



Math Olympiad and Problem Solving Programs
E120 - Honors Algebra Problem Solving
Problem Set 15.2 - Inequalities

Name:

Date:

1. (a) $x < 9$
 - (b) $x \leq 9$
 - (c) $x \geq -19$
 - (d) $x > 0$
2. (a) $x < \frac{17}{4}$
 - (b) $x \geq -\frac{1}{3}$
 - (c) $x > \frac{19}{12}$
 - (d) $x < -\frac{15}{22}$
3. (a) There are two ways of solving this:

First Method:

$$4 - \frac{1}{4} \leq 5x$$
$$\frac{15}{4} \leq 5x$$

$$\boxed{\frac{3}{4} \leq x \text{ -OR- } x \geq \frac{3}{4}}$$

Second Method:

$$-5x \leq \frac{1}{4} - 4$$
$$-5x \leq -\frac{15}{4}$$

$$\boxed{x \geq \frac{3}{4}}$$

Notice that, in the Second Method, when we divided by -5 we switched the inequality from \leq to \geq . This is because any time you multiply or divide by a negative number, you must switch the inequality.

- (b) $x \leq -\frac{17}{9}$
- (c) $x \leq -\frac{18}{5}$
- (d) $x > -\frac{3}{4}$

4. (a) $x \geq 16$

(b) Again there are two ways of solving this inequality:

First Method:

$$-x + \frac{5}{2} \geq \frac{x}{3} + 1$$

$$\frac{5}{2} - 1 \geq \frac{x}{3} + x$$

$$\frac{3}{2} \geq \frac{4x}{3}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \geq x$$

$$\boxed{\frac{9}{8} \geq x \text{ -OR- } x \leq \frac{9}{8}}$$

Second Method:

$$6 \left[-\frac{1}{2}(2x - 5) \right] \geq 6 \left[\frac{1}{3}(x + 3) \right]$$

$$-3(2x - 5) \geq 2(x + 3)$$

$$-6x + 15 \geq 2x + 6$$

$$9 \geq 8x$$

$$\boxed{\frac{9}{8} \geq x \text{ -OR- } x \leq \frac{9}{8}}$$

If you dislike fractions, just multiply both sides by the common denominator.

(c) This problem may have been graded incorrectly.

$$x - \frac{3}{4} < \frac{7x}{2} + 21$$

$$4 \left(x - \frac{3}{4} \right) < 4 \left(\frac{7x}{2} + 21 \right)$$

$$4x - 3 < 14x + 84$$

$$-10x < 87$$

$$\boxed{x < -\frac{87}{10}}$$

(d)

$$\begin{aligned}
 6 \left[\frac{3}{2}(4x - 7) \right] &\leq 6 \left[\frac{2}{3}(2x + 5) \right] \\
 9(4x - 7) &\leq 4(2x + 5) \\
 36x - 63 &\leq 8x + 20 \\
 28x &\leq 83 \\
 x &\leq \frac{83}{28}
 \end{aligned}$$

5. We first solve the inequality for x :

$$\begin{aligned}
 -3x &\leq -22 \\
 x &\geq \frac{22}{3} = 7\frac{1}{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

The least integer value of x would be $\boxed{8}$.

6. $\boxed{73}$

7. $\boxed{(x, y) = (7, 56), (14, 49), (21, 42), (28, 35)}$

8. $\boxed{(x, y) = (30, 3), (27, 9), (24, 15), (21, 21)}$

9. (a) To find the greatest value of $y^2 - x^2$, we want the largest value for y^2 and the smallest value for x^2 . This happens when $(x, y) = (1, 7)$; we get $7^2 - 1^2 = 49 - 1 = \boxed{48}$.

(b) To find the smallest value of $y^2 - x^2$, we want the smallest value for y^2 and the largest value for x^2 . This happens when $(x, y) = (3, 2)$; we get $2^2 - 3^2 = 4 - 9 = \boxed{-5}$

10. (a) To find the greatest value of $xy - \frac{1}{y}$, xy must be positive since $|xy| > \left| \frac{1}{y} \right|$. Since $y < 0$, x must be < 0 in order for xy to be positive. $\frac{1}{y}$ is so miniscule that we want the largest $|y|$. This happens when $(x, y) = (-5, -8)$; we get $(-5)(-8) - \frac{1}{-8} = 40 + \frac{1}{8} = \boxed{\frac{321}{8} = 40\frac{1}{8}}$.

(b) To find the smallest value of $xy - \frac{1}{y}$, again $\frac{1}{y}$ is miniscule enough that we want the largest negative value for xy . This happens when $(x, y) = (9, -8)$; we get $(9)(-8) - \frac{1}{-8} = -72 + \frac{1}{8} = \boxed{-\frac{575}{8} = -71\frac{7}{8}}$