DP IB Maths: AA SL

Your notes

4.3 Probability

Contents

4.3.1 Probability & Types of Events

Your notes

Probability Basics

What key words and terminology are used with probability?

- An **experiment** is a repeatable activity that has a result that can be observed or recorded
  - **Trials** are what we call the repeats of the experiment
- An **outcome** is a possible result of a trial
- An **event** is an outcome or a collection of outcomes
  - Events are usually denoted with capital letters: *A*, *B*, etc
  - $n(A)$ is the number of outcomes that are included in event *A*
  - An event can have one or more than one outcome
- A **sample space** is the set of all possible outcomes of an experiment
  - This is denoted by *U*
  - $n(U)$ is the total number of outcomes
  - It can be represented as a **list** or a **table**

How do I calculate basic probabilities?

- If all outcomes are **equally likely** then probability for each outcome is the same
  - Probability for each outcome is $\frac{1}{n(U)}$
- **Theoretical probability** of an event can be calculated without using an experiment by dividing the number of outcomes of that event by the total number of outcomes

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

  - This is given in the **formula booklet**
  - Identifying all possible outcomes either as a list or a table can help
- **Experimental probability** (also known as **relative frequency**) of an outcome can be calculated using results from an experiment by dividing its frequency by the number of trials
  - **Relative frequency** of an outcome is $\frac{\text{Frequency of that outcome from the trials}}{\text{Total number of trials } (n)}$

How do I calculate the expected number of occurrences of an outcome?

- **Theoretical probability** can be used to calculate the **expected number of occurrences** of an outcome from *n* trials
- If the probability of an outcome is *p* and there are *n* trials then:
  - The expected number of occurrences is ***np***
  - This **does not mean** that there will **exactly *np* occurrences**

Your notes

- If the experiment is repeated multiple times then we expect the number of occurrences to average out to be *np*

What is the complement of an event?

- The probabilities of all the outcomes **add up to 1**
- Complementary events are when there are **two events** and **exactly one** of them will occur
  - One event has to occur but both events can not occur at the same time
- The **complement of event *A*** is the event where event ***A* does not happen**
  - This can be thought of as **not *A***
  - This is denoted A'

$$\mathrm{P}(A) + \mathrm{P}(A') = 1$$

  - This is in the **formula booklet**
  - It is commonly written as $\mathrm{P}(A') = 1 - \mathrm{P}(A)$

What are different types of combined events?

- The **intersection** of two events (*A* and *B*) is the event where **both *A* and *B*** occur
  - This can be thought of as ***A* and *B***
  - This is denoted as $A \cap B$
- The **union** of two events (*A* and *B*) is the event where ***A* or *B* or both occur**
  - This can be thought of as ***A* or *B***
  - This is denoted $A \cup B$
- The event where *A* occurs given that event *B* has occurred is called **conditional probability**
  - This can be thought as ***A* given *B***
  - This is denoted $A | B$

How do I find the probability of combined events?

- The probability of *A* **or** *B* (or both) occurring can be found using the formula

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

  - This is given in the **formula booklet**
  - You subtract the probability of *A* and *B* both occurring because it has been included twice (once in P(*A*) and once in P(*B*))
- The probability of *A* **and** *B* occurring can be found using the formula

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

  - A rearranged version is given in the **formula booklet**
  - Basically you multiply the probability of *A* by the probability of *B* then happening

Examiner Tip

- In an exam drawing a Venn diagram or tree diagram can help even if the question does not ask you to

Your notes

Your notes

Worked example

Dave has two fair spinners, *A* and *B*. Spinner *A* has three sides numbered 1, 4, 9 and spinner *B* has four sides numbered 2, 3, 5, 7. Dave spins both spinners and forms a two-digit number by using the spinner *A* for the first digit and spinner *B* for the second digit.

T is the event that the two-digit number is a multiple of 3.

a) List all the possible two-digit numbers.

A two-way table would be a systematic way to list all the outcomes

	2	3	5	7
1	12	13	15	17
4	42	43	45	47
9	92	93	95	97

b) Find $\mathrm{P}(T)$.

$P(T) = \frac{n(T)}{n(U)}$ ← Number of multiples of 3 / ← Total number of outcomes

$\{12, 15, 42, 45, 93\}$ are the multiples of 3

$$P(T) = \frac{5}{12}$$

c) Find $\mathrm{P}(T')$.

