



# MATHEMATICS ADMISSIONS TEST

For candidates applying for Mathematics, Computer Science or one of their joint degrees at OXFORD UNIVERSITY and/or IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON and/or UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

November 2021

Time Allowed: 2½ hours

Please complete the following details in BLOCK CAPITALS. You must use a pen.

Surname					
Other names					
Candidate Number	M				

This paper contains 7 questions of which you should attempt 5. There are directions throughout the paper as to which questions are appropriate for your course.

**A: Oxford Applicants:** if you are applying to Oxford for the degree course:

- Mathematics or Mathematics & Philosophy or Mathematics & Statistics, you should attempt Questions **1,2,3,4,5**.
- Mathematics & Computer Science, you should attempt Questions **1,2,3,5,6**.
- Computer Science or Computer Science & Philosophy, you should attempt **1,2,5,6,7**.

**Directions under A take priority over any directions in B which are relevant to you.**

**B: Imperial or Warwick Applicants:** if you are applying to the University of Warwick for Mathematics BSc, Master of Mathematics, or if you are applying to Imperial College for any of the Mathematics courses: Mathematics, Mathematics (Pure Mathematics), Mathematics with a Year Abroad, Mathematics with Applied Mathematics/Mathematical Physics, Mathematics with Mathematical Computation, Mathematics with Statistics, Mathematics with Statistics for Finance, you should attempt Questions **1,2,3,4,5**.

Further credit cannot be obtained by attempting extra questions. **Calculators are not permitted.**

Question 1 is a multiple choice question with ten parts. Marks are given solely for correct answers but any rough working should be shown in the space between parts. Answer Question 1 on the grid on Page 2. Each part is worth 4 marks.

Answers to questions 2-7 should be written in the space provided, continuing on to the blank pages at the end of this booklet if necessary. Each of Questions 2-7 is worth 15 marks.

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USE ONLY

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7



**1. For ALL APPLICANTS.**

For each part of the question on pages 3-7 you will be given **five** possible answers, just one of which is correct. Indicate for each part **A-J** which answer (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) you think is correct with a tick (✓) in the corresponding column in the table below. *Please show any rough working in the space provided between the parts.*

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					
I					
J					

**A.** A regular dodecagon is a 12-sided polygon with all sides the same length and all internal angles equal. If I construct a regular dodecagon by connecting 12 equally-spaced points on a circle of radius 1, then the area of this polygon is

- (a)  $6 + 3\sqrt{3}$ , (b)  $2\sqrt{2}$ , (c)  $3\sqrt{2}$ , (d)  $3\sqrt{3}$ , (e) 3.

**B.** The positive number  $a$  satisfies

$$\int_0^a \sqrt{x + x^2} \, dx = 5$$

if

- (a)  $a = \sqrt{21} - 1$ , (b)  $a = \sqrt{3}$ , (c)  $a = 3^{2/3}$ ,  
(d)  $a = (\sqrt{6} - 1)^{2/3}$ , (e)  $a = 5^{2/3}$ .

Turn over

**C.** Tangents to  $y = e^x$  are drawn at  $(p, e^p)$  and  $(q, e^q)$ . These tangents cross the  $x$ -axis at  $a$  and  $b$  respectively. It follows that, for all  $p$  and  $q$ ,

(a)  $pa = qb$ ,

(b)  $p - a < q - b$ ,

(c)  $p - a = q - b$ ,

(d)  $p - a > q - b$ ,

(e)  $p + q = a + b$ .

**D.** The area of the region bounded by the curve  $y = e^x$ , the curve  $y = 1 - e^x$ , and the  $y$ -axis equals

(a) 0,      (b)  $1 - \ln 2$ ,      (c)  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \ln 2$ ,  
(d)  $\ln 2 - 1$ ,      (e)  $1 - \ln \frac{1}{2}$ .

[Note that  $\ln x$  is alternative notation for  $\log_e x$ .]

**E.** Six vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4, \mathbf{v}_5, \mathbf{v}_6$  are each chosen to be either  $\frac{1}{1}$  or  $\frac{3}{2}$  with equal probability, with each choice made independently. The probability that the sum  $\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_4 + \mathbf{v}_5 + \mathbf{v}_6$  is equal to the vector  $\frac{10}{8}$  is

- (a) 0,      (b)  $\frac{3}{64}$ ,      (c)  $\frac{15}{64}$ ,      (d)  $\frac{1}{6}$ ,      (e)  $\frac{5}{16}$ .

