is divisible by 8.

There are a number of ways to do this in one's head/ quickly.

A number is divisible by 2 if it ends in an even number.
A number is divisible by 4 if you halve it and it ends in an even number.
A number is divisible by 8 if you halve it again and it ends in an even number.

Alternatively you need to know your 8-times table.

With each you find the multiple of largest multiple of 80 which is less than the number.

a 240 b 80 c 80 d 80

Then calculate the difference between the number and the multiple of 80

a 72 b 18 c 32 d 64

Which is a multiple of 8

a, c and d

I am currently applying for jobs, and when I start applying for jobs and attempt to show that I am suitable for the job in my supporting statement.

I realise that if I don't meet the requirements set out in the person spec when attempting to write the statement, then I am also going to have even more difficulty when actually at the job interview.

I would have thought that you want to find a tutor for 16 or 18-year-olds who is prepared to take you on, because what you are asking is fairly basic – and you appear to want some general coaching.

I would add that what you are asking precedes algebra – I presume that it asks that as well.

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Nick

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