$P(T) + P(T') = 1 \Rightarrow P(T') = 1 - P(T)$

$P(T') = 1 - \frac{5}{12}$

$$P(T') = \frac{7}{12}$$

Independent & Mutually Exclusive Events

Your notes

What are mutually exclusive events?

- Two events are **mutually exclusive** if they **cannot both occur**
  - For example: when rolling a dice the events "getting a prime number" and "getting a 6" are mutually exclusive
- If *A* and *B* are mutually exclusive events then:
  - $P(A \cap B) = 0$

What are independent events?

- Two events are **independent** if **one occurring does not affect the probability of the other occurring**
  - For example: when flipping a coin twice the events "getting a tails on the first flip" and "getting a tails on the second flip" are independent
- If *A* and *B* are independent events then:
  - $P(A|B) = P(A)$ and $P(B|A) = P(B)$
- If *A* and *B* are independent events then:
  - $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$
    - This is given in the **formula booklet**
    - This is a useful formula to test whether two events are statistically independent

How do I find the probability of combined mutually exclusive events?

- If *A* and *B* are **mutually exclusive** events then

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

    - This is given in the **formula booklet**
    - This occurs because $P(A \cap B) = 0$
- For any two events *A* and *B* the events $A \cap B$ and $A \cap B'$ are **mutually exclusive** and *A* is the **union** of these two events
  - $P(A) = P(A \cap B) + P(A \cap B')$
    - This works for any two events *A* and *B*

Your notes

Worked example

a) A student is chosen at random from a class. The probability that they have a dog is 0.8, the probability they have a cat is 0.6 and the probability that they have a cat or a dog is 0.9.
Find the probability that the student has both a dog and a cat.

Let D be event "has a dog" and C be "has a cat"

$P(D \cup C) = P(D) + P(C) - P(D \cap C)$

$0.9 = 0.8 + 0.6 - P(D \cap C)$

$P(D \cap C) = 0.5$

b) Two events, Q and R, are such that $\mathrm{P}(Q) = 0.8$ and $\mathrm{P}(Q \cap R) = 0.1$.
Given that Q and R are independent, find $\mathrm{P}(R)$.

Q and R independent $\Rightarrow P(Q \cap R) = P(Q)P(R)$

$0.1 = 0.8 \times P(R) \quad \therefore \quad P(R) = \frac{0.1}{0.8}$

$P(R) = 0.125$ or $\frac{1}{8}$

c) Two events, S and T, are such that $\mathrm{P}(S) = 2\mathrm{P}(T)$.
Given that S and T are mutually exclusive and that $\mathrm{P}(S \cup T) = 0.6$ find $\mathrm{P}(S)$ and $\mathrm{P}(T)$.

S and T mutually exclusive $\Rightarrow P(S \cup T) = P(S) + P(T)$

$0.6 = P(S) + P(T)$

$0.6 = 2P(T) + P(T)$ ← $P(S) = 2P(T)$

$0.6 = 3P(T)$

$P(T) = 0.2$ and $P(S) = 0.4$

4.3.2 Conditional Probability

Your notes

Conditional Probability

What is conditional probability?

- **Conditional probability** is where the probability of an **event** happening can vary depending on the outcome of a prior event
- The event *A* happening **given that** event *B* has happened is denoted *A*|*B*
- A common example of conditional probability involves selecting multiple objects from a bag **without replacement**
  - The probability of selecting a certain item changes depending on what was selected before
    - This is because the total number of items will change as they are not replaced once they have been selected

How do I calculate conditional probabilities?

- Some conditional probabilities can be calculated by using counting outcomes
  - Probabilities without replacement can be calculated like this
  - For example: There are 10 balls in a bag, 6 of them are red, two of them are selected without replacement
    - To find the probability that the second ball selected is red given that the first one is red count how many balls are left:
    - A red one has already been selected so there are 9 balls left and 5 are red so the probability is $\frac{5}{9}$
- You can use sample space diagrams to find the probability of *A* given *B*:
  - reduce your sample space to just include outcomes for event *B*
  - find the proportion that also contains outcomes for event *A*
- There is a formula for conditional probability that you should use
  - $\mathrm{P}(A \mid B) = \frac{\mathrm{P}(A \cap B)}{\mathrm{P}(B)}$
  - This is given in the **formula booklet**
  - This can be rearranged to give $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = \mathrm{P}(B)\mathrm{P}(A \mid B)$
  - By symmetry you can also write $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = \mathrm{P}(A)\mathrm{P}(B \mid A)$

How do I tell if two events are independent using conditional probabilities?

