

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. (a)   
 (b)   
 (c)   
 (d)

2. (a)   
 (b)   
 (c)   
 (d)

3. (a)   
 (b)   
 (c)   
 (d)   
 (e)   
 (f)   
 (g)

(h) The sequence is clearly not arithmetic. For it to be geometric it needs to have a common ratio. Let  $r$  be the common ratio. Then  $r = \sqrt[3]{5} \div \sqrt{5} = 5^{\frac{1}{3}} \div 5^{\frac{1}{2}} = 5^{-\frac{1}{6}}$ . But  $r = \sqrt[9]{5} \div \sqrt[6]{5} = 5^{\frac{1}{9}} \div 5^{\frac{1}{6}} = 5^{-\frac{1}{18}} \neq 5^{-\frac{1}{6}}$ . This means we don't have a common ratio nor a geometric sequence.

4. If we let the first term be  $a_1$ , then  $a_4 = 200 = a_1(r)^{4-1} = a_1(r^3)$  and  $a_8 = 800 = a_1(r)^{8-1} = a_1(r^7)$ . Now we have a system of equations that we can solve for  $a_1, r$ :

$$\begin{cases} 200 &= a_1(r^3) \\ 800 &= a_1(r^7) \end{cases}$$

Solving gives us  $a_1 = 50\sqrt{2}, r = \sqrt{2}$ . Then  $a_6 = 50\sqrt{2}(\sqrt{2})^5 = \boxed{400}$ .

Alternatively we could have gotten the solution by noticing that since 6 is the arithmetic mean of 4 and 8,  $a_6$  is the geometric mean of  $a_4$  and  $a_8$ .



Math Olympiad and Problem Solving Programs  
E120 - Honors Algebra Problem Solving  
Problem Set 28.1 - Geometric Sequence

Name:

Date:

---

5. If we let the first term be  $a_1$ , then  $a_2 = -2 = a_1(r)^{2-1} = a_1(r)$  and  $a_5 = 16 = a_1(r)^{5-1} = a_1(r^4)$ . Now we have a system of equations that we can solve for  $a_1, r$ :

$$\begin{cases} -2 & = a_1(r) \\ 16 & = a_1(r^4) \end{cases}$$

Solving gives us  $a_1 = 1, r = -2$ . Then  $a_{14} = 1(-2)^{13} = \boxed{-8192}$ .