

© MyMathsCloud

Results From the above you should now be comfortable all the following (you can either memorise them or use the method mentioned above to find them). P(A)P(A')P(B)P(B')In English: This says all of A In English: This says everything that In English: This says everything that In English: This says all of B isn't in A isn't in B



In English: This says everything that

is in AND at the same time must be

 $P(A \cup B)$

In English: This says everything that

This is also the same as everything

(which has a total of 1) minus the

outside part and hence we can also

is EITHER in A or B.

in B



In English: This says everything that is A AND at the same time must not be in B.

 $P(A' \cup B)$



In English: This says everything that is EITHER not in A or in B. Don't let the fact that it says not in A confuse you that we have shaded part of A. The shaded part of A comes from when it could be in B. Remember U means in either. They don't have to be



In English: This says everything that is

not in A AND at the same time must

not be in B.

 $P(A' \cap B)$

B

In English: This says everything that is EITHER in A or not in B. Don't let the fact that it says not in B confuse you that we have shaded part of B. The shaded part of B comes from when it could be in A. Remember U means in either. They don't have to be

 $P(B \cup B')$

In English: This says everything that

Don't let the fact that it says not in

A and B confuse you that we have

shaded part of A and B. The shaded

part of B comes from when in not A

is EITHER not in A or not in B.

 $P(A' \cap B')$

In English: This says everything in A

 $= P(A \cup B)'$ $= 1 - P(A \cup B)$ $P(A' \cup B')$

AND at the same time not in B.

This can also be written as:



In English: This says everything that is EITHER in B or not in B which is



© MyMathsCloud

his can also be written as $P(A \cup B)$

Method To Solve Questions:





The above are not usually all given and hence not always enough to fill in the whole diagram and answer the question right away (it depends what info we are given in the question). Therefore, we have to take a few steps by using symmetries and/or formula. You can either skip straight to step 2 now and use one of the formulae or try to use one of the following symmetries below (the addiiton formula in step 2 coupled with our information above will deal with this for us so it is not strictly necessary to use the symmetries below, but it will help to solidify your understanding of how Venn diagrams work and therefore has been included).

We said above that knowing P(A) and P(B) doesn't help us fill anything in, but it can still help us if we know other information and use symmetry. For example,



© MyMathsCloud

Step 2: Check whether you have enough information to read your answers off from the Venn diagram. If not and you still need more information, use any of the four relevant formulae below.

1) Addition Formula: $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$ (most important formula as it is used the most often!)

We use this to find $P(A \cup B)$ if we have P(A) and P(B) and $P(A \cap B)$

Visually this rule looks like:



This rule should make sense. When we add A and B we add the middle section twice (double count it) so we must take it away after

We can also re-arrange the formula for $P(A \cap B) : P(A \cap B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cup B)$



This means we can also use the addition formula to find P ($A \cap B$) if we have P(A) and P(B) and P ($A \cup B$)

Important: This formula can be adapted for any 2 events (it doesn't have to just be for A and B). For example, for the events A' and B the formula becomes

 $P(A' \cup B) = P(A') + P(B) - P(A' \cap B)$

2) Independent: $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$

We can update addition rule to $P(A\cup B)=P(A)+P(B)-P(A)P(B)$ if independent

Mutually Exclusive: P(A ∩ B) = 0
 We can update addition rule to P(A∪B)=P(A)+P(B) if mutually exclusive

4) Conditional:
$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$

We can update this formula to P(A|B) = P(A) if independent

If the questions asks whether independent, use either of the following 2 formulae:

- Find P(A), P(B) and $P(A \cap B)$ and see whether $P(A) \times P(B)$ gives $P(A \cap B)$. This is the most common way.
- Find P(A|B) and P(A) and see whether they are equal

Step 3: Update Venn diagram based on what you've found from using the formulae in step 2

Step 4: Still not enough info to answer the question? Either

- Use the fact that probabilities add to 1
 - Use one of the above formulae again
 - Use one of the following symmetries



Step 5: Read your answers off of the Venn diagram

1) P(A) = 0.35, P(B) = 0.45, $P(A \cap B) = 0.13$. Find $P(A \cup B)$ and $P(A \cap B')$









