

**Practice Test**  
**Sequences and Series**

Determine if the following sequences are arithmetic, geometric, or neither. If the sequence is arithmetic, find  $d$ . If the sequence is geometric, find  $r$ .

1.  $-1, 3, 7, 11, \dots$

2.  $1, 4, 9, 16, \dots$

3.  $a_n = 7 - n$

4.  $5, -10, 20, -40, \dots$

5.  $a_n = 4n^3 - 2$

6.  $a_n = 7 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$

Both of the sequences described below are arithmetic. For each one, find a formula for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term. Then use your formula to calculate the 30<sup>th</sup> term.

7.  $a_2 = 0 \quad d = -2$

8.  $a_3 = 8 \quad a_7 = 32$

Both of the sequences described below are geometric. For each one, find a formula for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term. Then use your formula to calculate the 7<sup>th</sup> term.

9.  $a_1 = 6 \quad r = 1.5$

10.  $a_3 = 24 \quad a_4 = 48$

11. Describe why the formula  $S_n = \frac{n(a_1 + a_n)}{2}$  will not produce the correct answer for the sum  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (2k^2 + 1)$ .

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Calculate the following and use them for questions 15–22 when necessary.

12.  $\sum_{k=1}^{12} 1$

13.  $\sum_{k=1}^{12} k$

14.  $\sum_{k=1}^{12} k^2$

Calculate the following.

15.  $\sum_{k=1}^{10} 2 \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^k$

16.  $\sum_{k=-28}^{-1} (3k + 7)$

17.  $\sum_{k=3}^{\infty} 8 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k$

18.  $\sum_{k=1}^{12} (2k^2 - 13k)$

19.  $\sum_{k=2}^{40} \left(\frac{k}{2} - 5\right)$

20.  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{3} k$

21.  $\sum_{k=7}^8 (-1)^k k$

22.  $\sum_{k=1}^{12} (k - 9)(k + 1)$

23. If the sum  $\sum_{k=0}^{21} k^4$  is equal to 917,147, what must  $\sum_{k=-21}^{21} k^4$  be equal to? Explain.

24. How many terms are listed in the following sequence?

5, 8, 11, 14, ..., 74

Rewrite each of the following sums using sigma notation.

25.  $10 + 16 + 22 + 28 + 34$

26.  $3 - 6 + 12 - 24 + 48 - 96$

27.  $2 + 5 + 10 + 17 + 26 + 37 + 50$

28.  $3 + \frac{3}{2} + 1 + \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{2}$

Extra credit thoughts:

If  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$  is an arithmetic sequences, you already know the formula for the partial sums  $S_n$  and  $S_k$ .

Can you use these two formulas to produce one for  $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i$ ?

Could an infinite arithmetic series (besides the trivial series  $0 + 0 + 0 + \dots$ ) ever equal anything other than  $\infty$  or  $-\infty$ ? Why or why not?

What must be true about  $i$  if  $\sum_{k=-n}^n k^i = 0$  for any value of  $n$ ?