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$$x^2 + x - 12 = 0$$

If a is a solution of the equation above and $a > 0$, what is the value of a ?

17

The sum of $-2x^2 + x + 31$ and $3x^2 + 7x - 8$ can be written in the form $ax^2 + bx + c$, where a , b , and c are constants. What is the value of $a + b + c$?

18

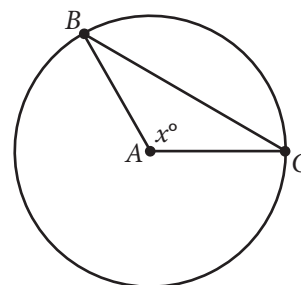
$$\begin{aligned} -x + y &= -3.5 \\ x + 3y &= 9.5 \end{aligned}$$

If (x, y) satisfies the system of equations above, what is the value of y ?

19

A start-up company opened with 8 employees. The company's growth plan assumes that 2 new employees will be hired each quarter (every 3 months) for the first 5 years. If an equation is written in the form $y = ax + b$ to represent the number of employees, y , employed by the company x quarters after the company opened, what is the value of b ?

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Note: Figure not drawn to scale.

In the circle above, point A is the center and the length of arc \widehat{BC} is $\frac{2}{5}$ of the circumference of the circle. What is the value of x ?

STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.
Do not turn to any other section.**