Assessing Mathematical Proficiency
MSRI Publications
Volume **53**, 2007

Task Index

whole numbers, *see also* number theory
  arithmetic expressions (sixth grade, France, 2002), 306
  division into buses (NAEP, 1983), 69, 70
  mental arithmetic (sixth grade, France, 2002), 306
  next-term problem, 39, 40
  setting up problem (sixth grade, France, 2002), 307
  subtraction
    equivalent problems, 10
    explaining (California, 1873), 131
    maximizing difference (PISA), 321
    time (sixth grade, France, 2002), 306
    word problem, 70

decimals, *see also* percent
  arithmetic expressions (sixth grade, France, 2002), 306
  comparison (sixth grade, France, 2002), 306
  mental arithmetic
    (California, 1875), 128
    (sixth grade, France, 2002), 306

fractions
  addition, 255–258, 266
  and percentages, 217, 226
  comparison, 196–197, 204–207, 225, 227–232, 238–240
    (California Standards Test), 207
  density, 236
  division, 131, 214
  equivalence, 220–227, 234–238, 240, 243, 244
  estimation, 240, 241, 265, 266
  explaining computations
    (California 2006), 194
    (California, 1873), 131
  improper, 258–262
  multiplication, 214, 215
  nested, 263–265
  on number line, 232–238, 241–243

choose representative (California Standards Test), 207
mark position, 208–211
write equivalent, 6
part-whole representation, 218–226, 245–250
sharing pizza, 197–200
pie chart, 197–200, 228, 229, 231, 264
proof (California, 1875), 128
reduction, 215, 251–255
subtraction, 258–263
using cards to make, 204–207
word problems
(California 2006), 193
mixing paints, 201–202

percent
(California, 1992), 49
and fractions, 217, 226
interest rate, 102
national defense budget, 103
traffic increase, 202–203

proportions
completing job
(Japan, 1995), 133
lawn mowing, 144
potato eating (California, 1875), 128
wall building (California, 1875), 128
mental arithmetic (California, 1875), 128
poster, 142

geometry and measurement
areas (France), 294
classroom size, 51
describing a figure, 92
distance, 80, 103
on map, 99
drawing (sixth grade, France, 2002), 308
inscribe a square in a circle, 93
inscribe a square in a triangle (Pólya), 65
moorish star, 108–110
parallel lines, 348–350
perimeter, 321, 346
recognizing rectangles (sixth grade, France, 2002), 308
reflection (France), 294
rotation, 44
scaling, 142
square peg, 93
three-dimensional
camera viewpoint, 106–107
card-folding, 80
designing a tent, 81
pyramid proof (Michigan, 1899), 132
quadric (Baccalauréat, 2003), 301
string around rod, 104
triangle
inequality, 80, 103
may-pole (California, 1875), 128
proof (TIMSS, 1995), 126
rolling (CAP), 358
sum of angles, 79

algebra and functions
absolute value (NBPTS, 2005), 131
analyzing expressions, 161
analyzing table (Praxis, 2005), 129
determining expressions (France), 304
exponential, 120–121
formulating expressions, 103, 116–120
chocolate boxes, 90
hexagonal patterns, 147–148
ice-cream van, 89
number of ancestors, 120–121
paintings (Wisconsin 1998), 133
paper cups, 182–187
party flag, 174, 175
shopping carts/baskets, 182–187
square patterns, 169–171
table to function (NBPTS, 2005), 130
traffic lights, 90
graphs
cost of taxi ride (NBPTS, 2005), 130
economy, 122, 123
rope, 173, 174

world population (sixth grade, France, 2002), 307
linear equations
and distributivity, 362
cancellation, 166
completing job (California, 1875), 128
ice-cream van, 89
mental solution (California, 1875), 128
prices, 134
sum of angles of triangle, 79
linear functions, 182–185
number machines, 168, 169
patterns
arithmetic sequences, 182–185
arrays of squares, 169–171
chocolate boxes, 90
sums of consecutive addends, 79
plotting and solving (France), 304
plugging in values, 189, 321
polynomials, 101

calculus
differential equations (Baccalauréat, 2003), 302–303
integration, 159, 305
sequences (France), 304
complex variables (Baccalauréat, 2003), 300

logic
boys and girls (sixth grade, France, 2002), 307
choosing a contender, 91
college acceptance (CAP), 359
four cards/envelopes/drinkers, 178–182
fractions proof (California, 1875), 128
next-term problem, 39, 40
pyramid proof (Michigan, 1899), 132
sums of consecutive addends, 79
triangle proof (TIMSS, 1995), 126

modeling
growth of bacteria (Baccalauréat, 2003), 302–303

number theory
divisibility, 171, 173
(Praxis, 2005), 129
modular arithmetic (France), 301, 305
numbers with 1 as only digit (France), 305

statistics and probability
average, 102
choosing a contender, 91
choosing a route (CAHSEE, 2004), 337
college acceptance (CAP), 359
false positive paradox, 122
risk evaluation, 93

theory and practice of teaching
engaging pupils (California, 1875), 132
justifying algorithms
arithmetic (California, 1875), 128
pyramid formula (Michigan, 1899), 132
oral reading (California, 1875), 128