



KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI  
AN PENDIDIKAN POLITEKNIK DAN KOLEJ KOI

**POLITEKNIK**  
MALAYSIA  
Tuanku Sultanah Bahiyah



KOLEJ KOMUNITI  
MALAYSIA

# PROBABILITY

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**MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND COMPUTER  
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# PROBABILITY

The background features a dark grey city skyline silhouette. Overlaid on this are several glowing yellow elements: a bright starburst light in the upper right, several 3D yellow cones, and intricate white wireframe patterns that resemble mathematical curves or data paths. The overall aesthetic is modern and technical.

Wan Nor Sariza Wan Husin  
Noor Azma Abu Bakar  
Mohd Hafis Yunus

Politeknik Tuanku Sultanah Bahiyah  
Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi

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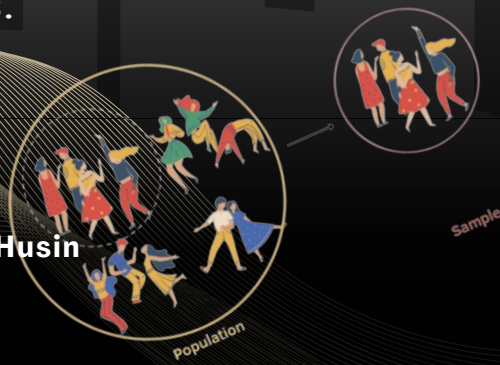


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# PREFACE

Probability is a fundamental concept in mathematics and statistics, providing a framework for understanding and quantifying uncertainty. Whether we realize it or not, probability influences many aspects of our daily lives, from predicting weather patterns and making decisions in business to playing games of chance and understanding risks in healthcare. This study of probability helps us to systematically analyze random events and make informed predictions about future outcomes. By learning probability, we develop the tools to assess the likelihood of events, measure risk, and make decisions under uncertainty. This text aims to introduce you to the key principles and applications of probability, starting with the basic concepts and moving toward more complex topics. The approach is both theoretical and practical, offering a balance between understanding the underlying mathematics and seeing how these principles apply to real-world situations.

**Editor / Writer**  
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**Mohd Hafis Bin Yunus**



# OUR TEAM

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- **Senior Lecturer of Mathematics PTSB**
- **Graduated in Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Kuittho, Johor**
- **Master in Civil Engineering (Structural Engineering) from USM**
- **Experienced in teaching and learning of Engineering Science and Engineering Mathematics over the 21 years.**

## NOOR AZMA BINTI ABU BAKAR



- **Senior Lecturer of Mathematics PTSB**
- **Graduated with a B.Eng. (Hons) in Civil Engineering and holds a M.Ed in TVET from Kolej Universiti Teknologi Tun Hussien Onn (KUiTTHO).**
- **Experience teaching Engineering Mathematics over the ?? years.**

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- **Senior Lecturer of Mathematics PTSB**
- **Graduated in B.Eng (Hons) in Electrical Engineering from KUiTTHO, Johor**
- **M.Edu in Technical & Vocational Education from UTHM**
- **Experience teaching in Engineering Science and Engineering Mathematics over 15 years.**

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2.0

# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

Probability is a branch of mathematics that deals with the study of uncertainty and the likelihood of different outcomes. It provides a systematic way to quantify uncertainty and make predictions about the occurrence of various events. The concept of probability is deeply rooted in everyday life, influencing everything from weather forecasts and medical diagnoses to financial markets and games of chance.

Probability theory has a wide range of applications across many disciplines. In science, it helps researchers assess the significance of their experimental results. In finance, it is used to model risks and returns. In engineering, it plays a key role in quality control and reliability analysis. Even in everyday decisions, we use probability—whether we are aware of it or not—to make choices under uncertainty.

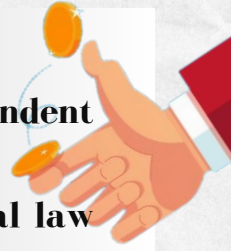
The study of probability involves various concepts and techniques, including the analysis of random events, the computation of probabilities using different rules, and the understanding of probability distributions. These tools allow us to model complex systems and predict the behavior of uncertain processes.



