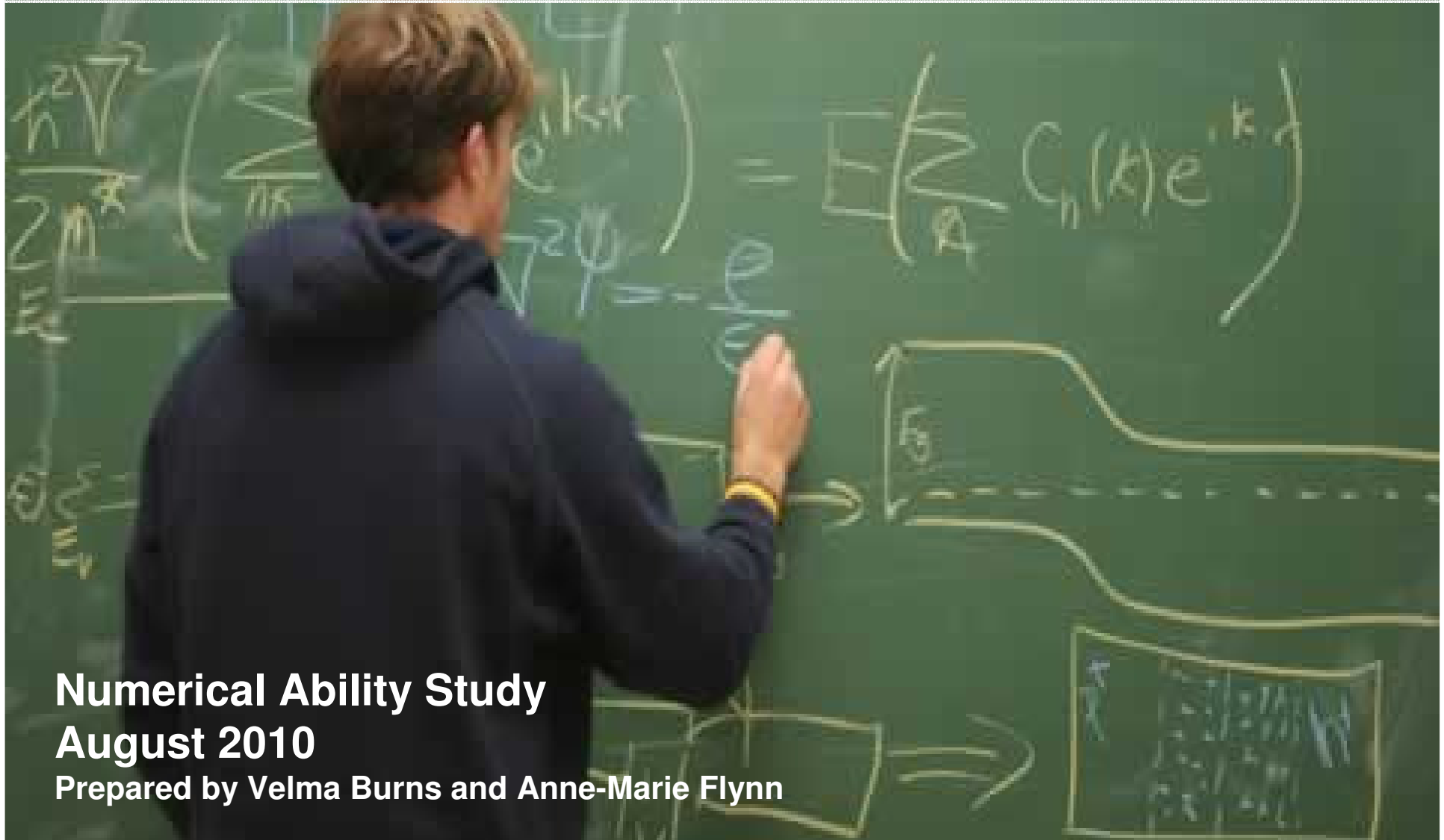


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**Numerical Ability Study**  
**August 2010**  
Prepared by Velma Burns and Anne-Marie Flynn

# Task: Percentage Calculation

How much does MP3 player cost including VAT at 21%?

