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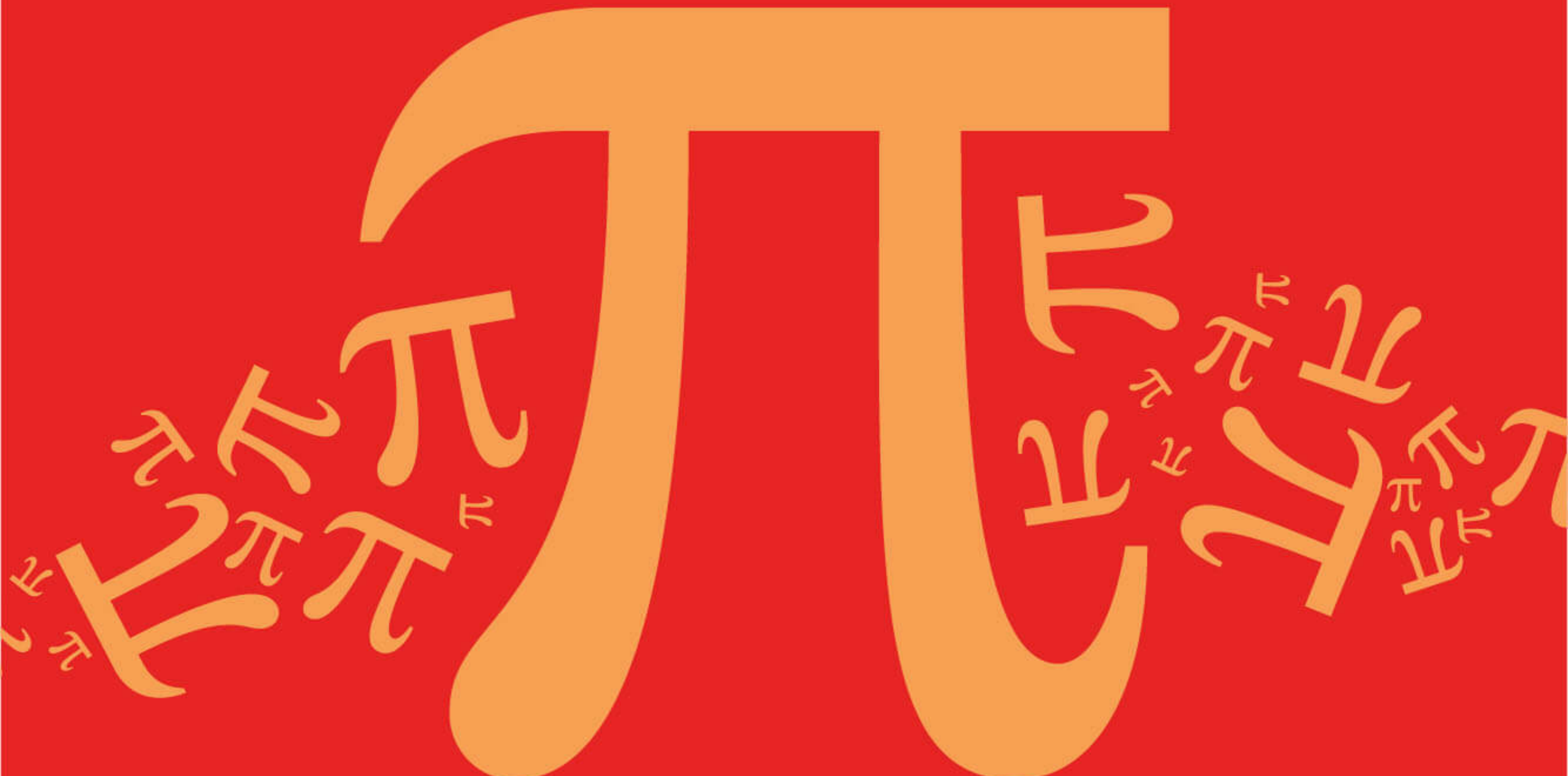
4.3 Probability



IB Maths - Revision Notes

AA SL

4.3.1 Probability & Types of Events

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**
- 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'

$$P(A) + P(A') = 1$$

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

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

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

- 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

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

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

Exam Tip

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

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 $\mathrm{P}(T)$.

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

$n(T)$ ← Number of multiples of 3

$n(U)$ ← Total number of outcomes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Independent & Mutually Exclusive Events

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:
  - $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = 0$

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:
  - $\mathrm{P}(A|B) = \mathrm{P}(A)$ and $\mathrm{P}(B|A) = \mathrm{P}(B)$
- If *A* and *B* are independent events then:
  - $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = \mathrm{P}(A)\mathrm{P}(B)$
    - 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

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

    - This is given in the **formula booklet**
    - This occurs because $\mathrm{P}(A \cap B) = 0$

- 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
  - $\mathrm{P}(A) = \mathrm{P}(A \cap B) + \mathrm{P}(A \cap B')$
    - This works for any two events *A* and *B*

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"

