Introduction To Counting & Probability (The Art Of Problem Solving)
Synopsis
Book by Patrick, David

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Customer Reviews

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This book helped my daughter greatly. She recently got the Mathcount state championship for 2015 and will go to Boston for the national competition.

This book is great, but it got too hard for my daughter and I. We finished about half of it. After that, it was like advanced college level, and I didn’t think my daughter needed the headache. Good curriculum, but be aware that it is advanced.

It arrived as planned and my son enjoyed the book to his content. I am very happy to gain easy access to whatever book I want. Expedient and economical. I am so pleased with this purchase.

I agree with the comments of another post that the material get’s difficult around Ch 7 and Ch 8. It’s not necessarily advanced concepts it just takes a long time to think through a single problem and the explanations are not as clear. I found myself going to their website for video explanations of concepts a lot in these chapters. I’m not sure if the difficulty of the material is due more to poor
explanation on their part or the natural difficulty of wrapping your head around some of these problems. This seems like a topic with techniques that you'll just need to continually practice before they become second nature.

The material in this book is on the difficult side, but roughly corresponds to what you might find at the chapter and state level of Mathcounts. The problem oriented approach is what I recommend for learning secondary school math, and this book follows that with a very good selection of problems culled from Mathcounts, ARML, and ASHME/AMC as well as its own. I had made it to one of the first National Mathcounts decades ago (during a year that concentrated on Probability and Combinatorics), with a mostly common sense approach to the subject. However, working with middle school math teams currently, I felt handicapped in how to explain it or introduce the topics. This book provides the structure and outline of the approach I'll take with them in future. I have beefs with the formatting from a graphical arts standpoint and arrangement as I mentioned in another review. If you're going to buy any of the AoPS books, I'd buy this one first.
