

Module 4 – Activities & Problems

4.1 Mutually Exclusive Events

Which of the following are mutually exclusive events?

- (a) A thumb tack falling head down and a thumb tack falling head up.
- (b) A student studying Maths and Physics.
- (c) Getting both a head and a tail when tossing a coin.
- (d) Getting a six and a two when throwing a dice.
- (e) Getting a king and a club when picking a card from a pack of playing cards.

4.2 Conditional Probability

The table below shows the percentages of boys and girls in a class and the percentages of each gender who wear glasses.

	Glasses	No Glasses	Totals
Boys	36	24	60
Girls	14	26	40
Totals	50	50	100

The teacher chooses a student at random from the class.

- (a) What is the probability she chooses a boy?
- (b) What is the probability that she chooses a boy who is not wearing glasses?
- (c) What is the probability that she chooses a boy given that the person she chooses is not wearing glasses?
- (d) What is the probability that the person chosen is not wearing glasses given that it is a boy?
- (e) Is $P(\text{NG} | \text{B}) = P(\text{B} | \text{NG})$?
- (f) What is the probability that she chooses a girl given that the person she chooses is wearing glasses?
- (g) Is $P(\text{Girl} | \text{Glasses}) = P(\text{Glasses} | \text{Girl})$?

Answer the above questions using the contingency table above and then using the formula for conditional probability.

4.3 A check of college students' accommodation amenities with a large group of students revealed that 38% had internet access, 52% had Games Consoles and 21% had both internet access and a Games Console. What is the probability that a randomly selected student accommodation has:

- (a) a games console but no internet access?
- (b) a games console or internet access, but not both?
- (c) neither a games console nor a internet access?

4.4 Real estate ads suggest that 64% of homes for sale in the US have garages, 21% have swimming pools, and 17% have both features. What is the probability that a home for sale has:

- (a) a pool or a garage?
- (b) neither a pool nor a garage?
- (c) a pool but no garage?
- (d) if a home for sale has a garage, what's the probability that it has a pool, too?
- (e) Are having a garage and a pool independent events? Explain.
- (f) Are having a garage and a pool mutually exclusive? Explain.

4.5 A consumer organisation estimates that 29% of new cars have a cosmetic defect, such as a scratch or a dent, when they are delivered to dealers. This same organisation believes that 7% have a functional defect—something that doesn't work properly— and that 2% of new cars have both kinds of problems.

- (a) If you buy a new car, what's the probability that it has some kind of defect?
- (b) What's the probability it has a cosmetic effect but no functional defect?
- (c) If you notice a dent on a new car, what's the probability it has a functional defect?
- (d) Are the two events mutually exclusive? Explain.
- (e) Do you think the two kinds of defects are independent events? Explain.

4.6 The events A and B are such that $P(A) = 0.7$, $P(B) = 0.5$ and $P(A \cap B) = 0.3$.

- (a) Find $P(A \cup B)$
- (b) Find $P(A | B)$
- (c) State whether A and B are independent events, justify your answer.

[2010 Sample Paper Higher Level]

- 4.7 A bag contains 4 red sweets and 5 blue sweets. Two sweets are taken out of the bag at random. Draw a probability tree diagram, when:
- the sweets are taken with replacement.
 - the sweets are taken without replacement.
- [N.B. Be sure to use the correct notation and figures on the branches of your tree]
- 4.8 Susan goes to work by one of two routes A or B. The probability of going by route A is 30%. If she goes by route A the probability of being late for school is 5% and if she goes by route B, the probability of being late is 10%. Draw a probability tree diagram, and then
- Find the probability that Susan is late for school
 - Given that Susan is late for school, find the probability that she went via route A.
- 4.9 Assume there is a test for cancer that is 98% accurate i.e. if someone has cancer, the test will be positive 98% of the time and if someone doesn't have cancer the test will be negative 98% of the time. Assume further that 0.5% (or 1 in 200 people) actually have cancer. Imagine someone has taken the test and the doctor informs them that they have cancer.
- What's the probability that a person tests positive for cancer?
 - What's the probability that a person has cancer, given that they tested positive?
- 4.10 Expected Value
- A roulette wheel has 38 numbers, 18 are black, 18 are red and 2 are green.
- If you bet €1 on a number and you are right you win €35 and you get your €1 back. If you are wrong you lose your €1. What is your outcome. Is this a fair game?
 - If you bet €1 on a black number and you are right you win €35 and you get your €1 back. If you are wrong you lose your €1. What is your outcome. Is this a fair game?