



## IMPROVING STUDENTS' MATHEMATICAL COMPETENCE BY SOLVING COMBINATORICS PROBLEMS

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### Abstract

The article describes the issues of developing students' mathematical competence and creative, independent thinking by solving combinatorics problems.

**Keywords:** mathematical, skill, competence, competent, creative thinking, independent thinking.

Combinatorics is a branch of mathematics that studies the various permutations and combinations of things and objects, and combinatorics considers all possible options. Combinatorics was created in the 17th century. For a long time, combinatorics was not considered a branch of mathematics. Hunters used combinatorics to hunt their prey, soldiers to plan their tactics, and workers to use their instruments. Interesting combinatorial problems are also common. The first studies on combinatorics were carried out by Italian scientists D. Cardano, N. Tartalye (1499-1557), G. Galileo (1564-1642), French scientist B. Pascal (1623-1662). G. Leibniz first studied combinatorics as an independent branch of mathematics, and in 1666 he wrote a work entitled "On the Art of Combinatorics" and used the term "combinatorics" for the first time in this work.

In mathematics and its applications, it is necessary to study various sets and various relationships between the elements of these sets. In similar problems, work is done with various combinations of objects. The branch of mathematics that studies such problems is called combinatorics. Combinatorics and its elements are widely used in various fields.

The math course contains interesting problems of an entertaining nature: math tricks, match problems, puzzles, combinatorial problems, etc. They studied all the subjects of the main course and, of course, in extracurricular activities. It is impossible to increase students' interest in mathematics, develop their mathematical abilities, without using quick assignments, funny tasks, mathematical tricks, didactic games, poems, fairy tales, riddles, etc. In the educational process. Reasonable games in mathematics lessons have great pedagogical value.





Great opportunities for the development of thinking in the educational process are inherent in mathematics, but they cannot be realized by themselves, but require a professional methodical solution, that is, it is desirable to organize training for the development of mathematical skills. Therefore, it is very important and relevant to include combinatorial problems in the mathematics course.

Mathematics provides real conditions for the development of logical thinking. The inclusion of combinatorics problems in the mathematics course affects the development of intuitive, spatial, constructive, symbolic thinking, the development of students' mathematical abilities, as well as the cultivation of interest in mathematics. Combinatorial problems are preparation for solving practical life problems, in this situation:

has great opportunities to teach to make the best decisions;  
organization of primary research and creative activities of students;  
serves to activate mental activity and form intellectual abilities.

Based on the analysis of psychological, pedagogical and methodical literature, we recommend taking a sample from the experience of well-known teachers on the theoretical foundations of the combinatorics department and the creative approach to solving combinatorics problems in mathematics classes, the methodology of solving combinatorics problems in mathematics classes.

Based on the above considerations, we believe that the development of mathematical education includes an organic combination of education and development, in which education is not a condition for the development of situations. As a result of such training, the student acquires independent knowledge, gets acquainted with the methods of actions, recreates the methods of solving problems known to him and discovers new ones.

The analysis of studies on combinatorial problem solving methods allowed us to distinguish the following aspects: the development methods of teaching are not based on handing over ready-made schemes for solving combinatorics problems, but on the organization of such activities that provide students with the formation of effective creative thinking, helps to solve non-standard problems that take into account different things. It teaches to distinguish the signs of the object depending on the situation.

In tasks that require students to be creative, the success of their implementation is ensured by the teacher's help, because the real creative activity and creativity of students in the educational process is somewhat different. Also, the successful completion of some tasks used in the development of the educational process requires a certain methodical support of the teacher, because the real creative activity and





creativity of students in the educational process are different from each other. Also, the successful completion of some issues used in the training process is ensured by their game form.

Success in developmental tasks produces strong emotional events, including feelings called “mental joy.” Repeated success and positive feelings associated with it form a new motive for learning and knowledge activity – the expectation of “mental joy”.

One of the factors of increasing the efficiency of the development of mathematical education is related to what tasks should be solved, what are their didactic possibilities and how effective is the methodology of working with them. In this sense, issues that allow to find not one, but several solutions are worthy of attention. This means the existence of different solutions-answers and the search for them. The peculiarity of these problems is that their solutions do not fit into the framework of the usual scheme. Such problems do not limit students to a strict framework of a single solution, but instead open the door of opportunities for them to search and think. The complexity of combinatorics problems lies in the fact that when solving it, it is necessary to choose only a constructive search system that makes sure that all cases (without repeating the combination) are considered.