- If A and B are two events then they are independent if:
  - $\mathrm{P}(A \mid B) = \mathrm{P}(A) = \mathrm{P}(A \mid B')$
- Equally you can still use $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = \mathrm{P}(A)\mathrm{P}(B)$ to test for independence
  - This is given in the **formula booklet**

Your notes

Worked example

Let R be the event that it is raining in Weatherville and T be the event that there is a thunderstorm in Weatherville.

It is known that $\mathrm{P}(T) = 0.035$, $\mathrm{P}(T \cap R) = 0.03$ and $\mathrm{P}(T | R) = 0.15$.

a) Find the probability that it is raining in Weatherville.

Formula booklet

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

$\mathrm{P}(T|R) = \frac{\mathrm{P}(T \cap R)}{\mathrm{P}(R)}$

Substitute the values in

$0.15 = \frac{0.03}{\mathrm{P}(R)}$

$\mathrm{P}(R) = \frac{0.03}{0.15}$

$\mathrm{P}(R) = 0.2$

b) State whether the events R and T are independent. Give a reason for your answer.

If R and T are independent then $\mathrm{P}(T|R) = \mathrm{P}(T)$

$\mathrm{P}(T|R) = 0.15$ and $\mathrm{P}(T) = 0.035$

R and T are not independent as $\mathrm{P}(T|R) \neq \mathrm{P}(T)$

4.3.3 Sample Space Diagrams

Your notes

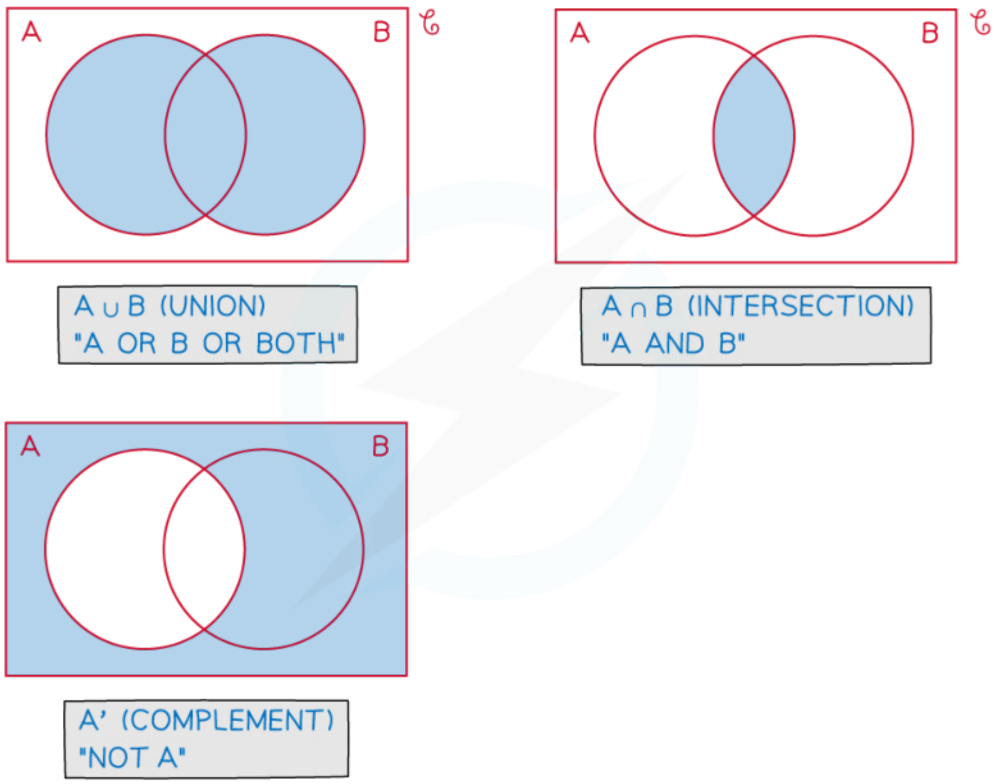
Venn Diagrams

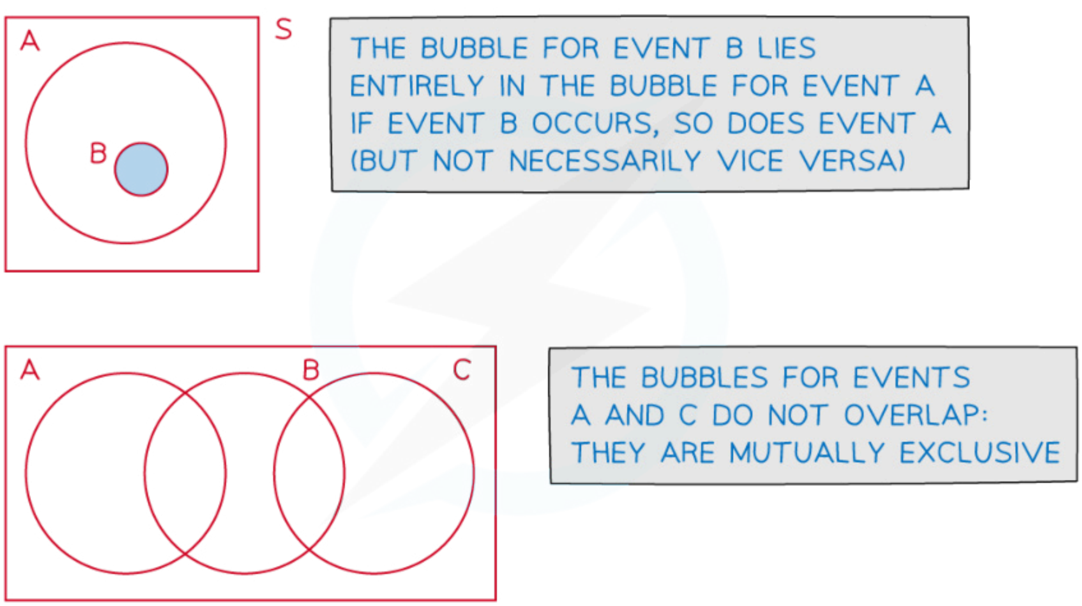
What is a Venn diagram?

- A Venn diagram is a way to illustrate **events** from an **experiment** and are particularly useful when there is an overlap between possible **outcomes**
