PMA Mathematics Reviewer
Answer Key

Set 2:
Algebra

1) Answer: $D$

Explanation: Solving for $x$ in the given equation:
$3(x-1)+2 x=5+4 x$
$3 x-3+2 x=5+4 x$
$3 x+2 x-4 x=5+3$
Distributive property
Transposition method
$x=8$

Thus, the value of $x$ is 8 .

## 2) Answer: A

Explanation: We can translate the given statement in the problem into an algebraic expression using the keywords. In the statement "The price of a pencil $p$ is equal to $1 / 5$ of the square of the price of an eraser e," the keywords are "equal," "of," and "square." Thus, we are expecting that the translation will have the following mathematical operations or symbols.: =, x or parenthesis (for multiplication), and an exponent.

Note that $1 / 5$ of the square of $e$ can be expressed as $\frac{1}{5} e^{2}$.

Thus, the final answer is $p=\frac{1}{5} e^{2}$

## 3) Answer: B

Explanation: Our first goal is to "remove" the denominators of the inequality $3 x-\frac{1}{2}<\frac{1}{4}$
. We do this by multiplying both sides of the inequality by the least common denominator (which is 4 ):
$4\left(3 x-\frac{1}{2}\right)<4\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$

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By distributive property:
$12 x-2<1$

Applying the transposition method:
$12 x<2+1$
$12 x<3$

Dividing both sides of the inequality by 12
$12 x / 12<3 / 12$
$x<3 / 12$ or $1 / 4$

Thus, the solution set of the inequality is $x<1 / 4$. This means that all numbers less than $1 / 4$ are a solution for the given inequality. Among the given options, only $1 / 5$ is lesser than $1 / 4$. So, the answer to this question is $1 / 5$.

## 4) Answer: D

Explanation: Since we are multiplying binomials, we can apply the FOIL method:
$(3 x-2 y)(5 x+4 y)$

First terms: $3 x(5 x)=15 x^{2}$
Outer terms: $3 x(4 y)=12 x y$
Inner terms: $(-2 y)(5 x)=-10 x y$
Last terms: $(-2 y)(4 y)=-8 y^{2}$

Combining the products above:
$15 x^{2}+12 x y-10 x y-8 y^{2}$

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Combining like terms:
$15 x^{2}+2 x y-8 y^{2}$
Therefore, the product of $(3 x-2 y)(5 x+4 y)$ is $15 x^{2}+2 x y-8 y^{2}$
5) Answer: D

Explanation: Recall that the sum of the roots of a quadratic equation is defined by the formula -b/a while the product of the roots is defined by c/a. Note that $a, b$, and $c$ are the numerical coefficients of the terms of the quadratic equation.

Recall that the standard form of a quadratic equation is given by $a x^{2}+b x+c=0$. If we divide both sides of the equation by a:
$\frac{a x^{2}+b x+c}{a}=\frac{0}{a}$
$\frac{a x^{2}}{a}+\frac{b x}{a}+\frac{c}{a}=\frac{0}{a}$
$x^{2}+\frac{b}{a} x+\frac{c}{a}=0$

Notice that we have expressed the standard form of the quadratic equation using b/a and c/a as coefficients. Note that $-\mathrm{b} / \mathrm{a}$ and $\mathrm{c} / \mathrm{a}$ are the sum and product of the roots of a quadratic equation respectively. Hence, we can rewrite what we have derived above as follows:
$x^{2}-($ sum of the roots $) x+($ product of the roots $)=0$
The problem stated that the sum of the roots is $1 / 4$ and the product of the roots is $3 / 4$. Injecting these values to the formula we have derived above:

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$x^{2}-\frac{1}{4} x+\frac{3}{4}=0$

Now, let us "remove" the denominators by multiplying both sides of the equation by 4:
$4\left(x^{2}-\frac{1}{4} x+\frac{3}{4}\right)=4(0)$
$4 x^{2}-x+3=0$

Thus, the quadratic equation is $4 x^{2}-x+3=0$.

## 6) Answer: B

Explanation: We can solve this quadratic equation by factoring:
$6 x^{2}+7 x=5$
$6 x^{2}+7 x-5=0 \quad$ Transposition method
$(2 x-1)(3 x+5)=0$
$2 x-1=0 \quad 3 x+5=0$
$2 x-1=0 \quad 3 x+5=0$
$2 x=1 \quad 3 x=-5$
$2 x / 2=1 / 2 \quad 3 x / 3=-5 / 3$
$x=1 / 2 \quad x=-5 / 3$

Factoring

Transposition method
Division property of equality

Therefore, the roots are $1 / 2$ and $-5 / 3$.
7) Answer: B

Explanation: Let $x$ and $y$ be the numbers such that $x$ is the larger number and $y$ is the smaller number. The sum of these numbers is 89 . Mathematically, we can express it as $x+y=89$. Meanwhile, the difference between these numbers is 19 . In symbols, $x-y=19$.

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We have two linear equations in two variables in this case. To solve for $x$ and $y$, we need to solve for both of these equations simultaneously. The easiest way to solve this is by using the elimination method:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& x+/ y=89 \\
& x-y=19 \\
& 2 x=108
\end{aligned}
$$

Using the elimination method, we can eliminate $y$ so that we only have $x$ as the variable in the equation. Now, let us solve for $x$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
2 x & =108 \\
2 x / 2 & =108 / 2 \\
x & =54
\end{aligned}
$$

This means that $x$ or the larger number is 54 . To determine the smaller number, we just subtract 54 from 89: 89-54 = 35 .

Thus, the smaller number is 35 .

## 8) Answer: B

Explanation: To solve for $b$, we need to input the given value of a first in $3 a b-2 a^{2} b-5=0$ :
$3 a b-2 a^{2} b-5=0$
$3(-1) \mathrm{b}-2(-1)^{2} \mathrm{~b}-5=0 \quad$ Substitute $\mathrm{a}=-1$
$-3 b-2 b-5=0$

Looking at the resulting equation above, the only remaining variable is $b$. This means that we only have a linear equation to solve.
$-3 b-2 b-5=0$
$-5 b-5=0$
Combining like terms

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$-5 \mathrm{~b}=5$
$-5 b /-5=5 /-5$
b $=-1$

Transposition method
Dividing both sides by -5

Upon our calculation above, the value of $b$ is -1 .

## 9) Answer: C

Explanation: We can apply the properties of the logarithm to write the given expression as a single logarithm.

The given is $\log _{a} x+2 \log _{a} y+\log _{a} z$. Let us start with $2 \log _{a} y$; applying the power rule of the logarithm, we have $\log _{a} y^{2}$. Thus, the expression becomes $\log _{a} x+\log _{a} y^{2}+\log _{a} z$. By the product rule of logarithms, we have $\log _{a} x+\log _{a} y^{2}+\log _{a} z=\log _{a} x y^{2} z$
10) Suppose that $m$ and $n$ are the roots of the quadratic equation $x^{2}-9 x+1=0$. What is the value of $\frac{n}{2}\left(m^{2}+m n\right)$ ?
(a) 10.25
(b) 8.5
(c) 6.25
(d) 4.5
10) Answer: D

Explanation: The given function is a quadratic function whose domain is always the set of all real numbers given that the numerical coefficients are all real numbers and the quadratic term is nonzero.