The experience gained in the mathematics classes arouses the student's interest in the problem, the desire to solve it, including a non-standard problem, helps him to move away from the template, teaches him to comprehensively analyze specific situations and conditions, “tools” for solving difficult tasks. “ will give.

Thus, it allows us to make the following recommendations on the use of methodical methods in the organization of work to solve combinatorics problems: methods of action are not given “ready-made”, and students make discoveries and gain experience on their own. The focus is on going through random search options in solving a combinatorial problem, and then carrying out a systematic activity with the help of the teacher. This methodology has been proven several times in practice, and conclusions are drawn about the need to apply mathematical formulas to combinatorics problems, most importantly, they affect the increase in the number of educational achievements in this subject, the general development of the mathematical thinking of students does.

Permutations are selections (combinations) of  $n$  elements, which differ from each other by the order of elements. The number of permutations is defined as  $P_n$  and  $u$

$$R_n = n! \quad (1)$$

is calculated by the formula. Here  $n!$  is equal to the product of natural numbers from one to  $n$ :  $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \dots \times n$





If different permutations are obtained from  $n$  elements, and element 1 is repeated  $n_1$  times, element 2 is repeated  $n_2$  times,  $k$ -element is repeated  $n_k$  times and  $n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k=n$  places, then elements of such permutations are called repeated permutations and it

$$P_n(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) = \frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \dots n_k!}, \quad (2)$$

is calculated by the formula.

Issue 1. If the number 8 is repeated 3 times, and the numbers 7 and 9 are repeated once, how many 5-digit numbers can be formed from the numbers 7,8,9?

Solution: If each five-digit number differs from the others by the order of its digits and if  $n_1=1$ ,  $n_2=3$ , and  $n_3=1$  are appropriate, then we use formula (3) to find the solution to the problem we generate .

$$P_5(1, 3, 1) = \frac{5!}{1! 3! 1!} = 20.$$

Issue 2. The letters M, A, T, E, M, A, T, I, K, A are written on the cards. How many different 10-letter “words” can be made using these cards (where “word” is a different sequence of letters)?

Solution: The number of permutations of two M letters  $R_2=2$ , the number of permutations of three A letters  $R_3=3!=6$ , the number of permutations of two T letters  $R_2=2$  and the resulting answer

$$P_{10}(2, 3, 2) = \frac{10!}{2! 3! 2!} = 151200 \quad \text{is equal to a word.}$$

Issue 3. 1<sup>st</sup> year students study 10 different subjects. If 5 pairs of lessons are scheduled on Monday, in how many different ways can the lesson schedule for this day be made?

Solution: The lesson schedule can be viewed as placing 5 out of 10 items:

$$A_{10}^5 = \frac{10!}{(10-5)!} = 10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 = 30240.$$

Issue 4. In how many different ways can 4 candidates be selected from 9 specialists to be sent to 4 different countries?

Solution:  $A_9^4 = \frac{9!}{(9-4)!} = 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 = 3024.$

According to the table above, the number of placements from  $k$  elements to  $t$  elements (elements can be repeated)

$$\bar{A}_n^k = n^k \quad (3)$$

is found by the formula.

Problem.. Among the students of the 1st year, a competition was held in the nominations “The smartest”, “The fastest”, “The bravest” and “The most inventive”. If



there are prizes for each category, what is the total number of distributions for these categories?

Solution: Since each participant has the opportunity to receive more than 4 nominations, we use formula (6) to solve this problem:  $\bar{A}_{15}^4 = 15^4 = 50625$ .

Matter. How many 6-digit numbers can be formed using the numbers 3,4,5?

Solution:  $\bar{A}_3^6 = 3^6 = 729$ .

This problem can be solved using the rule of multiplication. The number in each position can be selected in 3 different ways, viz

is formed.

According to the table, the number of subsets of m-element sets from n-element sets (the order of elements does not matter)

$$C_n^m = \frac{n!}{m! \cdot (n-m)!} \quad (7).$$

Is calculated by the formula.

Thus, one of the most important tasks facing the teacher is the development of the student's independent thinking, logical thinking, which allows the student to make logical conclusions, give arguments, statements; teaches to justify one's own conclusions and, ultimately, learn independently, improves mathematical competence.

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