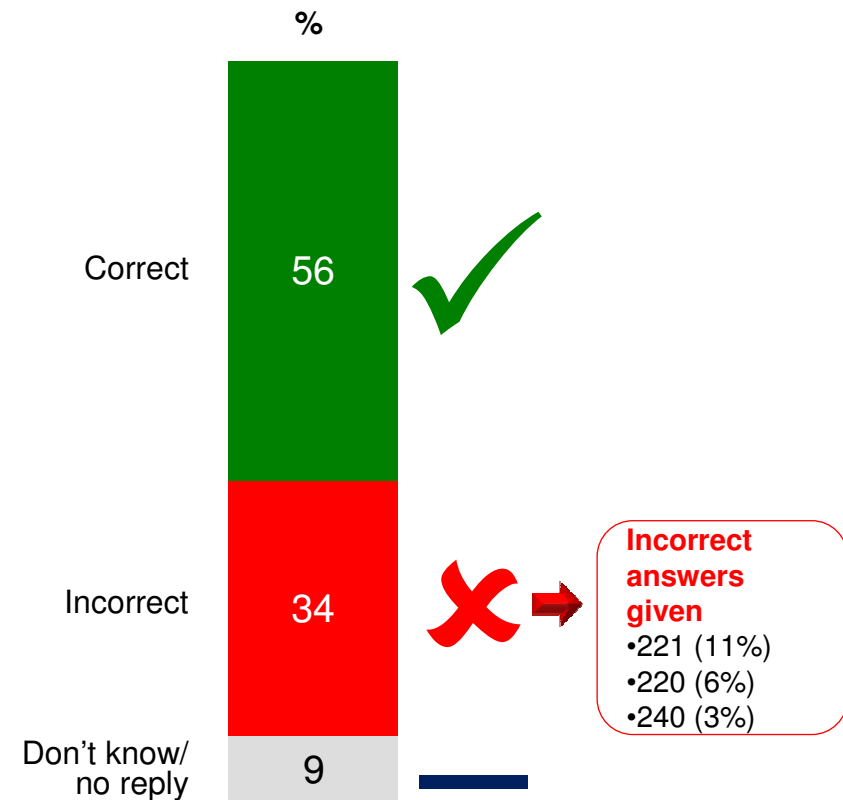
Base: all adults aged 15+ (1010)

Q. An MP3 player costs €200 plus 21% value added tax (VAT). What is the total cost of the MP3 player?



MP3 Player only €200 (exclusive of 21% VAT)

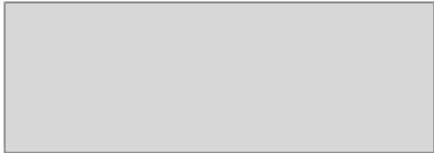
**Answer = €242**



# Task: Area Calculation of Rectangular Field

Base: all adults aged 15+ (1010)

Q. Which of the answers listed on this card corresponds to the area of this rectangular field?

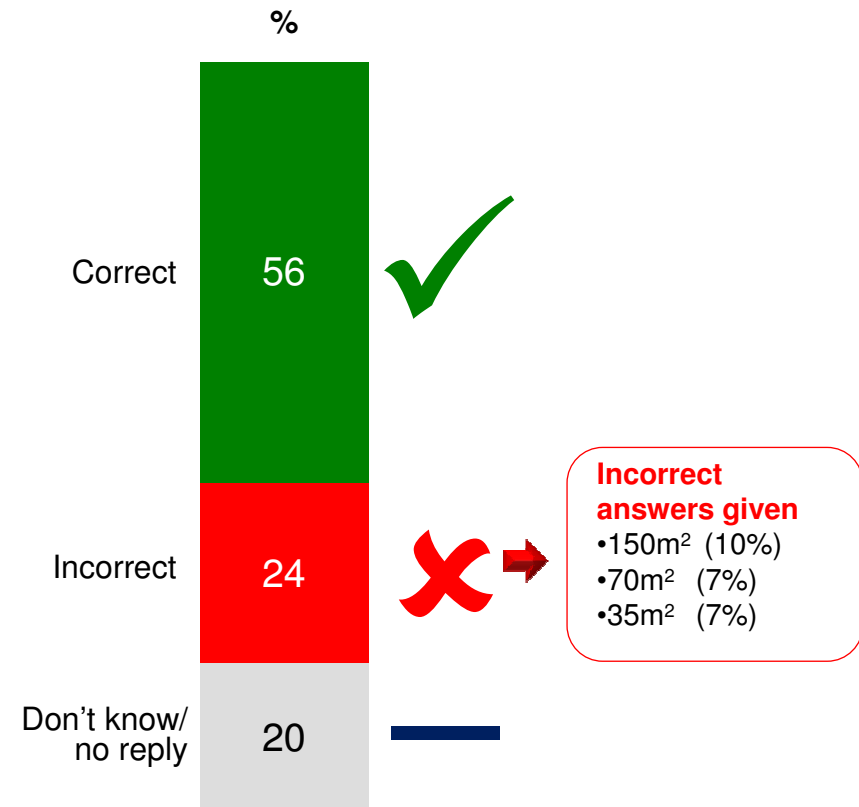


20 m

15 m

- a)  $35\text{m}^2$
- b)  $70\text{m}^2$
- c)  $150\text{m}^2$
- d)  $300\text{m}^2$