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

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

$\boxed{P(D \cap C) = 0.5}$

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

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

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

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 $\Rightarrow P(S \cup T) = P(S) + P(T)$

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

$0.6 = 2P(T) + P(T)$ $\quad P(S) = 2P(T)$

$0.6 = 3P(T)$

$\boxed{P(T) = 0.2 \text{ and } P(S) = 0.4}$

4.3.2 Conditional Probability

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
  - $\mathrm{P}(A|B)=\dfrac{\mathrm{P}(A\cap B)}{\mathrm{P}(B)}$
  - This is given in the **formula booklet**
  - This can be rearranged to give $\mathrm{P}(A\cap B)=\mathrm{P}(B)\mathrm{P}(A|B)$
  - By symmetry you can also write $\mathrm{P}(A\cap B)=\mathrm{P}(A)\mathrm{P}(B|A)$

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

- If A and B are two events then they are independent if:
  - $\mathrm{P}(A|B)=\mathrm{P}(A)=\mathrm{P}(A|B')$

- 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**

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

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

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

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

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 $\mathrm{P}(T) = 0.035$

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

4.3.3 Sample Space Diagrams

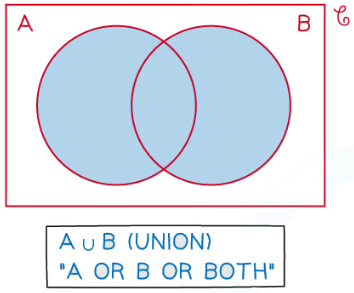
Venn Diagrams

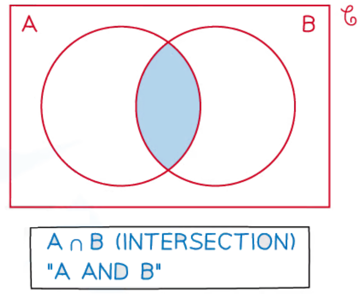
What is a Venn diagram?

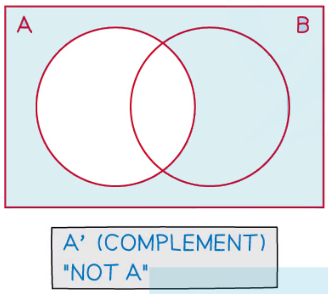
- A Venn diagram is a way to illustrate **events** from an **experiment** and are particularly useful when there is an overlap between possible **outcomes**
- A Venn diagram consists of
  - a **rectangle** representing the **sample space (*U*)**
    - The rectangle is labelled U
    - Some mathematicians 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**

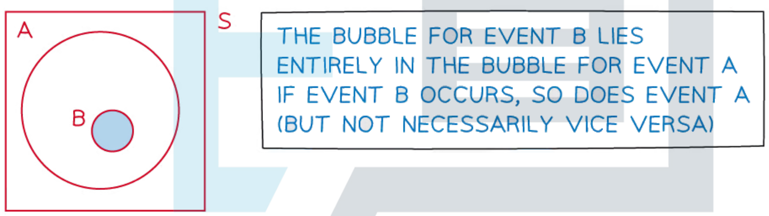
What do the different regions mean on a Venn diagram?

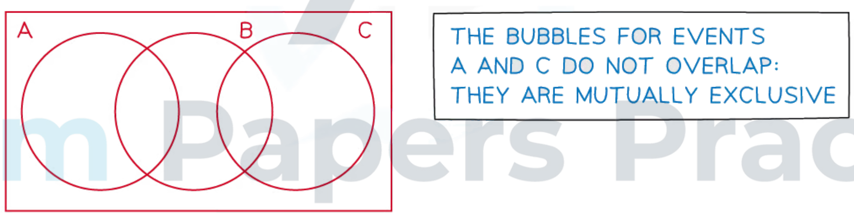
- A' is represented by the regions that are **not in** the A circle
- $A \cap B$ is represented by the region where the A and B circles **overlap**
- $A \cup B$ is represented by the regions that **are in** A or B or both
- Venn diagrams show **'AND'** and **'OR'** statements easily
- Venn diagrams also 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





