

SBMT Mathematical Conventions

Fractions:

- All fractions must be simplified. Fractional answers must be expressed in the form $\frac{a}{b}$ where a and b share no common factors other than 1. For example, if the answer is $\frac{9}{5}$, then either $1\frac{4}{5}$ (mixed number) or $\frac{18}{10}$ is not acceptable.
- Questions asking for probability should have their answers expressed using fractions. For example, $\frac{1}{4}$ would be an acceptable answer, but 0.25, 25%, and 1 : 4 would not be acceptable.

Pi:

- Any question that involves the number π (pi) in the answer must be written using the symbol π . Decimal approximations are not acceptable.

Radicals:

- All radicals must be in simplest form. Radicals in the denominator are not acceptable.
- A perfect square under a square root, or a perfect cube under a cube root, etc are not acceptable. For example, $\sqrt{45}$ CANNOT be a final answer. It must be written as $3\sqrt{5}$ because 45 contains the perfect square 9.
- No fractions/decimals can be inside a radical. For example, $\sqrt{\frac{7}{3}}$ CANNOT be a final answer. It must be written as $\frac{\sqrt{21}}{3}$.

Money:

- Unless the answer is an integer, all money answers should be written in decimal format, rounded to nearest cent. For example, \$3.00, \$3, and \$19.23 are all acceptable answers, but \$5.423 is not.

Other formatting rules:

- Units of measurement are not required for answers.
- If an answer is not legible, then it will be marked incorrect.

Contact info@southbaymt.org for any further questions about the mathematical conventions