**Answer = €300m<sup>2</sup>**



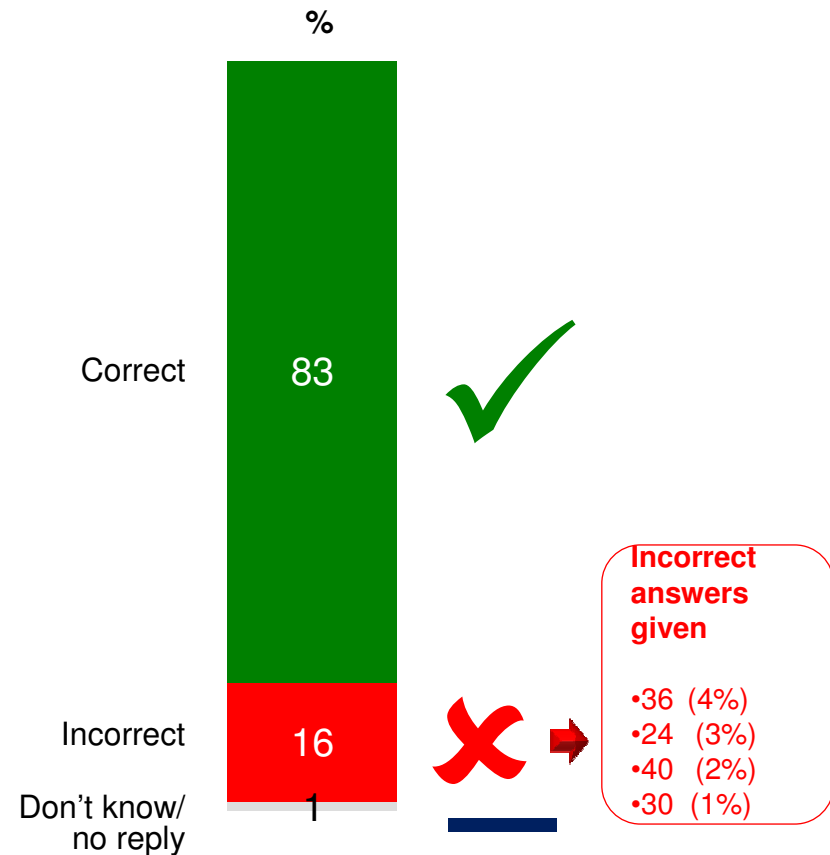
# Task: Number of coke bottles in tray (addition/multiplication)

Base: all adults aged 15+ (1010)

Q. *In total, how many bottles are in the two full cases?*



**Answer = 48**



# Task: Visual based calculation.

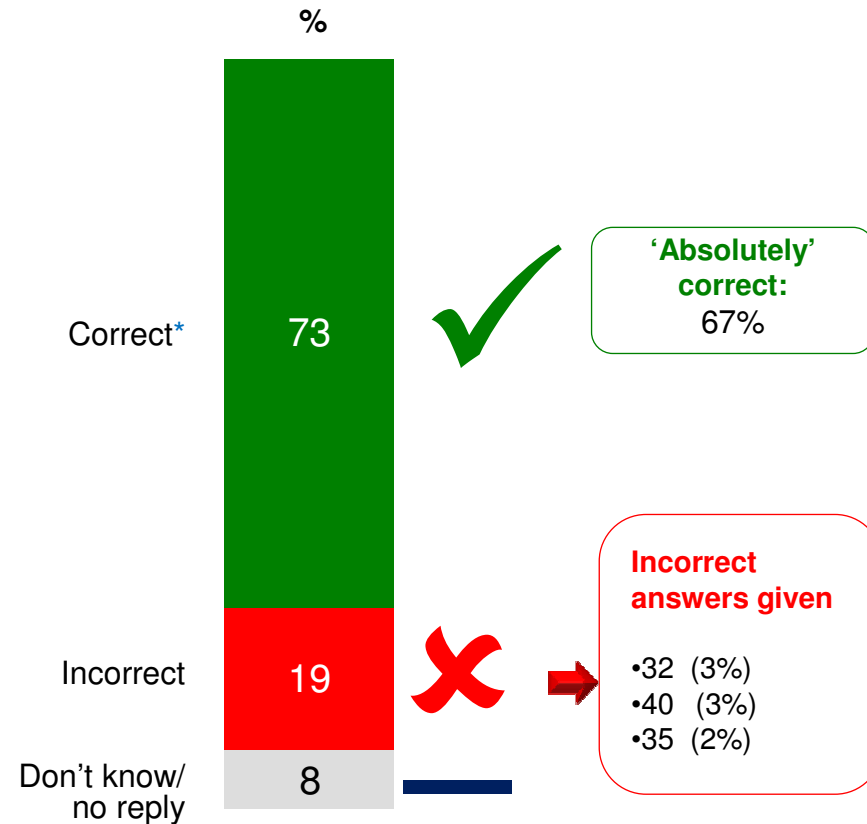
## How much petrol remains in tank?

