



Math Olympiad and Problem Solving Programs
E220 - Intermediate Math Competitions
Problem Set 19.1 - Arithmetic Sequence and Series

Name:

Date:

1. $a_{101} = 815$

2. $d = 2, a_1 = 7$

3. (a) $a_1 = 5, d = 3$ (b) $5, 8, 11, 14, 17$ (c) 62 (d) a_{100}

4. We are given $a_1 = \$5100$, $d = \$75$, and $a_n = \$7200$. Now we must solve for n . We know the arithmetic sequence formula is $a_n = a_1 + (n - 1)d$, so substituting gives us $7200 = 5100 + (n - 1)75$. Solve:

$$7200 = 5100 + (n - 1)75$$

$$2100 = (n - 1)75$$

$$28 = n - 1$$

$$n = 29$$

5. 288

6. For the sequence of odd numbers, $a_1 = 1$ and $d = 2$. The sum formula for an arithmetic series is $\frac{n}{2}(2a_1 + (n - 1)d)$. We want the sum to be equal to or greater than 1,000,000. So we set up the following equation and solve for n :

$$\frac{n}{2}(2a_1 + (n - 1)d) \geq 1,000,000$$

$$\frac{n}{2}(2 \cdot 1 + (n - 1)2) \geq 1,000,000$$

$$\frac{n}{2}(2 + 2n - 2) \geq 1,000,000$$

$$\frac{n}{2}(2n) \geq 1,000,000$$

$$n^2 \geq 1,000,000$$

$$n \geq 1,000$$

So we must add at least 1000 odd numbers until the total reaches one million.

7. $\frac{155}{3}, \frac{118}{3}$ or $51\frac{2}{3}, 39\frac{1}{3}$

8. Here $n = 10,000$, $a_1 = 246$, and $d = 261 - 246 = 15$. So we use the sum formula: $\frac{n}{2}(2a_1 + (n - 1)d) = \frac{10,000}{2}(2 \cdot 246 + 9,999 \cdot 15) = 5,000(492 + 149,985) = 752,385,000$

9. The first term of this sequence is $a_1 = 6$, $d = 3$, and the last term of the sequence is $a_n = 261$. Find out what term n is by solving the arithmetic sequence equation: $a_n = 261 = a_1 + (n - 1)d = 6 + (n - 1)3 \Rightarrow 255 = 3(n - 1) \Rightarrow 85 = n - 1 \Rightarrow n = 86$. Use the sum formula: $\frac{n}{2}(a_1 + a_n) = \frac{86}{2}(3 + 261) = 11,352$

10. $10,100$