

The Right Angle

Evaluation Branch

Mathematics 30 Diploma Examination Program

The following items are new for the 1996–97 school year:

1. There was an extra administration of the Mathematics 30 Diploma examination on November 8, 1996. Times, locations and so on, are published in the 1996–97 General Diploma Information Bulletin.
2. A Guide for students was published this fall in all the mathematics and science diploma examination subject areas.
3. The examination design for Mathematics 30 has changed for the 1996–97 school year in that the numerical-response questions are dispersed throughout the multiple-choice questions, placed according to content topic.

Please note that the Policy: Use of Scientific Calculators on Alberta Education Diploma Examinations is the same for all mathematics and science diploma examinations, and has not changed from the 1995–96 policy. A copy of this policy is found in the 1996–97 General Diploma Information Bulletin. It was inadvertently omitted from the Mathematics 30 and Physics 30 diploma bulletins during an electronic transfer printing problem.

Achievement Assessment Program

Information Bulletins reporting the results of the Grades 3, 6 and 9 June 1996 Achievement Assessments and providing information regarding the June 1997 assessments were sent to schools in November.

Development of the Achievement Tests will occur as they have for the last two years. Approximately two-thirds of the previous year's items are reused on the test and the rest are new.

In response to the changes in curriculum, the Grades 3 and 6 Achievement Tests will be blueprinted to the interim program of studies and will test outcomes that are common to the interim and protocol mathematics programs of studies.

The Grade 9 Achievement Test will be blueprinted to the general outcomes of the Protocol Program of Studies, June 1996. To assure fairness of the Grade 9 Achievement Test, extensive reviews and validations of the curriculum standards are being conducted.

Alberta Distance Learning Centre

Grade 7 Student Mathematics Package

A student package for Grade 7 Mathematics that matches the common curriculum (product number 311069) has been completed. The package includes seven modules and assignment booklets. There is a separate Learning Facilitator's Manual (product number 311035). Both may be ordered from the Learning Resources Distributing Centre (LRDC).

The materials for Mathematics 8 and Mathematics 9 are currently being developed and will be available for the 1997–98 school year.

Math 10 Beta CAI Program

The Math 10 Beta Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) program is available for beta testing.

CAI mathematics programs are Computer Assisted courseware that provide self-paced interactive lessons containing instruction, examples, questions and self-administered tests. This courseware can be used on stand-alone or networked Macintosh microcomputers. The CAI programs address all student outcomes of the Alberta Mathematics Program of Studies. Some additional student outcomes are covered.

Beta software is prereleased software. Our CAI products go through three major releases: alpha, beta and final (production) version. The alpha release is internal developmental software. The beta release (or prerelease) is provided to selected sites for testing of the software. The production version is released after corrections and other enhancements have been made to the beta version.

If you are interested in becoming a Math 10 beta tester contact the Instructional Technology and Media Unit, Alberta Distance Learning Centre, Box 4000, Barrhead T7N 1P4.

Question Banks

Alberta Education provides question banks for many junior high and secondary school subjects for use with LXR TEST software. LXR TEST is a question storage and retrieval system available for both Macintosh and Windows. Using our question banks and LXR TEST, production of randomly generated or completely customized tests is both quick and easy. Teachers appreciate the full solutions included in our questions banks. The Scoring Edition of LXR TEST includes scoring and analyzing features.

Current question banks contain over 40,000 items. The following is a list of Mathematics Banks available including the approximate number of questions in each bank: Math 10 (2,616), Math 13 (1,735), Math 20 (1,786), Math 20–French (832), Math 23 (880), Math 30 (1,755), Math 31 (1,127) and Math 33 (1,198).

The Alberta Distance Learning Centre Question Bank CD-ROM is available from LRDC, 12360 142 Street NW, Edmonton T5L 4X9; phone 427-2767, fax 422-9750. The Buyer's Guide Number is 324153 (Macintosh) or 324161 (Windows). The cost to educators or individuals in Alberta and NWT is \$35 plus GST.

Curriculum Standards Branch

An excellent publication that teachers should use with parents entitled "Working Together in

Mathematics Education" is now available. The booklet provides an overview of the new mathematics curriculum and shows some of the knowledge, skills and attitudes students are expected to learn. It presents some ways parents and others can support student learning in mathematics. For more information, contact Dennis Belyk, acting assistant director, Math/Science Unit, Curriculum Standards Branch, Alberta Education, Devonian Building, West Tower, 11160 Jasper Avenue NW, Edmonton T5K 0L2; phone 422-3216 or fax 422-3745.

This, and other curriculum handbooks for parents, may be purchased at cost from the LRDC in packages of 20 for \$15. It may be viewed at and downloaded from the Alberta Education Web site, (Parents section) at <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca>.

Kay Melville

There is something very interesting about the numbers 12 and 60. Their product is 10 times as big as their sum: $12 \times 60 = 720$; $12 + 60 = 72$. Are there other natural number pairs for which this is true?