Base: all adults aged 15+ (1010)

Q. The petrol tank in this car holds 48 litres. About how many litres of petrol remain in the tank? You can assume that the gas gauge is accurate.



**Answer = 36**

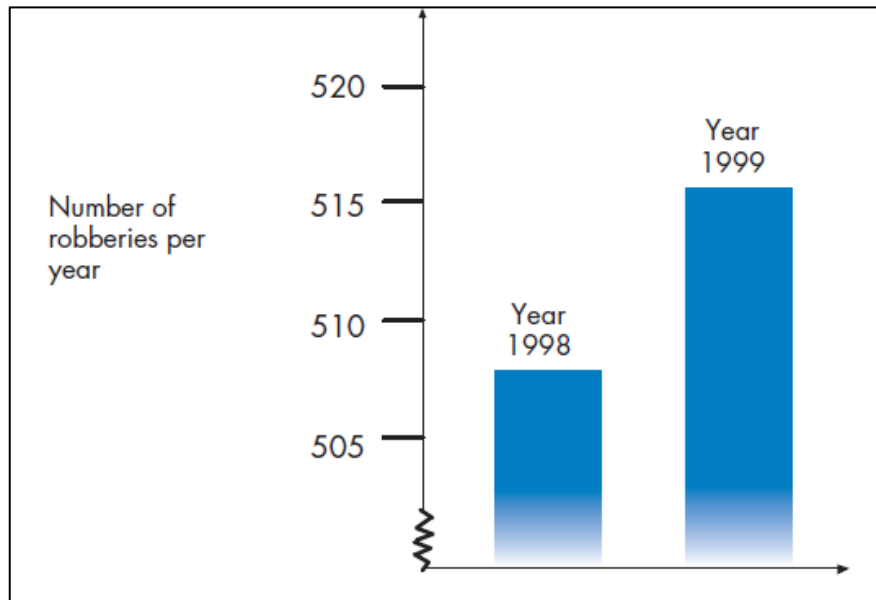


\*Note: responses within +/-3 deemed to be correct. 'Absolutely correct' reflects exact answer of 36.

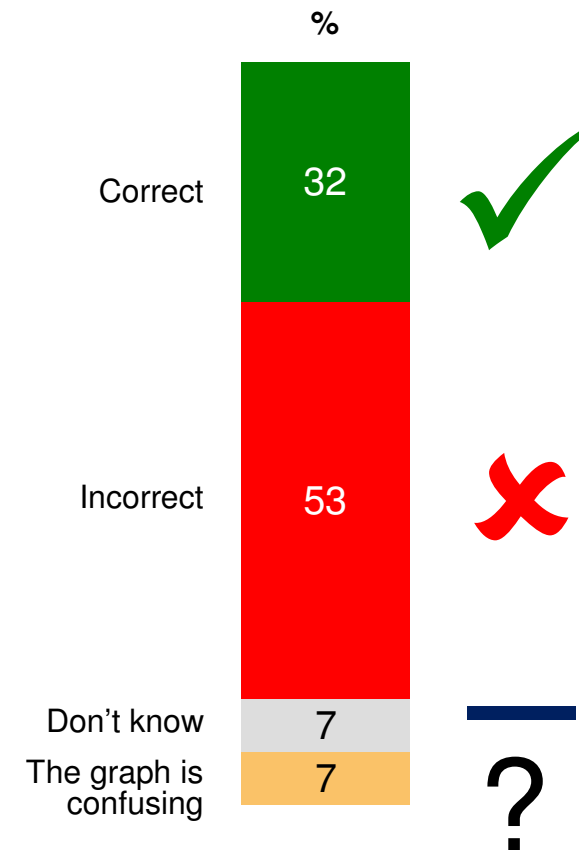
# Task: Interpretation of graph

Base: all adults aged 15+ (1010)

Q. A TV reporter showed this graph and said: "This graph shows that there has been a huge increase in robberies from 1998 to 1999." Do you consider the reporter's statement to be a reasonable interpretation of the graph?



Answer = No



# Task: Division. *Which is better value?*

Base: all adults aged 15+ (1010)

Q. *Which do you think is better value – pack A or pack B?*

**Pack A**



**Pack B**



**Answer = Pack A**

