

# PCAT<sup>Q&As</sup>

Pharmacy College Admission Test

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#### **QUESTION 1**

Which of the following alcohols is the most easily dehydrated?
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- A. (CH3)3C-OH
- B. (CH3)2CH-OH
- C. CH3CH2-OH
- D. CH3-OH

Correct Answer: A

Classify the alcohols as primary, secondary, or tertiary: (CH3)3C-OH is tertiary because the -OH group is directly attached to 3 alkyl groups; (CH3)2CH-OH is secondary because the carbon attached to the -OH is connected to 2 carbon atoms; CH3CH2-OH is primary because the carbon connected to the -OH group is connected to 1 carbon atom; and although CH3-OH lacks an attached alkyl group, it is considered primary. As tertiary alcohols form the most stable carbocations.

#### **QUESTION 2**

Mary\\'s karate class has 7 students with white belts and 21 students with green belts. What is the ratio of students with white belts to all the students in the class?

- A. 7 to 21
- B. 4 to 1
- C. 1 to 3
- D. 1 to 4

Correct Answer: D

7/28 = 1/4.

#### **QUESTION 3**

How many solutions does the equation have?

 $\sqrt{2 + x} \quad x = 0$ 

- A. 3
- B. 2
- C. 1
- D. 0

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Correct Answer: C

A solution to an equation is a value that when plugged in yields a true statement. Begin by isolating the square root and squaring both sides to eliminate it:

$$\sqrt{2+x} = x \implies 2+x=x^2$$

Move all of the terms to one side and factor to solve for x:

$$x2 ? x ? 2 = 0 - andgt; (x + 1) (x ? 2) = 0 - andgt; x = ?1, x = 2$$

Check for extraneous solutions by plugging both solutions into the original equation:

$$\sqrt{2+(-1)}-(-1)=0$$

-andgt; 2?0, so x = ?1 is extraneous. -andgt; 0 = 0, so x = 2 is a solution. The equation has only 1 solution.

#### **QUESTION 4**

Which of the following is the greatest?

A. 162

B. 44

C. 83

D. 26

Correct Answer: C

In this question, we are asked to determine the answer choice with the greatest value. It is important to notice that all the answer choices are powers of 2: 2, 4, 8, 16, and 32. Therefore, all of the answer choices need to be expressed powers of 2. To start, let\\'s leave choice [26] alone because it already has 2 as its base term. Choice [44] is the same as (22)4 or 28. It is important to note that when you take an exponent to a power, the exponent and the power term are multiplied. Choice [83] is (23)3 = 29. Choice [162] equals (24)2 or 28. Now you can see that choice [83] is correct because it has the greatest exponent.

#### **QUESTION 5**

On a bad day, have you ever been irritable? Have you ever used a harsh tone or even been verbally disrespectful to your parents or teachers? Everyone has a short temper from time to time, but current statistics indicate that between 16% and 20% of a school population suffer from a psychological condition known as Oppositional Defiance Disorder, or ODD.

ODD symptoms include difficulty complying with adult requests, excessive arguments with adults, temper tantrums, difficulty accepting responsibility for actions, low frustration tolerance, and behaviors intended to annoy or upset adults. Parents of children with ODD can often feel as though their whole relationship is based on conflict after conflict.

Unfortunately, ODD can be caused by a number of factors. Some students affected by ODD suffer abuse, neglect, and severe or unpredictable discipline at home. Others have parents with mood disorders or have experienced family violence. Various types of therapy are helpful in treating ODD, and some drugs can treat particular symptoms. However, no single cure exists.



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The best advice from professionals is directed toward parents. Therapists encourage parents to avoid situations that usually end in power struggles, to try not to feed into oppositional behavior by reacting emotionally, to praise positive behaviors, and to discourage negative behaviors with timeouts instead of harsh discipline.

Which of the following best describes the main idea of this passage?

- A. Parents with ODD should seek support.
- B. ODD is a complex condition.
- C. ODD has no cause.
- D. Parents are the cause of ODD.

Correct Answer: B

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