- A Venn diagram consists of
  - a **rectangle** representing the **sample space (*U*)**
    - The rectangle is labelled *U*
    - Some mathematicians instead use *S* or *ξ*
  - a **circle** for each **event**
    - Circles may or may not overlap depending on which **outcomes** are shared between **events**
- The numbers in the circles represent either the **frequency** of that event or the **probability** of that event
  - If the **frequencies** are used then they should **add up to the total frequency**
  - If the **probabilities** are used then they should **add up to 1**

What do the different regions mean on a Venn diagram?

- A' is represented by the regions that are **not in** the *A* circle
- $A \cap B$ is represented by the region where the *A* and *B* circles **overlap**
- $A \cup B$ is represented by the regions that **are in** *A* or *B* or both
- Venn diagrams show '**AND**' and '**OR**' statements easily
- Venn diagrams also instantly show **mutually exclusive** events as these circles will **not overlap**
- **Independent** events can not be instantly seen
  - You need to use probabilities to deduce if two events are independent

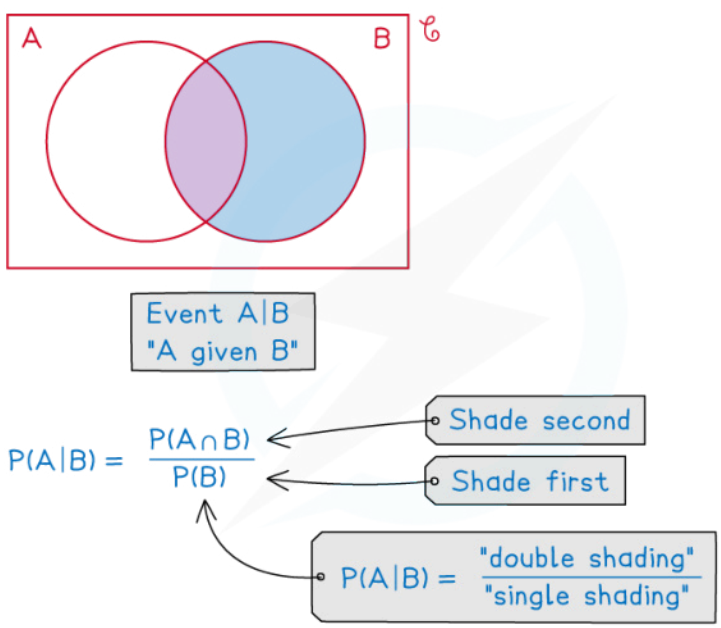

A
B
$\mathscr{E}$
A ∪ B (UNION)
"A OR B OR BOTH"
A
B
$\mathscr{E}$
A ∩ B (INTERSECTION)
"A AND B"
A
B
A' (COMPLEMENT)
"NOT A"