**F.** The tangent to the curve  $y = x^3 - 3x$  at the point  $(a, a^3 - 3a)$  also passes through the point  $(2, 0)$  for precisely

- (a) no values of  $a$ ,  
(b) one value of  $a$ ,  
(c) two values of  $a$ ,  
(d) three values of  $a$ ,  
(e) all values of  $a$ .

Turn over

**G.** The sum

$$\sin^2(1^\circ) + \sin^2(2^\circ) + \sin^2(3^\circ) + \cdots + \sin^2(89^\circ) + \sin^2(90^\circ)$$

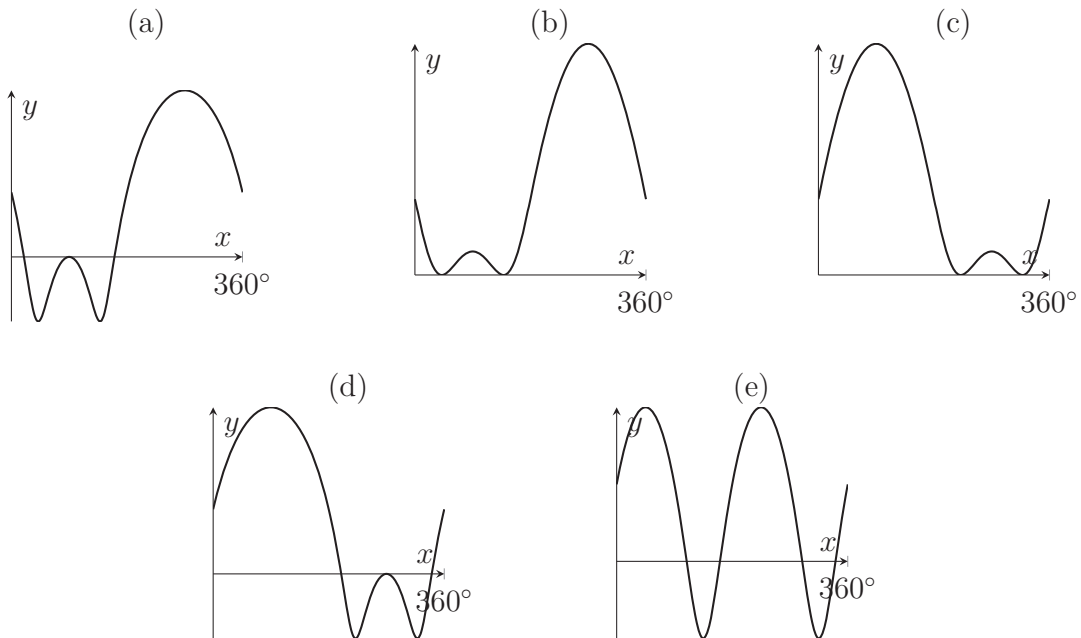
is equal to

- (a) 44,    (b)  $44\frac{1}{2}$ ,    (c) 45,    (d)  $45\frac{1}{2}$ ,    (e) 46.

**H.** Which of the following graphs shows

$$y = \log_2 9 - 8 \sin x - 6 \cos^2 x$$

in the range  $0 \leq x \leq 360^\circ$ ?



**I.** A sequence is defined by  $a_0 = 2$  and then for  $n \geq 1$ ,  $a_n$  is one more than the product of all previous terms (so  $a_1 = 3$  and  $a_2 = 7$ , for example). It follows that for all  $n \geq 1$ ,

- (a)  $a_n = 4a_{n-1} - 5$ ,
- (b)  $a_n = a_{n-1}(a_{n-1} - 1) + 1$ ,
- (c)  $a_n = 2a_{n-1}(a_{n-1} - 3) + 7$ ,
- (d)  $a_n = \frac{3}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 2$ ,
- (e) None of the above.

**J.** Four distinct real numbers  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  are used to define four points

$$A = (a, b), \quad B = (b, c), \quad C = (c, d), \quad D = (d, a).$$

The quadrilateral  $ABCD$  has all four sides the same length

- (a) if and only if  $(a - b)^2 = (c - d)^2$ ,
- (b) if and only if  $(a - c)^2 = (b - d)^2$ ,
- (c) if and only if  $(a - d)^2 = (b - c)^2$ ,
- (d) if and only if  $a - b + c - d = 0$ ,
- (e) for no values of  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$ .

Turn over

**2. For ALL APPLICANTS.**

In this question you may use without proof the following fact:

$$\ln(1-x) = -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} \cdots - \frac{x^n}{n} \cdots \quad \text{for any } x \text{ with } |x| < 1.$$

[Note that  $\ln x$  is alternative notation for  $\log_e x$ .]