# LEARNING OUTCOME

At the end of the lessons:

- Students are able to define independent event and conditional probability
- Use laws of probability using additional law of probability.
- Student are able to use laws of probability
- Solve the problems on probability



Practice mathematical knowledge and skills in different mathematics problem

Solve the mathematical problems by using appropriate mathematical techniques and solutions

Show the solution for probability problems by using appropriate mathematical methods.



**3.0**  
**NOTES**  
**&**  
**FORMULA**



# PROBABILITY DEFINITION IN MATHEMATICS

**Probability is a measure of the likelihood of an event to occur. Many events cannot be predicted with total certainty. We can predict only the chance of an event to occur i.e., how likely they are going to happen, using it. Probability can range from 0 to 1, where 0 means the event to be an impossible one and 1 indicates a certain event. Probability for Class 10 is an important topic for the students which explains all the basic concepts of this topic.**

# Basic Definitions

## Probability:

The likelihood or chance of an event happening. It's a value between 0 and 1.

Range:  $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$

$P(E) = 0$  means the event cannot occur, and  $P(E) = 1$  means the event is certain to occur.

## Experiment:

A procedure that yields one outcome from a set of possible outcomes.

## Sample Space (S):

The set of all possible outcomes of an experiment.

Example: For a coin toss,  $S = \{\text{Heads}, \text{Tails}\}$

## Event:

Any subset of a sample space.

Example: In a coin toss, Event  $E = \{\text{Heads}\}$

# Formula for Probability

## Sample Space

\*Set of all the possible outcomes.

\*Symbol S and set notation { }

## An Event

\*Outcomes or set of outcomes.

\*Symbol A and set notation { }

## The Probability of An Event

$$= \frac{\text{number of elements in A}}{\text{number of elements in the sample space S}}$$

$$P(A) = \frac{n(A)}{n(S)}$$

Where :

S = sample space

n = number of elements

$0 < P(A) < 1$

If A is a certain event, then  $P(A) = 1$

If A is an impossible event, then  $P(A) = 0$

# Basic Probability Rules

**Addition Rule (for mutually exclusive events):**  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$   
 $P(A \cap B) = P(A) + P(B)$   
 $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

**General Addition Rule (for non-mutually exclusive events):**

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

**Multiplication Rule (for independent events):**

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B)$$
$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B)$$
$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B)$$

**Conditional Probability:**

The probability of event AAA given that event BBB has occurred.

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

# TYPES OF EVENTS

## TYPES OF EVENTS



### EXPECTATION

General terms as the product of the probability  $p$  of an event happening and the number of attempts made,  $n$ .

$$E = pn$$

### DEPENDENT EVENT

The outcome of one event affects the outcome of the other.

If A and B are dependent events then the probability of both occurring is

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \times P(B|A)$$

Probability of B given A

### INDEPENDENT EVENT

The outcome of one event **does not** affect the outcome of the other.

If A and B are independent events then the probability of both occurring is

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \times P(B)$$

### CONDITIONAL PROBABILITY

*the probability of an event occurring based on a previous event already taking place*

$$P(A|B) = \frac{\text{Probability of } A \text{ and } B}{\text{Probability of } B}$$

Probability of A given B

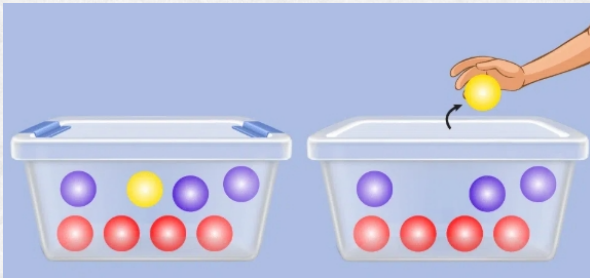
# EXAMPLE



# EXAMPLE 1

## QUESTION

There are 8 balls in a container, 4 are red, 1 is yellow and 3 are blue. What is the probability of picking a yellow ball?