A
S
B
THE BUBBLE FOR EVENT B LIES
ENTIRELY IN THE BUBBLE FOR EVENT A
IF EVENT B OCCURS, SO DOES EVENT A
(BUT NOT NECESSARILY VICE VERSA)
A
B
C
THE BUBBLES FOR EVENTS
A AND C DO NOT OVERLAP:
THEY ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE

Your notes

How do I solve probability problems involving Venn diagrams?

- Draw, or add to a given Venn diagram, filling in as many values as possible from the information provided in the question
- It is usually helpful to work from the centre outwards
  - Fill in **intersections** (overlaps) first
- If two events are independent you can use the formula
  - $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = \mathrm{P}(A)\mathrm{P}(B)$
- To find the conditional probability $\mathrm{P}(A \mid B)$
  - Add together the frequencies/probabilities in the *B* circle
    - This is your denominator
  - Out of those frequencies/probabilities add together the ones that are also in the *A* circle
    - This is your numerator
  - Evaluate the fraction



Examiner Tip

- If you struggle to fill in a Venn diagram in an exam:
  - Label the missing parts using algebra
  - Form equations using known facts such as:
    - the sum of the probabilities should be 1
    - $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = \mathrm{P}(A)\mathrm{P}(B)$ if A and B are independent events

Your notes

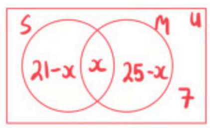
Your notes

Worked example

40 people are asked if they have sugar and/or milk in their coffee. 21 people have sugar, 25 people have milk and 7 people have neither.

a) Draw a Venn diagram to represent the information.

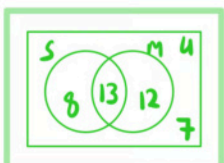
Find the centre first



Total should be 40

$(21-x)+x+(25-x)+7=40$

$53-x=40 \quad \therefore \; x=13$



b) One of the 40 people are randomly selected, find the probability that they have sugar but not milk with their coffee.

S and not M is the part of S circle that does not include M

$P(S\cap M')=\frac{8}{40}$ Remember to write as a fraction of the total

$P(S\cap M')=\frac{1}{5}$

c) Given that a person who has sugar is selected at random, find the probability that they have milk with their coffee.

Given that sugar has been selected we only want the S circle as our total.

Out of the S circle 13 also have milk

$P(M|S)=\frac{13}{21}$

Your notes

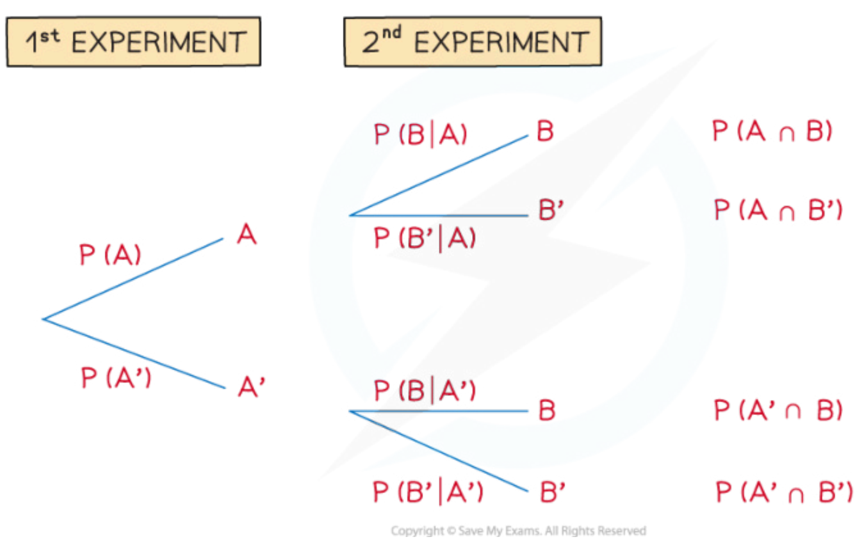
Tree Diagrams

What is a tree diagram?

