

Multiple Choice Questions of Probability Theory

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Q: A number is selected at random from first 90 natural numbers.
The probability of the number selected being a multiple of 3 or 5 is:-

A: Let A be the event that the selected number is multiple of 3 and B be the event that the selected number is multiple of 5. $n(A)=30$, $n(B)=18$.

$n(A \cap B) = 6$, \because the selected number will be the multiple of 3 and 5.

\therefore The required probability is $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$

$$P(A \cup B) = \frac{30}{90} + \frac{18}{90} - \frac{6}{90} = \frac{42}{90} = \frac{7}{15}$$

Q : If $P(A \cap B) = 0.4$, $P(\text{neither } A \text{ nor } B \text{ occurs}) = 0.25$ and $P(A) = P(B)$, then $P(A^c) = ?$

$\because P(A \cap B) = 0.4$, $P(A^c \cap B^c) = 0.25$ and $P(A) = P(B)$,

$\therefore P(A \cup B)^c = 0.25$

or, $P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) = 1 - 0.25$

or, $2P(A) - 0.4 = 0.75$

or, $P(A) = \frac{1.15}{2} = 0.575$

$\therefore P(A^c) = 1 - 0.575 = 0.425$

Q : If A and B are two independent events such that $P(A \cup B) = 0.8$, $P(B) = k$, $P(A^c) = 0.6$, then k is : – ?

$$P(A \cup B) = 0.8$$

$$\text{or, } P(A) + P(B) - P(A).P(B) = 0.8$$

$$\text{or, } 0.4 + k - 0.4k = 0.8$$

$$\text{or, } (1 - 0.4)k = 0.4$$

$$\text{or, } k = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$P(A \cap B) = P(A).P(B) \quad \because A \text{ and } B \text{ are independent}$
 $\text{and } P(A) = 1 - P(A^c) = 1 - 0.6 = 0.4$

Q : For two events A and B, $P(B) = \frac{1}{3}$, $P(B / A) = \frac{2}{3}$, $P(A / B) = \frac{1}{2}$, then

P(A) is : – ?

$$P(A / B) = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{or, } P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot P(B) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\text{Now, } P(B / A) = \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{or, } P(A \cap B) = \frac{2}{3} \cdot P(A)$$

$$\therefore P(A) = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{3}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Q: The probability to fail in Mathematics is 0.3 and the probability to fail in Statistics is 0.2, then the probability to fail in at least one subject is:-

A: Let A be the event of failing in Mathematics and B be the event of failing in Statistics.

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore P(A \cup B) &= P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) \\ &= 0.3 + 0.2 - 0.3 * 0.2 = 0.5 - 0.06 = 0.44\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore A$ and B are two independent events So, $P(A \cap B) = P(A).P(B)$

Q: Two unbiased dice are thrown together. The probability that at least one will show its digit greater than 3 is:-

A: Let A be the event that more than 3 appears on the 1st die and B be the event that more than 3 appears on the 2nd die. A and B are independent.

$$\text{So, } P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\therefore P(A) = P(B) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$\therefore A$ and B are two independent events

$$\text{So, } P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$$

Q: The probabilities of happening of three independent events are p_1 , p_2 and p_3 , then probability of happening of at least one of them is:-

Ans : The required probability is $= 1 - (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2)(1 - p_3)$

Q : If A and B are two events such that $P(A \cup B) = \frac{3}{5}$, $P(A \cup B^c) = \frac{4}{5}$, then $P(A)$ is : - ?

Ans : $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) = \frac{3}{5}$

$$P(A \cup B^c) = P(A) + P(B^c) - P(A \cap B^c) = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\text{or, } P(A) + 1 - P(B) - P(A) + P(A \cap B) = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\text{or, } 1 - [P(B) - P(A \cap B)] = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\text{or, } 1 - \frac{3}{5} + P(A) = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\text{or, } P(A) = \frac{4}{5} + \frac{3}{5} - 1 = \frac{7}{5} - 1 = \frac{2}{5}$$

Q : If $P(A) = 0.36$, $P(B) = 0.84$, then the least value of $P(A \cap B)$ is : – ?

Ans : We know that $P(A \cap B) \geq P(A) + P(B) - 1$

$$\therefore P(A \cap B) \geq 0.36 + 0.84 - 1 = 0.2$$

So, least value of $P(A \cap B)$ is 0.2

Q : If $P(A) = \frac{1}{3}$, $P(B) = \frac{1}{4}$, then maximum value of $P(A \cup B)$ is : – ?

Ans : We know that $P(A \cup B) \leq \min\{P(A) + P(B), 1\}$

$$\therefore P(A \cup B) \leq \min\left\{\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}, 1\right\}$$

$$\text{So, max. value of } P(A \cup B) = \frac{7}{12}$$

Thank you.....