## ANSWER

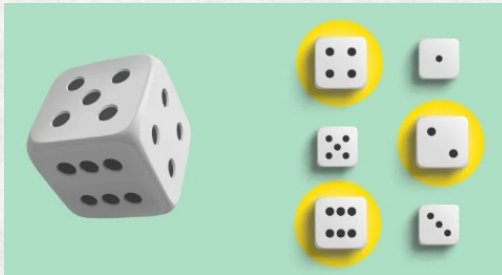
Probability is equal to the number of yellow balls in the container divided by the total number of balls in the container =  $1/8$

$$P(Y) = 1/8$$

# EXAMPLE 2

## QUESTION

A dice is rolled. What is the probability that an even number has been obtained?



## ANSWER

When fair six-sided dice are rolled, there are six possible outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

Out of these, half are even (2, 4, 6) and half are odd (1, 3, 5).

Therefore, the probability of getting an even number is:

$P(\text{even}) = \text{number of even outcomes} / \text{total number of outcomes}$

$$P(\text{even}) = 3 / 6$$

$$P(\text{even}) = 1/2$$

# EXAMPLE 3

## QUESTION

There are 6 pillows in a bed, 3 are red, 2 are yellow and 1 is blue. What is the probability of picking a yellow pillow?

## ANSWER

The probability is equal to the number of yellow pillows in the bed divided by the total number of pillows.

Sample,  $S = \{ R,R,R,Y,Y,B \}$

No of Sample,  $n(S) = 6$       $n(Y) = 2$

$$P(A) = \frac{n(A)}{n(S)} = \frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$$

# EXAMPLE 4

## QUESTION

There is a container full of coloured bottles, red, blue, green and orange. Some of the bottles are picked out and displaced. Sumit did this 1000 times and got the following results:

- No. of blue bottles picked out: 300
- No. of red bottles: 200
- No. of green bottles: 450
- No. of orange bottles: 50

a) What is the probability that Sumit will pick a green bottle?

## ANSWER

Sample,  $S = \{300, 200, 450, 50\}$

No of Sample,  $n(S) = 1000$

a)

$$n(G) = 450 \quad P(G) = \frac{n(G)}{n(S)} = \frac{450}{1000} = \frac{9}{20}$$

# EXAMPLE 5

## QUESTION

A coin is thrown 3 times .what is the probability that at least one head is obtained?

## ANSWER

**Sample space =**

**[HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, TTH, THT, HTT, TTT]**

**Total number of ways =  $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ . Fav.**

**Cases = 7**

**P (A) =  $7/8$**

**OR**

**P (of getting at least one head) = 1**

**P (no head)  $\Rightarrow 1 - (1/8) = 7/8$**

# EXAMPLE 6

## QUESTION

Two dice are thrown together.  
What is the probability that the number obtained on one of the dice is multiple of number obtained on the other dice?

## ANSWER

Total number of cases = 36

Since the number on a die should be multiple of the other, the possibilities are

(1, 1) (2, 2) (3, 3) ----- (6, 6) --- 6  
ways

(2, 1) (1, 2) (1, 4) (4, 1) (1, 3) (3, 1) (1, 5) (5, 1) (6, 1) (1, 6) --- 10 ways

(2, 4) (4, 2) (2, 6) (6, 2) (3, 6) (6, 3) -- 6  
ways

Favorable cases are = 6 + 10 + 6 = 22.

$$P(A) = 22/36 = 11/18$$

# EXAMPLE 7

## QUESTION

Three bags contain 3 red, 7 black; 8 red, 2 black, and 4 red & 6 black balls respectively. 1 of the bags is selected at random and a ball is drawn from it. If the ball drawn is red, find the probability that it is drawn from the third bag.

## ANSWER

Let  $B_1$ ,  $B_2$ ,  $B_3$  and  $A$  are the events defined as follows.

$B_1$  = First bag is chosen

$B_2$  = Second bag is chosen

$B_3$  = Third bag is chosen

$A$  = Ball drawn is red

Since there are three bags and one of the bags is chosen at random,

$$P(B_1) = P(B_2) = P(B_3) = 1 / 3$$

If  $B_1$  has already occurred, then first bag has been chosen which contains 3 red and 7 black balls.

The probability of drawing 1 red ball from it is  $3/10$ . So,  $P(A/B_1) = 3/10$ , similarly  $P(A/B_2) = 8/10$ , and  $P(A/B_3) = 4/10$ .