(i) By choosing a particular value of  $x$  with  $|x| < 1$ , show that

$$\ln 2 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2 \times 2^2} + \frac{1}{3 \times 2^3} + \frac{1}{4 \times 2^4} + \frac{1}{5 \times 2^5} + \cdots$$

(ii) Use part (i) and the fact that

$$\frac{1}{n2^n} < \frac{1}{3 \times 2^n} \quad \text{for } n \geq 4$$

to find the integer  $k$  such that  $\frac{k}{24} < \ln 2 < \frac{k+1}{24}$ .

(iii) Show that

$$\ln \frac{3}{2} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2 \times 2^2} + \frac{1}{3 \times 2^3} - \frac{1}{4 \times 2^4} + \frac{1}{5 \times 2^5} - \cdots$$

and deduce that

$$\ln 3 = 1 + \frac{1}{3 \times 2^2} + \frac{1}{5 \times 2^4} + \frac{1}{7 \times 2^6} + \cdots$$

(iv) Deduce that  $\frac{13}{12} < \ln 3 < \frac{11}{10}$ .

(v) Which is larger:  $3^{17}$  or  $4^{13}$ ? Without calculating either number, justify your answer.



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3.

For APPLICANTS IN  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{MATHEMATICS} \\ \text{MATHEMATICS \& STATISTICS} \\ \text{MATHEMATICS \& PHILOSOPHY} \\ \text{MATHEMATICS \& COMPUTER SCIENCE} \end{array} \right\}$  ONLY.

*Computer Science* and *Computer Science & Philosophy* applicants should turn to page 20.

The degree of a polynomial is the highest exponent that appears among its terms. For example,  $2x^6 - 3x^2 + 1$  is a polynomial of degree 6.

- (i) A polynomial  $p(x)$  has a turning point at  $(0, 0)$ . Explain why  $p(0) = 0$  and why  $p'(0) = 0$ , and explain why there is a polynomial  $q(x)$  such that

$$p(x) = x^2q(x). \quad (*)$$

- (ii) A polynomial  $r(x)$  has a turning point at  $(a, 0)$  for some real number  $a$ . Write down an expression for  $r(x)$  that is of a similar form to the expression  $(*)$  above. Justify your answer in terms of a transformation of a graph.
- (iii) You are now given that  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree 4, and that it has two turning points at  $(a, 0)$  and at  $(-a, 0)$  for some positive number  $a$ .
- (a) Write down the most general possible expression for  $f(x)$ . Justify your answer.
- (b) Describe a symmetry of the graph of  $f(x)$ , and prove algebraically that  $f(x)$  does have this symmetry.
- (c) Write down the  $x$ -coordinate of the third turning point of  $f(x)$ .
- (iv) Is there a polynomial of degree 4 which has turning points at  $(0, 0)$ , at  $(1, 3)$ , and at  $(2, 0)$ ? Justify your answer.
- (v) Is there a polynomial of degree 4 which has turning points at  $(1, 6)$ , at  $(2, 3)$ , and at  $(4, 6)$ ? Justify your answer.

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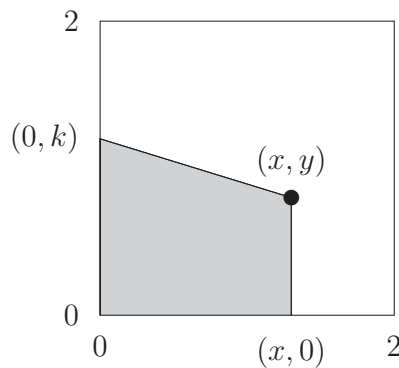
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For APPLICANTS IN  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{MATHEMATICS} \\ \text{MATHEMATICS \& STATISTICS} \\ \text{MATHEMATICS \& PHILOSOPHY} \end{array} \right\}$  ONLY.

*Mathematics & Computer Science, Computer Science and Computer Science & Philosophy* applicants should turn to page 20.

Charlie is trying to cut a cake. The cake is a square with side length 2, and its corners are at  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(2, 0)$ ,  $(2, 2)$ , and  $(0, 2)$ . Charlie's first cut is a straight line segment from the point  $(x, y)$  to  $(x, 0)$ , where  $0 \leq x \leq 2$  and  $0 \leq y \leq 2$ .

Charlie plans to make a second straight cut from the point  $(x, y)$  to a point  $(0, k)$  somewhere on the left-hand edge of the cake. This will make a slice of cake which is bounded to the left of the first cut and bounded below the second cut.