- i. P(A∩B)
- ii. P(*A*′ ∩B)
- iii. $P(A \cap B')$
- iv. $P(A' \cup B)$



- 4) If events A and B are independent and P(A)=0.4 and P(B)=0.25. Find
 - i. P(AUB)
 - ii. P(A∩B)
 - iii. $P(A \cap B')$ iv. $P(A' \cap B')$
 - v. $P(A \cup B')$



5) $P(A) = \frac{2}{3'} P(B) = \frac{1}{2'} P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{4}$. Find $P(A \cup B) P(A \cap B)'$ and P(B|A)



- 6) Events A and B are independent with $P(A \cap B) = 0.2$ and $P(A' \cap B) = 0.6$
 - i. Find P(B)
 - ii. Find $P(A \cup B)$



7) $P(A) = \frac{2}{5}$, $P(B) = \frac{11}{20}$, $P(A|B) = \frac{2}{11}$. Find $P(A \cap B)$, $P(A \cup B)$. Are these events independent?



© MyMathsCloud

8) $P(B) = \frac{1}{2}$, $P(A \cup B) = \frac{13}{20}$, $P(A|B) = \frac{2}{5}$. Find $P(A \cap B)$, P(A), P(B|A), $P(A' \cap B)$

Way 1: Use a combination of Venn diagram and formulae $P(B) = \frac{1}{2}, P(A \cup B) = \frac{13}{20}$ We don't have enough to fill into the Venn diagram yet Given $P(A|B) = \frac{2}{c}$ We can use the conditional formula $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$ $\frac{P(A \cap B)}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{2}{5}$ $P(A \cap B) = \frac{2}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{5}$ We can now fill in the middle part $\mathsf{P}(\mathsf{A}) = \frac{13}{20} - \frac{3}{10} = \frac{7}{20}$ Let's use the conditional formula to find P(B|A) $P(B|A) = \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)} = \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{\frac{7}{20}} = \frac{4}{7}$ $P(A' \cap B) = \frac{3}{10}$ Way 2: Use formulae only Given $P(A|B) = \frac{2}{5}$ Let's use the conditional formula $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$ $\frac{2}{5} = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{\underline{1}}$ $P(A \cap B) = \frac{2}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{5}$ $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$ $\frac{13}{20} = P(A) + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{5}$ $P(A) = \frac{13}{20} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{20}$ $P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)} = \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{\frac{7}{20}} = \frac{4}{7}$ $P(B) = P(A \cap B) + P(A' \cap B)$ $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{5} + P(A' \cap B)$ $P(A' \cap B) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{10}$

9) $P(B)=\frac{1}{2}$, $P(AIB)=\frac{2}{5}$, $P(A\cup B)=\frac{13}{20}$. Find $P(A\cap B)$, $P(A'\cap B)$, P(A), P(AIB'), P(BIA), and $P(A'\cup B)$



© MyMathsCloud

$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{5} + P(A' \cap B)$$

$$P(A' \cap B) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{10}$$
Additional formula:

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$

$$\frac{13}{20} = P(A) + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{5}$$

$$P(A) = \frac{13}{20} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{7}{20}$$

$$P(A|B') = \frac{P(A \cap B')}{P(B')} = \frac{P(A) - P(A \cap B)}{1 - P(B)} = \frac{\frac{7}{20} - \frac{1}{5}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\frac{3}{20}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{3}{10}$$

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)} = \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{\frac{7}{20}} = \frac{4}{7}$$

$$P(A' \cup B) = P(A') + P(B) - P(A' \cap B) = (1 - P(A)) + P(B) - P(A' \cap B)$$

$$= \left(1 - \frac{7}{20}\right) + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{10} = \frac{13}{20} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{10} = \frac{17}{20}$$

What about if we have 3 events?