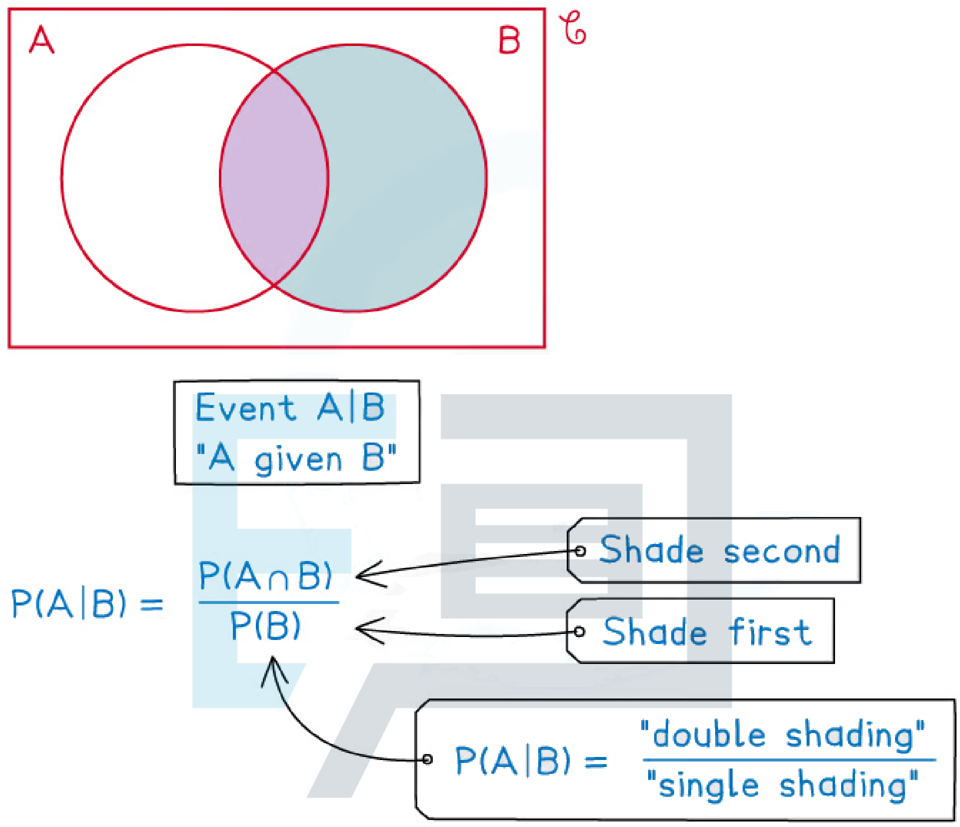






How do I solve probability problems involving Venn diagrams?

- 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



Exam Tip

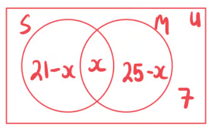
- If you struggle to fill in a Venn diagram in an exam:
  - Label the missing parts using algebra
  - Form equations using known facts such as:
    - the sum of the probabilities should be 1
    - $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$ if A and B are independent events

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.

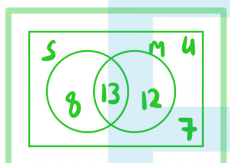
Find the centre first



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

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

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

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

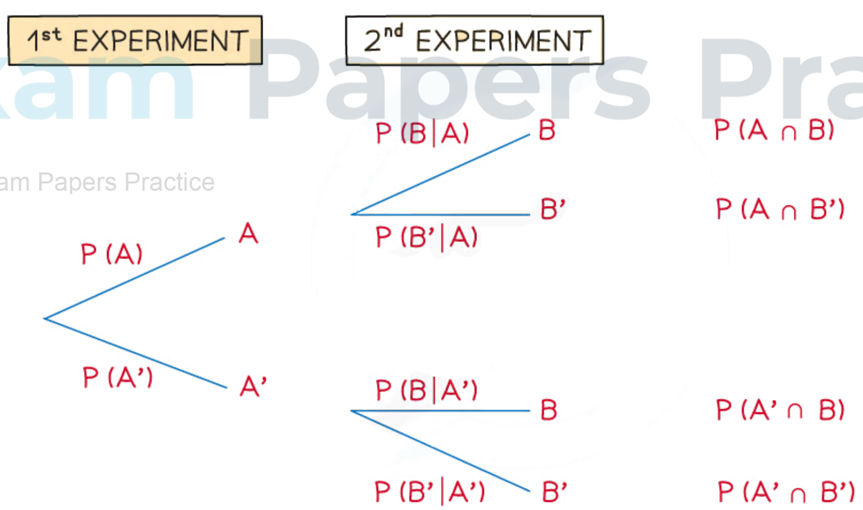
Tree Diagrams

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

Exam Tip

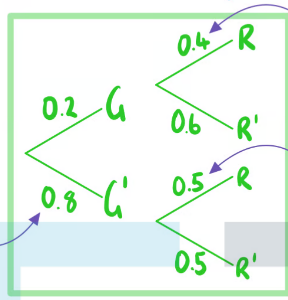
- In an exam do not waste time drawing a full tree diagram for scenarios with lots of events unless the question asks you to
  - Only draw the parts that you are interested in

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.

Let G be the event "wears glasses" and R be "is right-handed"



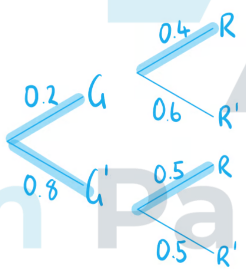
40% of people who wear glasses are right-handed

50% of people who don't wear glasses are right-handed

Branches add to 1

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

Find options that contain R



$P(G \cap R) = 0.2 \times 0.4 = 0.08$

Multiply along branches

$P(G' \cap R) = 0.8 \times 0.5 = 0.4$

$P(R) = P(G \cap R) + P(G' \cap R') = 0.08 + 0.4$

$\boxed{P(R) = 0.48}$

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

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

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