

MATH 1000 READING CHECK 6

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

Instructor: Alex Rice

Name:

These questions concern Chapter 5 of *How Not to Be Wrong* by Jordan Ellenberg, titled “More Pie Than Plate”.

- (1) Which is the “slogan to live by” for this chapter?
 - a) Don’t talk about percentages of numbers when the numbers might be negative.
 - b) Don’t talk about percentages above 100%.
 - c) Don’t talk about percentages at all, use fractions instead.
- (2) What is the counterintuitive, yet accurate, conclusion that Jordan makes about his hypothetical coffee shop?
 - a) His coffee is the best in the world, but nobody is buying it.
 - b) He made a profit on every individual component of his business, but lost money overall.
 - c) 75% of his monthly profit came from selling CDs, and also 75% of his monthly profit came from selling pastries.
- (3) Why does Jordan think it would be a “fake story” to say that nearly all tradable sector job growth in the U.S. between 1990 and 2008 came from finance and insurance?

- a) There was even bigger job growth in other sectors like computers, they were just canceled out by job losses in sectors like manufacturing.
 - b) The job growth in finance and insurance didn't actually correspond to new jobs, but rather reclassification of existing jobs from a different sector.
 - c) The data suggesting that finance and insurance gained about 600,000 jobs may not be reliable.
- (4) What do all of the provided example applications of percentage (coffee shop, job growth, income growth, etc.) have in common that allows them to be spun in a misleading way?
- a) They use percentages with numbers that could be negative, but happen to be positive.
 - b) They use percentages when the whole is changing.
 - c) They use percentages when the whole is negative.
- (5) How did the Washington Post grade the accuracy of Mitt Romney's campaign's claim that women accounted for 92.3% of the jobs lost under President Obama?
- a) true
 - b) false
 - c) true but false
- (6) Fill in the blank: "Dividing one number by another is mere computation; (blank) is mathematics.
- a) figuring out what you should divide by what
 - b) memorizing a thousand digits of π
 - c) dividing one ten digit number by another ten digit number