- (i) Find the area of the slice of cake in terms of  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $k$ . Check your expression by verifying that if  $x = 1$  and  $y = 1$ , then choosing  $k = 1$  gives a slice of cake with area 1.
- (ii) Find another point  $(x, y)$  on the cake such that choosing  $k = 1$  gives a slice of cake with area 1.
- (iii) Show that it is only possible to choose a value of  $k$  that gives a slice of cake with area 1 if both  $xy \leq 2$  and  $x(2 + y) \geq 2$ .
- (iv) Sketch the region  $R$  of the cake for which both inequalities in part (iii) hold, indicating any relevant points on the edges of the cake.
- (v) Charlie may instead plan to make the second straight cut from  $(x, y)$  to a point  $(m, 2)$  on the top edge of the cake in order to make a slice bounded to the left of the two cuts. Find two necessary and sufficient inequalities for  $x$  and  $y$  which must both hold in order for this to give a slice of area 1 for some value of  $m$ . Sketch the region of the cake for which both inequalities hold.



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**5. For ALL APPLICANTS.**

A *triangular triple* is a triple of positive integers  $(a, b, c)$  such that we can construct a triangle with sides of length  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ . This means that the sum of any two of the numbers is strictly greater than the third; so if  $a \leq b \leq c$ , then it is equivalent to requiring  $a + b > c$ . For example,  $(3, 3, 3)$  and  $(4, 5, 3)$  are triangular triples, but  $(1, 3, 2)$  and  $(3, 3, 6)$  are not. For any positive integer  $P$ , we define  $f(P)$  to be the number of triangular triples such that the perimeter  $a + b + c$  is equal to  $P$ . Triples with the same numbers, but in a different order, are counted as being distinct. So  $f(12) = 10$ , because there are 10 triangular triples with perimeter 12, shown below:

$(3, 4, 5)$	$(3, 5, 4)$	$(4, 3, 5)$	$(4, 5, 3)$	$(5, 3, 4)$	$(5, 4, 3)$
$(2, 5, 5)$	$(5, 2, 5)$	$(5, 5, 2)$			
$(4, 4, 4)$					

- (i) Write down the values of  $f(3)$ ,  $f(4)$ ,  $f(5)$  and  $f(6)$ .
- (ii) If  $(a, b, c)$  is a triangular triple, show that  $(a + 1, b + 1, c + 1)$  is also a triangular triple.
- (iii) If  $(x, y, z)$  is a triangular triple, with  $x + y + z$  equal to an even number greater than or equal to 6, show that each of  $x, y, z$  is at least 2 and that  $(x - 1, y - 1, z - 1)$  is also a triangular triple.
- (iv) Using the previous two parts, prove that for any positive integer  $k \geq 3$ ,

$$f(2k - 3) = f(2k).$$

- (v) We will now consider the case where  $P \geq 6$  is even, and we will write  $P = 2S$ .
  - (a) Show that in this case  $(a, b, c)$  is a triangular triple with  $a + b + c = P$  if and only if each of  $a, b, c$  is strictly smaller than  $S$ .
  - (b) For any  $a$  such that  $2 \leq a \leq S - 1$ , show that the number of possible values of  $b$  such that  $(a, b, P - a - b)$  is a triangular triple is  $a - 1$ . Hence find an expression for  $f(P)$  for any even  $P \geq 6$ .
- (vi) Find  $f(21)$ .

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6.

For APPLICANTS IN  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{COMPUTER SCIENCE} \\ \text{MATHEMATICS \& COMPUTER SCIENCE} \\ \text{COMPUTER SCIENCE \& PHILOSOPHY} \end{array} \right\}$  ONLY.

Distinct numbers are arranged in an  $m \times n$  rectangular table with  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns so that in each row the numbers are in increasing order (left to right), and in each column the numbers are in increasing order (top to bottom). Such a table is called a *sorted* table and each location of the table containing a number is called a *cell*. Two examples of sorted tables with 3 rows and 4 columns (and thus  $3 \times 4 = 12$  cells) are shown below.

3	12	33	64
15	26	37	78
19	40	51	92

5	22	53	68
18	36	67	78
19	45	81	92

We index the cells of the table with a pair of integers  $(i, j)$ , with the top-left corner being  $(1, 1)$  and the bottom-right corner being  $(m, n)$ . Observe that the smallest entry in a sorted table can only occur in cell  $(1, 1)$ ; however, note that the second smallest entry can appear either in cell  $(1, 2)$ , as in the first example above, or in cell  $(2, 1)$  as in the second example above.