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{4}{10}}{\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{3}{10} + \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{8}{10} + \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{4}{10}} = \frac{4}{15}$$

# EXAMPLE 8

## QUESTION

In a bag there are 7 counters. There are 2 black counters and the remaining counters are white.

A counter is removed and the colour noted.

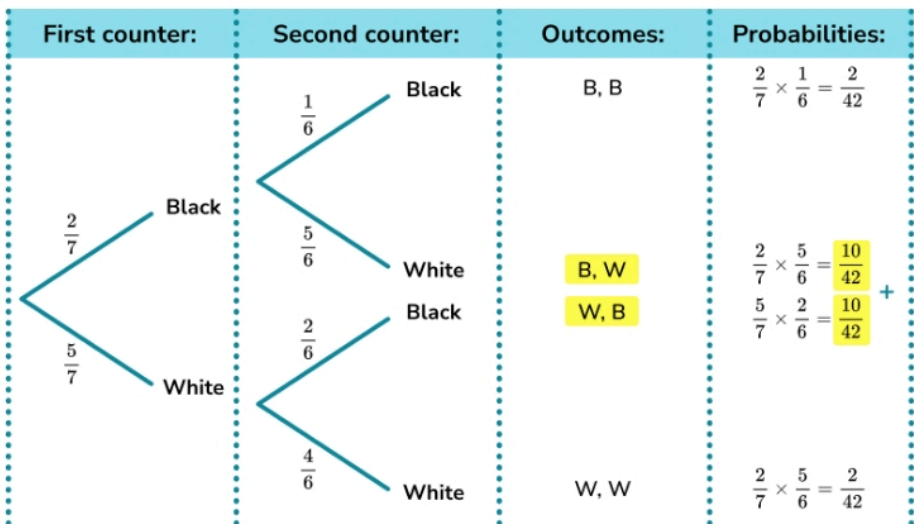
The counter is NOT replaced.

A second counter is removed and the colour is noted.

Using the tree diagram.

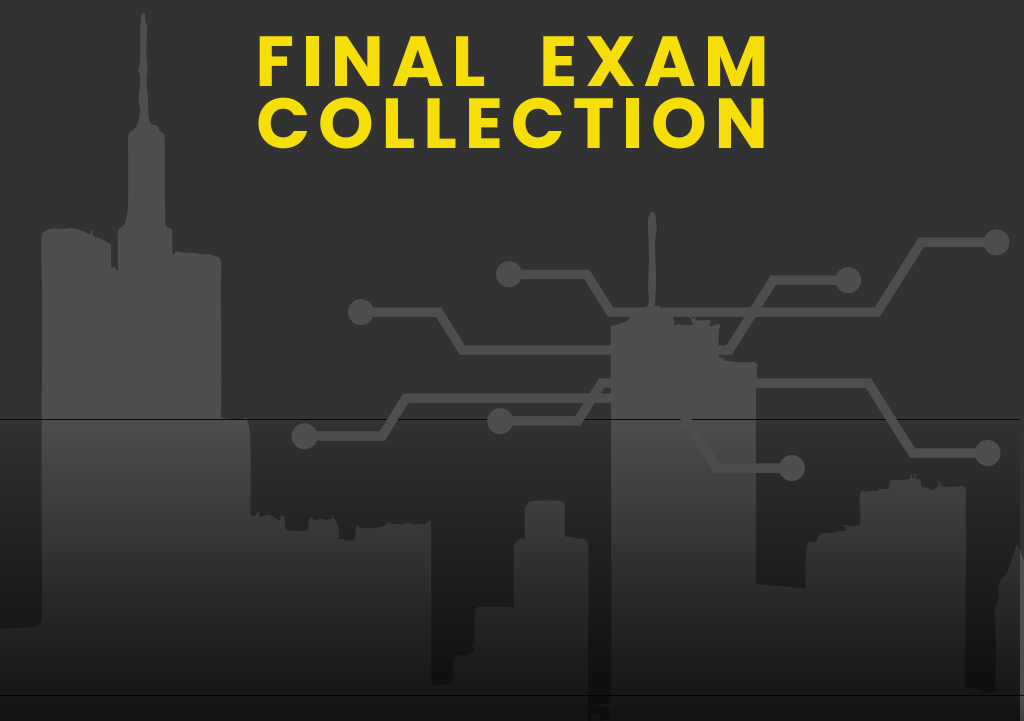
Work out the probability that there will be one counter of each colour picked.

