

THE ELITE THINKING EXPEDITION 2027

A WEEKLY JOURNEY TO OC & SELECTIVE SUCCESS

SELECTIVE ANSWER PACK

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EXPEDITION CHECKPOINT

34 weeks to Selective

35 weeks to OC

Provisional May 2027 dates - updated when the official schedule is published

SELECTIVE

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

QUESTION 1

ANSWER: B

Step 1 - Understand the question

Look for another cause that explains the same result.

Step 2 - Use the strategy

Separate correlation from cause. Keep the reported rise true, but ask whether the rise would have happened without the program.

Step 3 - Apply the strategy

B shows the same six-point rise in comparable schools without the app. That makes a broader Term 2 influence a strong alternative explanation. A could support the app, while C and D describe the program without showing that another cause produced the improvement.

Step 4 - Confirm the answer

B. The comparison schools show that the improvement may have occurred without the app.

QUESTION 2

ANSWER: A

Step 1 - Understand the question

Track the exact edges that meet, not only which faces become adjacent.

Step 2 - Use the strategy

Treat each letter as fixed to its square. Label its head, foot, left edge and right edge. Fold one edge at a time and match the touching edges before deciding which way each visible letter points.

Step 3 - Apply the strategy

A's foot meets C's head, and A's right edge meets D's head. A's other edges must also remain consistent: its head meets E's head and its left edge meets B's head. The relationships around F provide the same check from the opposite face. In option A, the heads of C and D both meet the correct edges of A. Each other option reverses one letter while leaving it attached to the same face.

Step 4 - Confirm the answer

A. Its three visible letters have the orientations created by the matching folded edges.

QUESTION 3

ANSWER: A**Step 1 - Understand the question**

Translate 'only' correctly and combine a rule with its contrapositive.

Step 2 - Use the strategy

'Only metal lanterns may hang outdoors' means $\text{outdoors} \rightarrow \text{metal}$. 'No handled lantern is glass' gives $\text{glass} \rightarrow \text{not handled}$. Then combine known facts with the remaining conditional rule.

Step 3 - Apply the strategy

K hangs outdoors, so K is metal. K is glass, so K does not have a handle. The rule says a metal lantern that is not blue must have a handle. Since K is metal but has no handle, K cannot be 'metal and not blue'; because it is already metal, it must be blue. B and C contradict the deductions, and D is unsupported.

Step 4 - Confirm the answer

A. Lantern K must be blue.

QUESTION 4

ANSWER: D**Step 1 - Understand the question**

Use the fixed block to find the limited positions that remain.

Step 2 - Use the strategy

Place the L-M block first. Because N must be earlier than L, reserve a position before that block. Then fit J before K and test each option by constructing one complete order.

Step 3 - Apply the strategy

The clues allow J-K-N-L-M, J-N-K-L-M and N-J-K-L-M. These arrangements prove that N can be first, J can be second and K can be third. Across all valid arrangements, J is first or second. If J were third, K would need a later position, but the required L-M block and the earlier N would leave no valid placement.

Step 4 - Confirm the answer

D. J cannot be third.

QUESTION 5

ANSWER: C**Step 1 - Understand the question**

Identify the restrictions carefully before organising and counting the possibilities.

Step 2 - Use the strategy

Find each set of three digits in which one digit is the difference of the other two. For every valid set, check how many placements satisfy the fixed roles of the three code positions.

Step 3 - Apply the strategy

There are four valid digit sets: {1, 2, 3}, {1, 3, 4}, {1, 4, 5} and {2, 3, 5}. Each set makes two codes because either smaller digit can be second while the remaining digit becomes the difference: 312 and 321; 413 and 431; 514 and 541; 523 and 532. Therefore $4 \text{ sets} \times 2 \text{ arrangements} = 8 \text{ codes}$.

Step 4 - Confirm the answer

C. There are 8 possible codes.