

16

A business man signs a contract on July 1, 2004. The contract runs for 72 months.

On what day does the contract end?

ANSWER:

COMMENTS & EXTENSIONS: Some pupils may wish to get mired in the details of figuring out many days in 72 months. This misses the point which is that 72 months is 6 years. The researcher on mathematical genius, Prof. Julian Stanley, has proposed that mathematically gifted people are able to see to the heart of an issue without getting sidetracked by details.

17

A normal human body temperature is 98.6° Fahrenheit.

Why such a strange number ó 98.6?

What is Fahrenheit?

ANSWER:

COMMENTS & EXTENSIONS: Measurement benchmarks are important, as an American friend of mine with a feverish infant found out. She was in England and needed to know what normal body temperature was in Centigrade. Challenge children to find out.

FUN FACT: History of Fahrenheit.

18

a. How many numbers from 1 to 99 have the digit 1 in them?

b. How many have the digit 2?

c. How many have the digit 7?

ANSWER:

COMMENTS & EXTENSIONS: One major aspect of intelligence is to see similarities in situations despite details which may make them look different. Do ALL the digits 0 through 9 occur with the same frequency in the range 1-99? How about 100-199?