## ANSWER



The probability that one of each colour counter will be picked is  $\frac{10}{21}$ .

# FINAL EXAM COLLECTION



# Question 1

In a class of 30 students, 15 students like basketball, 14 students like football and 9 students like both basketball and football. Calculate the probability of a chosen person at random who likes:

- i. At least one of the games
- ii. Basketball given that they like football

## Answer

$$\text{i. } P(\text{Basketball or Football}) = P(\text{Basketball}) + P(\text{Football}) + P(\text{Both Basketball and Football})$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{6}{30} + \frac{5}{30} + \frac{9}{30} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ii. } P(\text{Basketball} | \text{Football}) &= \frac{P(\text{Basketball and Football})}{P(\text{Football})} \\ &= \frac{P(B \cap F)}{P(F)} \\ &= \frac{9/30}{14/30} \\ &= \frac{9}{14} \end{aligned}$$

## Question 2

A box contains of 20 red marbles, 32 blue marbles, 17 yellow marbles and 11 white marbles. A marble is picked randomly from the box. Calculate the probability of picking a red marble.

**Answer**

20 red, 32 blue, 17 yellow, 11 white,  
 $n(S) = 80$

$$P(R) = \frac{n(R)}{n(S)}$$

$$P(R) = \frac{20}{80} = \frac{1}{4}$$

## Question 3

Ten pieces of paper numbered from 21 to 30 are placed in a file. A piece of paper is picked at random from the file. Calculate the probability of picking a number that is even OR divisible by 3.

**Answer**

21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

$$n(S) = 10$$

Even number = 22, 24, 26, 28, 30

$$P(E) = \frac{n(E)}{n(S)}$$

$$P(e) = \frac{5}{10}$$

Divisible by 3 = 21, 24, 27, 30

$$P(\text{Divisible by 3}) = \frac{n(D)}{n(S)}$$

$$P(D) = \frac{4}{10}$$

Even Number & Divisible by 3 = 24, 30

$$P(E \cup D) = \frac{2}{10}$$

Probability of picking a number that is

$$\text{even OR divisible by 3, } P(E \cup D) = \frac{5}{10} + \frac{4}{10} - \frac{2}{10}$$

$$= \frac{7}{10}$$

## Question 4

A box contains 5 yellow pens, 5 blue pens and 6 red pens. Thalia picks a pen at random and its colour is noted before she puts it back to the box. Then, a second pen is picked by her brother. Calculate the probability of getting the first picked is red and the second picked is yellow pen.

**Answer**

$$n(\text{Yellow}) = 5$$

$$n(\text{Blue}) = 5$$

$$n(\text{Red}) = 6$$

$$n(\text{sample}) = 16$$

$$P(\text{Red Yellow}) = P(\text{Red}) \times P(\text{Yellow})$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(R \cap Y) &= \frac{6}{16} \times \frac{5}{16} \\ &= \frac{15}{128} @ 0.117 \end{aligned}$$

## Question 5

**A letter is chosen at random from the word: MATHEMATICS. Calculate the probability of getting a consonant or a letter M.**

**Answer**

$$n(s) = 11$$

$$n(\text{consonant}) = \{M, T, H, M, T, C, S\}$$

$$n(c) = 7$$

$$n(\text{Letter } M) = \{M, M, \}$$

$$n(M) = 2$$

$$P(C) = \frac{7}{11}$$

$$P(M) = \frac{2}{11}$$

$$P(C \cap M) = \frac{2}{11}$$

$$P(\text{Consonant or Letter } M) = P(C) + P(M) - P(C \cap M)$$

$$= \frac{7}{11} + \frac{2}{11} - \frac{2}{11}$$

$$= \frac{7}{11} @ 0.636$$

## Question 6

**If a bag of balloons consists of 47 white balloons, 5 yellow balloons, and 10 black balloons, what is the approximate likelihood that a balloon chosen randomly from the bag will be black?**

