



Vectors – Part 1

Each of the questions included here can be solved using the TI-Nspire.

Question: 1

Let $\mathbf{a} = 3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + \hat{k}$ and $\mathbf{b} = -\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$.

The magnitude of the vector $2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}$ is

- (A) $\sqrt{165}$
- (B) $\sqrt{129}$
- (C) $\sqrt{141}$
- (D) $\sqrt{149}$
- (E) $\sqrt{61}$

Question: 2

The cosine of the angle between $\mathbf{a} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{k}$ and $\mathbf{b} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$, correct to two decimal places, is

- (A) -0.38
- (B) -0.30
- (C) 0.30
- (D) 0.38
- (E) 0.89

Question: 3

Let $\mathbf{a} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k}$ and $\mathbf{b} = 3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}$.

$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$ is equal to

- (A) $\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}$
- (B) $2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k}$
- (C) $\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$
- (D) $2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$
- (E) 13

Question: 4

The line l is described by the vector equation:
$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 11 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 12 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Which one of the following points lies on line l ?

- (A) (0,5,9)
- (B) (4,17,15)
- (C) (4,5,7)
- (D) (-4,-7,7)
- (E) (2,11,9)

Question: 5

Consider the points $P(2,-1,3)$, $Q(3,0,-2)$ and $R(2,y,z)$ where $y,z > 0$.

- (a) Use a vector method to show that $\angle POQ = 90^\circ$.
- (b) Given that \overline{OP} , \overline{OQ} and \overline{OR} are mutually perpendicular, find the values of y and z .

Question: 6

Consider the points $O(0,0,0)$, $A(1,2,1)$ and $B(4,2,-1)$. Let P be the point on \overline{OB} which is closest to A .

- (a) Find the coordinates of P .
- (b) Find the shortest distance between A and P . Give your answer correct to two decimal places.

Question: 7

Line l_1 has the vector equation $\mathbf{r}_1 = 2\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 5\hat{k} + t(\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}), t \in R$ and line l_2 has the vector equation $\mathbf{r}_1 = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 7\hat{k} + s(2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 3\hat{k}), s \in R$.

- (a) The lines l_1 and l_2 intersect at point P . Find the coordinates of P .
- (b) Find the angle between l_1 and l_2 . Give your answer correct to the nearest tenth of a degree.

Question: 8

The three planes $x - 3y - 2z = -9$, $2x - 5y + z = 3$ and $-3x + 6y + 2z = 8$ intersect at the point P .

Find the coordinates of P .

Answers

Question: 1

$$2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} = 7\hat{i} - 10\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$$

$$|2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{165}$$

Answer: A

Question: 2

$$\cos \theta = \frac{(\hat{i} - 2\hat{k}) \cdot (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k})}{|\hat{i} - 2\hat{k}| \times |2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}|} = -0.298\dots$$

Answer: B

Question: 3

Answer: C

Question: 4

$$\text{When } t = \frac{1}{2}, \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 11 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Answer: E

Question: 5

(a) $\overline{OP} \cdot \overline{OQ} = 0 \Rightarrow \overline{OP} \perp \overline{OQ}$ since \overline{OP} , \overline{OQ} are non-zero and so $\angle POQ = 90^\circ$

(b) $\overline{OP} \times \overline{OQ} = 2\hat{i} + 13\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ and so $y = 13, z = 3$ ($y, z > 0$)

Question: 6

(a) $\overline{AP} = -(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}) + t(4\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k})$

Solving $\overline{AP} \cdot \overline{OB} = 0$ for t gives $t = \frac{1}{3}$.

Q is the point $\left(\frac{4}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}\right)$.

(b) When $t = \frac{1}{3}$, $\overline{AP} = \frac{1}{3}\hat{i} - \frac{4}{3}\hat{j} - \frac{4}{3}\hat{k}$ and so $|\overline{AP}| = 1.91$.

Question: 7

(a) Solving 2 correct equations $2+t=2+2s$ and $-2-t=4+s$ for t and s gives $t=-4$ and $s=-2$.

The third equation is $5+t=7+3s$.

The coordinates of P are $(-2,2,1)$.

$$(b) \cos \theta = \frac{(\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}) \cdot (2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 3\hat{k})}{|\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}| |2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 3\hat{k}|} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{42}}$$

$$\theta = 51.9^\circ$$

Question: 8

The coordinates of P are $(2,1,4)$.