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High Level Number Series

For IBPS Clerk Mains

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Number Series Practice Set

DIRECTIONS for questions 1-10: In each of the following number series given, one particular number is wrong. Find out that wrong number in each series.

1. 2 3 10 38 172

1. 192

2. 10

3. 38

4. 2

5. 3

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 3
Explanation: Logic is 2×1 + 1 = 3, 3 × 2 + 4 =10, 10 × 3 + 9 = 39, 39 × 4 + 16 = 172…. So in place of 38, it should be 39.

2. 8 19 52 151 447

1. 19

2. 8

3. 52

4. 447

5. 151

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 4
Explanation: The logic is 8 × 3 – 5 = 19, 19 × 3 – 5 = 52, 52 × 3 – 5 = 151. So in place of 447, it should be 448.

3. 4 2 3 7.5 26.75

1. 26.75

2. 7.5

3. 3

4. 2

5. 4

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1
Explanation: Logic is 4 × .5 = 2, 2 × 1.5 = 3, 3 × 2.5 = 7.5, 7.5 × 3.5 = 26.25 In place of 26.75, it should be 26.25.

4. 2 3 10 40 172 885 5346

1. 3

2. 885

3. 40

4. 172

5. 10

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 3
Explanation: Logic is 2 × 1 + 1 = 3, 3 × 2 + 4 = 10, 10 × 3 + 9 = 39. Thus the wrong number is 40,it should be 39.

5. 15 18 20 29 45 70 106

1.18

2.20

3.29

4.45

5.70

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1
Explanation: Starting from the back
106– 70 = 36, 70- 45 = 25, 45 – 29 = 16, 29 – 20 = 9, 20 – 16 = 4, 16 – 15 = 1. Every difference is perfect square starting from 36 and decreasing. Thus the wrong number is 18, it should be 16.

6. 11 14 20 29 40 56

1. 40

2. 4

3. 10

4. 19

5. 1

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1
Explanation: Logic is that first difference is 3, next difference is 6, 9, so next should be 12 & 15. So instead of 40 the term should be 41

7. 49 50 46 55 38 64 28

1. 49
2. 46
3. 55
4. 38
5. 64

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 4
Explanation: Logic is 49 + 1 = 50, 50 – 4 = 46, 46 + 9 = 55, 55 – 16 = 39, 39 + 25 = 64. Thus the wrong number is 38, it should be 39.

8. 6 15 41 179 839

1. 15
2. 6
3. 179
4. 41
5. 839

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 3
Explanation: Logic is 6 × 2 + 3 = 15, 15 × 3 – 4 = 41, 41 × 4 + 5 = 169, 169 × 5 – 6 = 839
Thus the wrong number is 179, it should be 169.

9. 4 6 12 30 90 312.50 1260

1. 6

2. 90

3. 30

4. 12

5. 312.50

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 5
Explanation: Logic is 4 × 1.5 = 6, 6 × 2 = 12, 12 × 2.5 = 30, 30 × 3 = 90, 90 × 3.5 = 315, 315 × 4 = 1260. Thus the wrong number is 312.50, it should be 315.

10.35 19 11 7 5 4.5 3.5

1. 4.5

2. 5

3. 11

4. 19

5. 7

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1
Explanation: 35-19 = 16, 19-11 = 8, 11-7 = 4, 7-5 = 2, 5-4 = 1, 4-3.5 = .5 The difference is halved every time. Thus the wrong number is 4.5, it should be 4.

SET 2

1. 3 2 2 5 5 5 7 8 8 9 11 11 ?

1. 12

2. 11

3. 9

4. 14

5. 16

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 2

Explanation: There are three parallel series going on in this question. The 1st, 4th, 7th terms are using logic of -1, 2nd, 5th and 8th terms are using logic of +1 and 3rd, 6th and 9th terms are using logic of +1 again. Answer will be 11, which belongs to 1st, 4th and 7th term.

2. 7 9 8 6 10 9 5 11 10 ? 12

1. 4

2. 11

3. 56

4. 5

5. 29

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1

Explanation:There are three parallel series going on in this question. The 1st, 4th, 7th terms are using logic of -1, 2nd, 5th and 8th terms are using logic of +1 and 3rd, 6th and 9th terms are using logic of +1 again. Answer will be 4, which belongs to 1st, 4th and 7th term.

