



Blue Print (As per PU Board)

Topic	1 mark questions	2 marks questions	3 marks questions	5 marks questions	Total Marks
Vector Algebra	1	2	2	-	11

One mark questions

1. Find the value of λ if $\frac{2}{3}\hat{i} - \lambda\hat{j} + \frac{2}{3}\hat{k}$ is a unit vector.

Answer: $\vec{a} = \frac{2}{3}\hat{i} - \lambda\hat{j} + \frac{2}{3}\hat{k}$

$$|\vec{a}| = 1 \Rightarrow \sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + (-\lambda^2) + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2} = 1 \Rightarrow \sqrt{\lambda^2 + \frac{8}{9}} = 1$$

$$\lambda^2 = 1 - \frac{8}{9} = \frac{1}{9} \quad \therefore \lambda = \pm \frac{1}{3}$$

2. Find the vector joining two points $A(2,3,0), B(-1,-2,4)$

Answer: $\vec{AB} = (-1, -2, 4) - (2, 3, 0) = (-3, -5, 4)$ or $\vec{AB} = -3\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$

3. If $\vec{a} = (1, -2, 1), \vec{b} = (-2, 4, 5), \vec{c} = (1, -6, -7)$ find $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}$

Answer: $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c} = ((1 + (-2)) + 1, (-2 + 4 - 6), (1 + 5 - 7)) = (0, -4, -1)$ or $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c} = -4\hat{j} - \hat{k}$

4. If the vectors $2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 6\hat{k}$ and $4\hat{i} - m\hat{j} - 12\hat{k}$ are parallel, find m

Answer: Since 2 vectors are parallel, $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{3}{-m} = \frac{-6}{-12}$

$$\therefore \frac{3}{-m} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow m = -6$$

Two marks questions

5. Find the angle between the vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} with magnitudes $\sqrt{3}$ and 2 respectively having $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \sqrt{6}$

Answer: $\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|}$ (1 mark)

$$= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 2} = \frac{\sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \therefore \theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\pi}{4}$$
 (1 mark)

6. Find a vector in the direction of a vector $\vec{a} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$ that has magnitude 7 units.

Answer: Required vector = $7\hat{a}$ where $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|}$ (1 mark)

$$\frac{7(\hat{i} - 2\hat{j})}{\sqrt{1^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{7\hat{i} - 14\hat{j}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{7}{\sqrt{5}}\hat{i} - \frac{14}{5}\hat{j}$$
 (1 mark)

7. Evaluate $(3\vec{a} - 5\vec{b}) \cdot (2\vec{a} + 7\vec{b})$

Answer: $(3\vec{a} - 5\vec{b}) \cdot (2\vec{a} + 7\vec{b}) = 6(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a}) - 10(\vec{b} \cdot \vec{a}) + 21(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) - 35(\vec{b} \cdot \vec{b})$ (1 mark)

$$= 6|\vec{a}|^2 - 11(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) - 35|\vec{b}|^2 \quad [\because \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}]$$
 (1 mark)



8. Show that $|\vec{a}|\vec{b} + |\vec{b}|\vec{a}$ is perpendicular to $|\vec{a}|\vec{b} - |\vec{b}|\vec{a}$ for any two nonzero vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} .

Answer: $(|\vec{a}|\vec{b} + |\vec{b}|\vec{a}) \cdot (|\vec{a}|\vec{b} - |\vec{b}|\vec{a})$
 $= |\vec{a}|^2(\vec{b} \cdot \vec{b}) - |\vec{a}|\vec{b}|(\vec{b} \cdot \vec{a}) + |\vec{b}|\vec{a}|(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) - |\vec{b}|^2(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a})$ (1 mark)

$= |\vec{a}|^2|\vec{b}|^2 - |\vec{a}|\vec{b}|(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) + |\vec{a}|\vec{b}|(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) - |\vec{b}|^2|\vec{a}|^2 = 0$ (1 mark)

∴ The two given vectors are perpendicular to each other.

Three marks questions

9. If $\vec{a} = 5\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = \hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$, then show that the vectors $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$ and $\vec{a} - \vec{b}$ are perpendicular to each other.

Answer: $\vec{a} + \vec{b} = (5\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}) + (\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}) = 6\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 8\hat{k}$ (1 mark)

$\vec{a} - \vec{b} = 5\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k} - (\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}) = 4\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$ (1 mark)

If $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = 0$ then $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$ perpendicular $(\vec{a} - \vec{b})$

Consider $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = (6 \times 4 + (-4) \times 2 + (-8) \times 2) = 24 - 8 - 16 = 0$ (1 mark)

∴ $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$ is perpendicular to $(\vec{a} - \vec{b})$

10. Find a unit vector perpendicular to each of vector $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$ and $(\vec{a} - \vec{b})$ where $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$, $\vec{b} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$

Answer: Let $\vec{c} = \vec{a} + \vec{b}$ and $\vec{d} = \vec{a} - \vec{b}$

$\vec{c} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k} + \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$

$\vec{d} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k} - \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k} = -\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$ (1 mark)

Unit vector perpendicular to both \vec{c} and $\vec{d} = \frac{\vec{c} \times \vec{d}}{|\vec{c} \times \vec{d}|}$

$\vec{c} \times \vec{d} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i}(-6+4) - \hat{j}(-4-0) + \hat{k}(-2-0) = -2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$ (1 mark)

∴ $|\vec{c} \times \vec{d}| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 4^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{4+16+4} = \sqrt{24}$

∴ $\hat{n} = \frac{-2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{24}} = \frac{-\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}}{\sqrt{6}}$ (1 mark)

11. Show that the vectors \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c} are coplanar if $\vec{a} + \vec{b}, \vec{b} + \vec{c}$ and $\vec{c} + \vec{a}$ are coplanar.

Answer: Since $\vec{a} + \vec{b}, \vec{b} + \vec{c}, \vec{c} + \vec{a}$ are coplanar we have $[\vec{a} + \vec{b} \ \vec{b} + \vec{c} \ \vec{c} + \vec{a}] = 0$ (1 mark)

$(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot \{(\vec{b} + \vec{c}) \times (\vec{c} + \vec{a})\} = 0$

$(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot \{\vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{c} \times \vec{c} + \vec{b} \times \vec{a} + \vec{c} \times \vec{a}\} = 0$ (1 mark)

$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \times \vec{a} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} \times \vec{a} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} \times \vec{a} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} \times \vec{a} = 0$

$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} \times \vec{a} = 0$

$\Rightarrow [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] + [\vec{b} \vec{c} \vec{a}] = 0 \Rightarrow [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] + [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = 0$

∴ $2[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = 0$



$$\therefore [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = 0 \quad (1 \text{ mark})$$

$\therefore \vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}$ are coplanar.

12. Find x such that the four points $A(3,2,1)B(4,x,5)C(4,2,-2)$ and $D(6,5,-1)$ are coplanar.

Answer: $\vec{AB} = \vec{OB} - \vec{OA} = (1, x-2, 4)$

$$\vec{AC} = \vec{OC} - \vec{OA} = (1, 0, -3)$$

$$\vec{AD} = \vec{OD} - \vec{OA} = (3, 3, -2) \quad (1 \text{ mark})$$

For coplanar $\vec{AB} \cdot (\vec{AC} \times \vec{AD}) = 0$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & x-2 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & -3 \\ 3 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (1 \text{ mark})$$

$$1(0+9) - (x-2)(-2+9) + 4(3-0) = 0$$

$$9 - 7x + 14 + 12 = 0 \Rightarrow 7x = 35$$

$$\therefore x = 5 \quad (1 \text{ mark})$$