### Answer

- White balloons = 47
- Yellow balloons = 5
- Black balloons = 10

Step 1: Find total balloons

$$47 + 5 + 10 = 62$$

Step 2: Probability of choosing a black balloon

$$P(\text{black}) = \frac{\text{black balloons}}{\text{total balloons}} = \frac{10}{62}$$

Step 3: Simplify fraction

$$\frac{10}{62} = \frac{5}{31} \approx 0.1613$$

## Question 7

**Two coins are tossed simultaneously for 360 times. The number of times '2 Tails' appeared was three times 'No Tail' appeared and number of times '1 tail' appeared is double the number of times 'No Tail' appeared. Find the probability of getting 'Two tails'.**

**Answer**

*Total number of outcomes = 360*

*Let us considered the number of times 'No Tail' appeared be  $z$*

*Then, number of times '2 Tails' appeared =  $3z$*

*Number of times '1 Tail' appeared =  $2z$*

$$\text{Now, } z + 2z + 3z = 360$$

$$6z = 360$$

$$z = 60$$

*Hence, the probability of getting 'two tails' =  $(3 \times 60)/360 = 1/2$*

# Question 8

In a selection of school-level speech participants, candidates will be voted by members of the Speech Club where member can vote for a maximum of two candidates. The probability that Auni (A) and Hani (H) are voted to participate in the speech is and respectively.

- Calculate the probability of Auni or Hani being voted to participate in the speech competition.
- If the total of votes is 64, calculate how many votes will be for other than Auni or Hani.

## Answer

i.  $P(\text{Auni } (A)) = \frac{5}{8}$

$$P(\text{Hani } (H)) = \frac{1}{4}$$

	Auni (A)	Hani (H)
<u>Voted</u> , V	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
Unvoted, V'	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{4}$

$$P(\text{Auni or Hani}) = P(AH') + P(A'H) + P(AH)$$

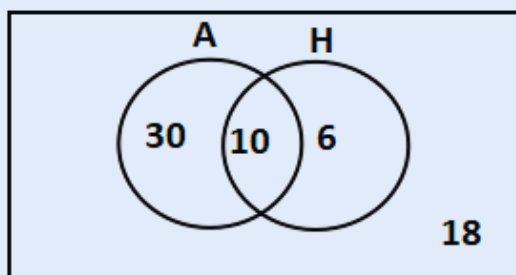
$$= \left(\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{4}\right)$$

$$= \frac{23}{32}$$

ii.  $Auni (A) = \frac{5}{8} \times 64 = 40$

$$Hani (H) = \frac{1}{4} \times 64 = 16$$

$$\begin{aligned} Auni \& Hani &= \left( \frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{5}{32} \\ &= \frac{5}{32} \times 64 = 10 \end{aligned}$$



$$n(A \cup H)' = 18 \text{ votes}$$

# Question 9

A fair dice is rolled. Calculate the probability of getting:

- i.  $P(\text{prime number} \cap \text{odd number})$
- ii.  $P(\text{prime number} \cup \text{odd number})$

## Answer

$$n(s) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$= 6$$

$$\text{Prime, } n(P) = \{2, 3, 5\} = 3$$

$$\text{Odd, } n(O) = \{1, 3, 5\} = 3$$

- i.  $P(\text{prime number} \cap \text{odd number})$

$$P(P \cap O) = \frac{2}{6}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3}$$

- ii.  $P(\text{prime number} \cup \text{odd number})$

$$P(P \cup O) = \frac{3}{6} + \frac{3}{6} - \frac{2}{6}$$

$$= \frac{4}{6}$$

$$= \frac{2}{3}$$

## Question 10

**In a lottery box, there are 10 prizes and 25 blanks.**

**A slip is drawn at random from the lottery box.**

**What is the probability of getting a prize?**

**Answer**

*Total number of prize = 10*

*Total number of blanks = 25*

*So, the total number of possible outcomes (i.e.,  $n(S)$ ) are =  $10 + 25 = 35$*

*Total number of prizes,  $n(E) = 10$*

$$P(E) = n(E)/n(S) = 10/35 = 2/7$$

# INTERACTIVE REFERENCE

Probability Distributions | Revision | MME



Probability Examples with Questions and Answers  
- Hitbullseye



Probability Tree Diagram - GCSE Maths - Steps,  
Examples & Worksheet



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