

Game 40 – Cubicles

Exactly six office employees—Hammond, Imu, Jalopnik, Lane, Mbende and Nethel—each work in exactly one of eight cubicles, numbered 1 to 8. Each employee either works in Claims or in Support. The following conditions apply:

Nethel works in Support in Cubicle 5.

Jalopnik works in cubicle 8.

Nethel works in a lower numbered cubicle than Lane.

Both Hammond and Imu work in a lower numbered cubicle than Mbende.

An employee works in Claims in Cubicle 7.

No employees in adjacent cubicles both do the same type of work.

1. Which one of the following could be a complete and accurate list of the employees in cubicles 1 to 3, respectively?
 - A. Hammond, empty, Imu
 - B. Hammond, empty, Mbende
 - C. Jalopnik, Hammond, Mbende
 - D. Lane, Hammond, Imu
 - E. Lane, Imu, Mbende
2. If Mbende works in Support, which one of the following could be true?
 - A. Hammond works in Support.
 - B. Lane works in Support.
 - C. The employee in cubicle 2 works in Support.
 - D. The employee in cubicle 7 works in Support.
 - E. Exactly three employees work in Support.

3. If Imu works in cubicle 3, which one of the following must be true?
 - A. Mbende works in Support.
 - B. Imu works in Support.
 - C. Hammond works in cubicle 1.
 - D. Hammond works in cubicle 2.
 - E. Hammond works in Claims.
4. Which one of the following is a complete and accurate list of the cubicles, any one of which could be the cubicle of an employee who handles claims?
 - A. 1, 3, 4, 7
 - B. 1, 2, 3, 4
 - C. 1, 3, 5, 7
 - D. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
 - E. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5. If there is no employee in cubicle 3, which one of the following must be true?
 - A. Exactly 2 employees handle Claims.
 - B. Exactly 2 employees handle Support.
 - C. Exactly 3 employees handle Claims.
 - D. Exactly 4 employees handle Claims.
 - E. Exactly 4 employees handle Support.
6. Which one of the following CANNOT be true?
 - A. Both Mbende and Hammond handle Claims.
 - B. Both Mbende and Hammond handle Support.
 - C. Both Mbende and Imu handle Claims.
 - D. Both Hammond and Imu handle Support.
 - E. Both Hammond and Imu handle Claims.

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1. A
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. E

This is a game of order with qualities. Right off the bat you should be able to figure out that Lane is in cubicle 7 because nobody can be in cubicle 6 under the adjacent cubicles rule. In fact, all of this game takes place in the first four spots, mostly using a combination of the Mbende, Imu and Hammond rule combined with the adjacent cubicle rule.

On Question 1, four of the answers break a rule, including the inference based on the rules that Lane is in cubicle 7. Question 2 requires the deduction that Mbende must be in third because Mbende must follow Hammond and Imu but cannot be next to Nethel, since Nethel works in support. Mbende is thus preceded by Hammond and Imu, and since these two are next to each other, one must work in support (we don't know which one).

On Question 3, because Imu comes before Mbende, you can deduce that Mbende is in fourth and must work in Claims, since Nethel works in support. This means Imu handles support. Question 4 is a matter of excluding the cubicles known to be support—5 and 8, and deducing that no one is in the sixth cubicle. Claims can go in any of the first four spots, and they also always go in the eighth.

On the fifth Question, you can deduce that Mbende must be in the fourth cubicle and Hammond and Imu are in the first and second, not necessarily in that order. This means Mbende is handling Claims since Mbende is next to Nethel, and between Hammond and Imu, exactly one is handling Claims because of the adjacent cubicle rule. This gives you exactly three employees doing Claims and Support. Remember that it's possible to know the number of a quality even if you don't know exactly which elements to which it is ascribed.

Question 6 is E because if both Hammond and Imu handle Claims, they can't be next to each other, and thus must be in cubicles 1 and 3, not necessarily in that respective order. This means that cubicle 4 is next to a Claims cubicle and a Support cubicle, and its occupier—Mbende by virtue of the order rule—cannot comply with the adjacent cubicle rule.