3. 1 3 2 6 3 11 4 18 5 ?

1. 27

2. 25

3. 23

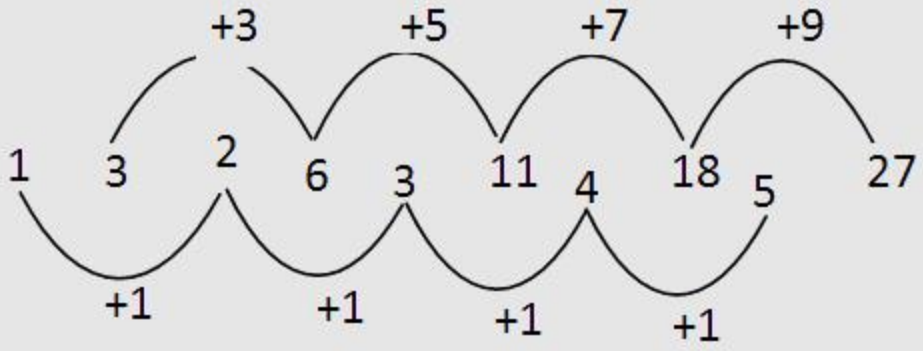
4. 29

5. 20

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1

Explanation:



4. 13 17 23 29 31 37 ??

1. 22
2. 41
3. 19
4. 23
5. 27

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 2

Explanation: The given series is a prime number series. Hence the next prime number in this sequence would be 41.

5. 17 16 14 12 11 8 8 ?

1. 4
2. 7
3. 3
4. 2

5. None of the above

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1
Explanation: There are two series:
Ist : 17 14 11 8 and 2nd: 16 12 8 ?
In first series, -3 , -3 ,-3….. and in 2nd series , -4 , -4 ,-4….
Therefore, next term will be 8 – 4 = 4.

Directions for questions 6-10: ***In each of the following number series only one number is wrong. Find out the wrong number.***

6. 3, 12, 8, 19, 13, 32, 18, 42, 23, 52

1. 12

2. 19

3. 42

4. 32

5. None of the above

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 2
Explanation: The sequence is a combination of following two series:
I. 3, 8, 13, 18, 23 and II. 12, 19, 32, 42, 52
The pattern in I has a constant difference of +5, and the pattern in II has a constant difference of +10. So, in II, 19 is wrong and should be replaced by (12+10) i.e. 22

7. 31, 2, 41, 3, 52, 4, 61, 5, 71, 6

1. 41

2. 61

3. 52

4. 31

5. 6

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 3
Explanation: The sequence is a combination of two given series:
I. 31, 41, 52, 61, 71 and II. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
So, the pattern in I is + 10
Thus, 52 is wrong and should be replaced by (41 + 10) i.e. 51.

8. 10, 5, 19, 12, 39, 26, 73, 54

1. 5

2. 19

3. 39

4. 26

5. 54

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 3
Explanation: The sequence is a combination of the following two series:
I. 10, 19, 39, 73, and II. 5, 12, 26, 54
The pattern in I becomes + 9, + 18, + 36, So 39 should be replaced by 37. So, 39 is wrong.

9. 1, 10, 9, 16, 25, 26, 49

1. 1

2. 16

3. 26

4. 9

5. 49

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 2

Explanation: The given sequence is a combination of two series:

I. 1, 9, 25, 49 and II. 10, 16, 26

The pattern in I is +8, +16, +24.

The sequence in II is $3^2 + 1$, $4^2 + 1$, $5^2 + 1$

So, 16 is wrong and must be replaced by $(4^2 + 1)$ i.e. 17.

10. 1, 125, 729, 2177

1. 2177
2. 729
3. 125
4. 1
5. 121

Answer & Explanation

Sol: Option 1

Explanation: 1, 125, 729, 2177

$1 = 1^3$, $125 = 5^3$, $729 = 9^3$. So, next number would be $13^3 = 2197$

Therefore, 2177 is wrong.



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