(i) (a) Assuming that  $m, n \geq 3$ , where in an  $m \times n$  sorted table can the third-smallest entry appear?

(b) For any  $k \geq 4$  satisfying  $m, n \geq k$ , where in an  $m \times n$  sorted table can the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest entry appear? Justify your answer.

(ii) Given an  $m \times n$  sorted table, consider the problem of determining whether a particular number  $y$  appears in the table. Outline a procedure that inspects at most  $m + n - 1$  cells in the table, and that correctly determines whether or not  $y$  appears in the table. Briefly justify why your procedure terminates correctly in no more than  $m + n - 1$  steps.

[Hint: As the first step, consider inspecting the top-right cell.]

(iii) Consider an  $m \times n$  table, say  $A$ , which might not be sorted; an example is shown below. Obtain table  $B$  from  $A$  by re-arranging the entries in each row so that they are in sorted order. Then obtain table  $C$  from  $B$  by re-arranging the entries in each column so that they are in sorted order. Fill in tables  $B$  and  $C$  here:

A:	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td>33</td><td>92</td><td>46</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>37</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>49</td><td>40</td><td>81</td><td>22</td></tr></table>	33	92	46	24	25	26	37	8	49	40	81	22	→	B:	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>													→	C:	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>												
33	92	46	24																																								
25	26	37	8																																								
49	40	81	22																																								

(iv) Show that for *any*  $m \times n$  table  $A$ , performing the two operations from part (iii) results in a sorted table  $C$ .



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7.

For APPLICANTS IN **COMPUTER SCIENCE**  
**COMPUTER SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY** ONLY.

Throughout this question, all functions will be Boolean functions of Boolean input variables. A Boolean variable can be either 0 or 1. A Boolean function may have one or more Boolean input variables, and the output of a Boolean function is also either 0 or 1. Three *elementary* Boolean functions are defined as follows:

- The function  $\min(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  can take any number of inputs. It outputs the value 1 exactly when each of its inputs is 1, that is the output of the function is the *minimum* value among its inputs.
- The function  $\max(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  can take any number of inputs. It outputs the value 1 exactly when at least one of its inputs is 1, that is the output of the function is the *maximum* value among its inputs.
- The function **flip** takes a single input and is defined as  $\text{flip}(x_1) = 1 - x_1$ .

First we will consider Boolean functions obtained by combining the three elementary Boolean functions. One such function is shown below:

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \min(\max(x_1, x_2, x_3), \text{flip}(\min(x_1, x_2, x_3))).$$

- (i) Describe in words when the function  $f$  outputs 1 and when it outputs 0.
- (ii) The function  $\text{majority}(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  takes  $k$  inputs and outputs 1 exactly when strictly greater than  $k/2$  of its inputs are 1. Explain how you could combine elementary Boolean functions to obtain the following functions:
  - (a)  $\text{majority}(x_1, x_2)$
  - (b)  $\text{majority}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$

Now we will consider Boolean functions that can be obtained by combining only **majority** functions.

- (iii) There are exactly 16 distinct Boolean functions of two input variables. Some of these can be represented using only **majority** functions that take 3 inputs; the use of 0 or 1 as fixed inputs to **majority** is permitted. For example,  $\text{majority}(x_1, x_2, 1)$  represents the function  $\max(x_1, x_2)$ .

Find any four other Boolean functions of two variables that can be represented by combining one or more **majority** functions of 3 inputs. Write your answers in terms of **majority** functions.

- (iv) Give an example of a Boolean function  $g$  of two input variables that cannot be represented by combining **majority** functions (of any number of inputs). You should write your answer by explicitly specifying  $g(0, 0)$ ,  $g(0, 1)$ ,  $g(1, 0)$  and  $g(1, 1)$ . Justify your answer.

In the last part, you may express Boolean functions by combining any of the elementary Boolean functions or the **majority** function.

- (v) Consider four input variables  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$ . Let  $z_1 = \min(x_1, x_2)$ ,  $z_2 = \min(x_2, x_3)$ ,  $z_3 = \min(x_3, x_4)$ ,  $z_4 = \min(x_4, x_1)$ . It is sometimes possible to represent a function  $s(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  using a function  $t(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)$ . For example,  $\min(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \min(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)$ , as both functions output 1 if and only if all four  $x_i$  are 1.

Can you represent the following functions of inputs  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  as some Boolean function of inputs  $z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4$ ? Justify your answers.

- (a) **majority**( $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$ ).
- (b) The function **parity**( $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$ ) which outputs 1 exactly when an odd number of its inputs are 1.

End of last question

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**M**