Let's look at 3 examples and apply what we already know:



A, B and C are three events with P(A) = 0.24, P(B) = 0.4, P(C) = 0.45, P(A ∩ B ∩ C) = 0.1. Given that A and B are independent, B and C are independent and A ∩ B' ∩ C = Ø

 Draw a Venn diagram to illustrate the probabilities

Find:





- 2) A, B and C are three events with P(A) = 0.55, P(B) = 0.35, P(C) = 0.4, $P(A \cap C) = 0.2$. Given that A and B are mutually exclusive, and B and C are independent
 - i. Draw a Venn diagram to illustrate the probabilities

Find

v. $P(A' \cap B')$ vi. $P(A \cup (B \cap C'))$ vii. $P(A \cap C)' \cup B)$

	P(A) = 0.55	
	P(D) = 0.35	
	P(B) = 0.35	
	P(C) = 0.4	
	$P(A \cap C) = 0.2$	
	$P(A \cap B) = 0$	
P	$P(B \cap C) = P(B)P(C) = 0.35(0.4) = 0.14$	
A a	and B are mutually exclusive so $P(A \cap B) = 0$	
i.		

© MyMathsCloud



© MyMathsCloud

The last thing we have to watch out for is Venn diagram questions with algebra. Don't be afraid to call an unknown x in the Venn diagram or formula and build your own equations.

1)
$$P(A' \cap B) = 0.22, P(A' \cap B') = 0.18, P(AIB) = 0.6.$$

- i. Find P(A)
- ii. P(AUB)
- iii. P(A∩B)
- iv. Are A and B independent?



iv. P(A) = 0.6, P(B) = 0.22 + 0.33 = 0.55 $P(A \cap B) = 0.33$ 0.33 = 0.6(0.55) therefore independent 2) $P(A) = \frac{1}{4'} P(A \cup B) = \frac{2}{3}$. A and B are independent. Find P(B), P(A' \cap B) P(B' | A)



© MyMathsCloud

3) The Venn diagram shows 3 events, A, B and C, and their associated probabilities. Events B and C are mutually exclusive. Events A and C are independent. Showing your working, find the value of *x*, the value of *y* and the value of *z*.





4) The Venn diagram shows the probabilities associated with four events, A, B, C and D



i. Write down any pair of mutually exclusive events from A, B, C and D
Given that P(B) = 0.4
ii. find the value of p
Given also that A and B are independent
iii. find the value of q
Given further that P (B' | C) = 0.64, find
iv. the value of r
v. the value of s

i.

Pairs of mutually exclusive events are where there is no overlap on the Venn diagram:

A and C B and D C and D

ii.



- 5) Three events A, B and C are such that A and B are mutually exclusive and P(A)=0.2, P(C)=0.3 and P(A∪ B) = 0.4 and P(B∪ C)=0.34
 i. Calculate P(B) and P(B∩ C)
 - ii. Determine whether B and C are independent



i. We can form equations based on all the given info We can form 5 equations, but have 6 unknowns so we could never find each unknown, but that's ok P(A)=0.2: a + b = 0.2P(C)=0.3: b + d + e = 0.3 $P(A \cup B) = 0.4: a + b + c + d = 0.4$

$$a + b + c + d = 0.4$$

$$a + b + c + d = 0.4$$

$$0.2 + c + d = 0.4$$

$$c + d = 0.2$$

 $P(B \cup C)=0.34 : b + c + d + e = 0.34$ b + c + d + e = 0.34 0.3 + c = 0.34c = 0.04

www.mymathscloud.com	© MyMathsCloud
So $c + d = 0.2$ becomes $0.04 + d = 0.2 \Rightarrow d = 0.16$	
Probabilities add the 1: $a + b + c + d + e + f = 1$ (we don't ne	eed this)
P(B) = c + d = 0.2	
$P(B \cap C) = d = 0.16$	
ii. Are B and C independent? $P(B) = 0.2$ $P(C) = 0.3$ $P(B \cap C) = 0.16$ $(0.2)(0.3) = 0.06$ $0.06 \neq 0.16$ Therefore $P(A \cap B) \neq P(A)P(B)$ not independent	

6) The Venn diagram shows three events, A,B and C where *p*, *q*, *r*, *s*, *and t* are probabilities. P(A)=0.5, P(B)=0.6 and P(C)=0.25 and the events B and C are independent





7) Each of the 30 students in a class plays at least one of squash, hockey and tennis

18 students play squash

19 students play hockey

17 students play tennis

8 students play squash and hockey

9 students play hockey and tennis

11 students play squash and tennis

Find the number of students who play all three sports

A student is picked at random from the class

ii. Given that this student plays squash, find the probability that this student does not play hockey Two different students are picked at random from the class, one after the other, without replacement.

iii. Given that the first student plays squash, find the probability that the second student plays hockey