- A **tree diagram** is another way to show the outcomes of combined events
  - They are very useful for intersections of events
- The events on the branches must be **mutually exclusive**
  - Usually they are an event and its complement
- The probabilities on the second sets of branches **can depend** on the outcome of the first event
  - These are **conditional probabilities**
- When selecting the items from a bag:
  - The second set of branches will be the **same** as the first if the items **are replaced**
  - The second set of branches will be the **different** to the first if the items **are not replaced**

How are probabilities calculated using a tree diagram?

- To find the probability that two events happen together you **multiply** the corresponding probabilities on their branches
  - It is helpful to find the probability of all combined outcomes once you have drawn the tree
- To find the probability of an event you can:
  - **add together** the probabilities of the **combined outcomes** that are part of that event
    - For example: $\mathrm{P}(A \cup B) = \mathrm{P}(A \cap B) + \mathrm{P}(A \cap B') + \mathrm{P}(A' \cap B)$
  - **subtract** the probabilities of the combined outcomes that are not part of that event from 1
    - For example: $\mathrm{P}(A \cup B) = 1 - \mathrm{P}(A' \cap B')$



Do I have to use a tree diagram?

- If there are **multiple events** or trials then a tree diagram can get big
- You can break down the problem by using the words **AND/OR/NOT** to help you find probabilities without a tree

- You can speed up the process by only drawing parts of the tree that you are interested in

Which events do I put on the first branch?

- If the events A and B are **independent** then the **order does not matter**
- If the events A and B are **not independent** then the **order does matter**
  - If you have the probability of ***A* given *B*** then put ***B* on the first set** of branches
  - If you have the probability of ***B* given *A*** then put ***A* on the first set** of branches

Examiner Tip

- In an exam do not waste time drawing a full tree diagram for scenarios with lots of events unless the question asks you to
  - Only draw the parts that you are interested in

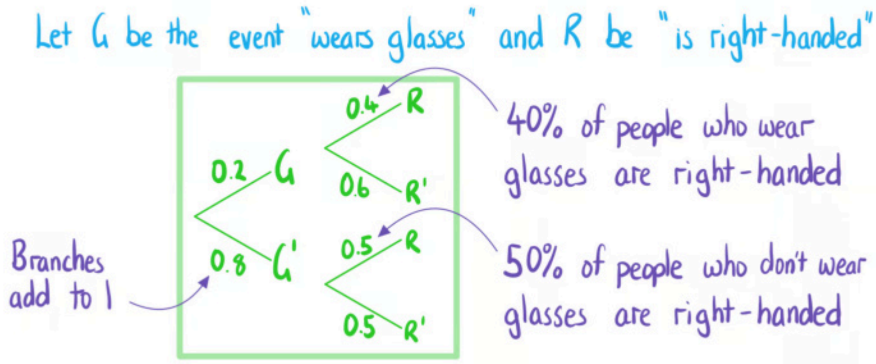
Your notes

Your notes

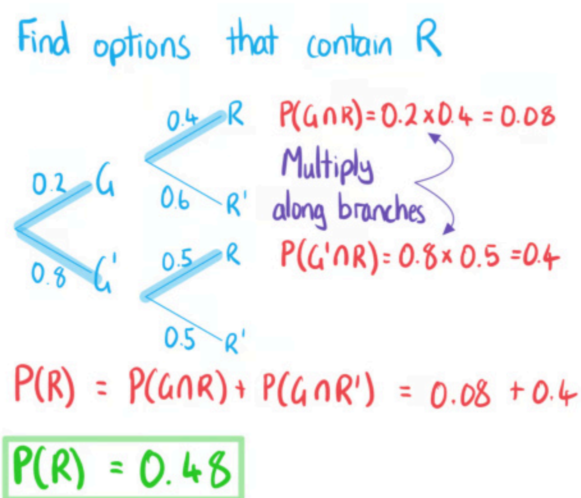
Worked example

20% of people in a company wear glasses. 40% of people in the company who wear glasses are right-handed. 50% of people in the company who don't wear glasses are right-handed.

a) Draw a tree diagram to represent the information.



b) One of the people in the company are randomly selected, find the probability that they are right-handed.



c) Given that a person who is right-handed is selected at random, find the probability that they wear glasses.

Your notes

$$P(G|R) = \frac{P(G \cap R)}{P(R)} = \frac{0.08}{0.48}$$

$$P(G|R) = \frac{1}{6}$$