

Queen's College 155 Anniversary Quiz

1. Consider the number **39**.

The smallest prime and the biggest prime factor of 39 are 3 and 13.

The prime numbers between 3 and 13 are 3, 5, 7, 11, 13.

Also, $39 = 3 + 5 + 7 + 11 + 13$.

Find the next number that has each property.

(Hint: the number is bigger than 100 and it must not be a prime number.)

1 Ans. $\underline{155} = 5 + 7 + 11 + 13 + 17 + 19 + 23 + 29 + 31$

2. The number of vertices of a right prism is greater than the number of vertices of a right pyramid by 1. If the pyramid has **155** faces, find the sum of the number of edges of the two solids.

2 Ans. Number of faces of the pyramid = 155

Number of **slant faces** of the pyramid = 154

Number of edges of all slant faces = 154

The base of the pyramid is a polygon of 154 sides and therefore has 154 edges.

Total number of edges of the pyramid = $154 + 154 = \mathbf{308}$

Total number of vertices of the pyramid = 155

Therefore the total number of vertices of the prism = 156

The base and the top of the prism is a polygon of $\frac{156}{2} = 78$ sides.

Number of edges of the of the prism = $78 \times 3 = \mathbf{234}$

Total number of edges of the two solids = $308 + 234 = \underline{\mathbf{542}}$

3. $15! = 15 \times 14 \times 13 \times \dots \times 1 = 1307674368\mathbf{000}$

There are 3 trailing zeros. (Continuous number of zeros in the right side of the number.)

How many trailing zeros are there in $155!$

3 Ans. A trailing zero is formed when a multiple of 5 is multiplied with a multiple of 2. Now all we have to do is count the number of 5's and 2's in the multiplication.

Since a zero is created by $10 = 2 \times 5$ and there are more factors of 2 than 5 in $155!$, all we have to do is to count the factor 5 in the product.

Let's count the 5's first. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and so on, making a total $\left[\frac{155}{5}\right] = 31$, where $[x]$

denotes the largest integer smaller or equal to x .

However there are numbers 25, 50, 75, ... which makes up two fives in each of them

5 Ans. The last number of the n^{th} row = n^2
The centre number of the n^{th} row = $n^2 - n + 1$
The centre number of the 155^{th} row = $155^2 - 155 + 1 = \underline{\underline{23871}}$
There are $(2n - 1)$ numbers in the r^{th} row.
The first number in the n^{th} row = $n^2 - (2n - 1) + 1 = n^2 - 2n + 2$
The first number in the 155^{th} row = $155^2 - 2(155) + 2 = 23717$

6. If $f(x^2 - 313x) = (x - 155)(x - 156)(x - 157)(x - 158)$, find $f(x - 155^2)$.

6 Ans.
$$\begin{aligned} f(x^2 - 313x) &= (x - 155)(x - 156)(x - 157)(x - 158) \\ &= [(x - 155)(x - 158)][(x - 156)(x - 157)] \\ &= [x^2 - 313x + 24490][x^2 - 313x + 24492] \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $f(x) = (x + 24490)(x + 24492)$

Replace x by $x - 155^2$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x - 155^2) &= (x - 155^2 + 24490)(x - 155^2 + 24492) \\ &= \underline{(x + 465)(x + 467)} \end{aligned}$$

7. The sequence $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{155}, x_{156}, \dots$ satisfies :

$$x_1 = \frac{1}{2}, \quad x_{k+1} = x_k^2 + x_k \quad \text{where } k = 1, 2, \dots, 155, \dots$$

Find the integral part (that is, excluding the decimal part) of the sum

$$\frac{1}{x_1+1} + \frac{1}{x_2+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{155}+1}. \quad (\text{Hint: } \frac{1}{x_1} - \frac{1}{x_1+1}.)$$

7 Ans. We have $\frac{1}{x_1} - \frac{1}{x_1+1} = \frac{1}{x_1(x_1+1)} = \frac{1}{x_2}$

Similarly, $\frac{1}{x_2} - \frac{1}{x_2+1} = \frac{1}{x_3}$

Work up to $\frac{1}{x_{154}} - \frac{1}{x_{155}+1} = \frac{1}{x_{156}}$

Add all these identities up, we have $\frac{1}{x_1+1} + \frac{1}{x_2+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{155}+1} = \frac{1}{x_1} - \frac{1}{x_{156}} = 2 - \frac{1}{x_{156}}$

Since $x_1 = \frac{1}{2}, x_2 = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{4}, x_3 = \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{4} = \frac{21}{16} > 1$, we have

$$x_1 < x_2 < x_3 < \dots < x_{156} \quad (\text{More serious reader may use mathematical induction.})$$

Then $1 = 2 - 1 < 2 - \frac{1}{x_{156}} < 2 - 0 = 2$

The integral part of $\frac{1}{x_1+1} + \frac{1}{x_2+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{155}+1}$ is 1.

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