Math background answers for Physics 316, Modern Physics I (Hoffstaetter/Drasco/Thibault)
Date: Wednesday, 01/24/05
0) Do you have the math requirements?

Math190 or 191: analytic geometry, differential and integral calculus
Math192: vectors and calculus of functions of several variables through double and triple integrals Co-registration in at least Math294: Linear algebra
Result: $76 \%$ yes, $22 \%$ no answer, $2 \%$ no

1) Use complex numbers to derive the following equation: $\sin (2 \alpha)=2 \sin (\alpha) \cos (\alpha)$.

Solution: $\sin (2 \alpha)=\frac{e^{i 2 \alpha}-e^{i 2 \alpha}}{2 i}=\frac{\left(e^{i \alpha}-e^{i \alpha}\right)\left(e^{i \alpha}+e^{i \alpha}\right)}{2 i}=2 \frac{e^{i 2 \alpha}-e^{i 2 \alpha}}{2 i} \frac{e^{i \alpha \alpha}+e^{i 2 \alpha}}{2}=2 \sin (\alpha) \cos (\alpha)$.
Result: $27 \%$ correct, $73 \%$ wrong.
2) What is the general solution of the following ODE: $x^{\prime \prime}=k x$ for $k<0$ and for $k>0$ ?

Solution: For $k<0$ it is $x=A \cos (\sqrt{|k|} t)+B \sin (\sqrt{|k|} t)$. For $k>0$ it is $x=A \cosh (\sqrt{k} t)+$ $B \sinh (\sqrt{k} t)$.
Result: $6 \%$ correct, $94 \%$ wrong.
3) Please simplify $5 e^{i \pi / 2} \cdot 3 e^{-i \pi / 4}$ ?

Solution: $15 e^{i \pi / 4}$.
Result: $65 \%$ correct, $35 \%$ wrong.
4) What is the real and imaginary part of $5 e^{i \pi / 2}+3 e^{-i \pi / 4}$ ?

Solution: $5 e^{i \pi / 2}+3 e^{-i \pi / 4}=5 i+\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i)=\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}+i \frac{5 \sqrt{2}-3}{\sqrt{2}}$.
Result: $20 \%$ correct, $80 \%$ wrong.
5) Solve the following indefinite integral: $\int \frac{1}{x} d x$.

Solution: $\ln x+C$.
Result: $90 \%$ correct, $10 \%$ wrong.
6) Solve the following integral: $\int_{0}^{\pi} \cos ^{2} \phi \sin \phi d \phi$.

Solution: $\int_{0}^{\pi} \cos ^{2} \phi \sin \phi d \phi=-\int_{1}^{-1} \cos ^{2} \phi d(\cos \phi)=\int_{-1}^{1} x^{2} d x=\frac{2}{3}$.
Result: $43 \%$ correct, $57 \%$ wrong.

