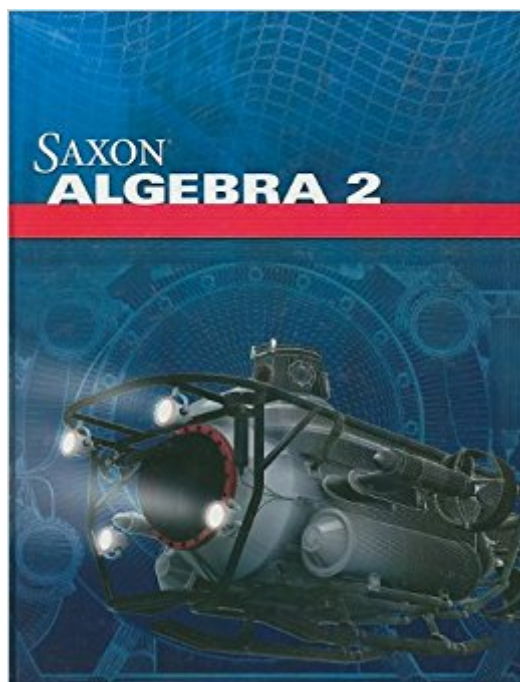The book was found

Saxon Algebra 2: Student Edition 2009

Synopsis

Book by SAXON PUBLISHERS

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Customer Reviews

Book by SAXON PUBLISHERS

I recently purchased this book and upon flipping through it stopped at Lesson 29 and began to read. I found several things in this lesson to take issue with - some of which are described below.Lesson 29 is on Solving Systems of Equations in Three Variables. In example 2 in this lesson the first and third equations represent the same plane and the second equation represents an intersecting plane. The author concludes the solution by saying that there are infinitely many solutions to the system and that those solutions form a line and the equation of the line is -2x - 6y = 32. (I think the author meant to say -32). The problem with the solution given is that in three dimensions -2x-6y = -32 is not the equation of a line but is the equation of a plane parallel to the z-axis.In example 3, the author states that "the coefficients of the first and second equations are multiples of each other, ..." He thus implies, for example, that "2 is a multiple of 4" and "4 is a multiple of 2" are both true statements.In example 4b the author states "Notice that the first and second equations are multiples of each other, which means they are parallel planes." They are, in fact, not parallel planes (in which case there would be no solution) but they are the same plane. He then proceeds to solve the system and concludes "There are an infinite number of solutions that form a line. The equation of the line is -x +

y = 1." The solution is indeed a line but the equation -x + y = 1 is not the equation of a line in three dimensions but is the equation of a plane parallel to the z-axis.

Item received in timely manner, and was as advertised.

When I first got this book, I had a very open mind. I was not expecting it to be the perfect curriculum of course, but I didn't have any pre-judgmental thoughts towards it. At first it was relatively easy, but then it begins to get crazy. The explanations and examples can be as short as 2 pages, with little commentary. You are then expected to understand the process and retain it, being quizzed on previous chapters with no extra review, or even a slight note on the previous chapters. The problems in this book are good, but how are you supposed to work the problems with little or no teaching beforehand. The wording and examples in this book are especially horrible. My father, who is a math major, spent hours trying to understand some of the examples and problems they have in this book without success. Bottom line, THIS IS NOT A GOOD BOOK. The only way to really understand this book is to have an amazing teacher that is willing to go deep into the problems, and who has an alternative way of teaching the curriculum.

I purchased these for a great price, and the quality of the material in the Saxon series has always been great to use to teach.

It is great! We like the product and the service!

Exelent servicie

Great

My son and daughter have been homeschooled in math using lower level Saxon math books for 4 or 5 years. I have been generally pleased with those books, Saxon Math 5/4 up to Saxon Algebra I. The Algebra II book, however, has been a major disappointment. My son, and I, have worked diligently through the Algebra II over the last 8 months and have now completed 103 of the 120 chapters and 19 of the tests. I have him work through all the problems in each chapter, the lettered problems going over the Lesson's topic and the 30 "regular" problems. I then grade his work and have him try to correct his mistakes. With previous Saxon books he was generally able to solve

missed problems in the second, and sometimes third, attempt. With this book he is often completely stuck and he and I spend 1 to 2 hours each night now working through the problems after his initial attempt. There are many things I don't like about the book, but I'll begin with what I think has caused problems. (1) Saxon became overly ambitious with the number and variety of topics it chose to include in Algebra II. (2) It reads like it was written by a team of writers who did not communicate regularly with each other. (3) Whoever, if anyone, oversaw the final editing did a terrible job of ensuring consistency and coherence. It's amazing that this book does not have a single author listed. Specific examples of the kitchen sink contents are sections on Logic and Truth Tables, Cramer's rule, Matrix inversion and determinants, Binomial expansions, Understanding Cryptography, Linear and median regression, Linear Programming. It is not necessarily bad to add these "extras" (over and above what might be considered standard Algebra II topics) but there is no logical coherence or tying together of the ideas in a continuous fashion. Look at the table of contents to see the pinball like jumping around from topic to topic; e.g., Lessons 91-95 deal with equations for circles, arithmetic sequences, exponential equations and inequalities, rational inequalities, and factoring higher order polynomials, respectively. Looking more narrowly at individual lessons, the quality is very uneven, evidence for multiple authors I suspect. I was such a fan of previous Saxon math books that when I hit the first major bump for us, Investigation I on Logic and Truth Tables, I thought it must be me simply not getting it and so I re-read it two or three times. Still having difficulties I went to Wikipedia and found much clearer explanations. That made me start thinking there were problems with the quality of writing in the Saxon book. Explanation of exponential growth and decay has similar patchiness of quality and there was a case or two where the solution to a problem in the problem set involved material not yet introduced (e.g., taking the natural logarithm of both sides of an equation with exponents and using some properties of doing so). Explanation of projectile motion is not presented in a single coherent manner; the word gravitational constant is not even mentioned yet it would have aided comprehension when moving from earth-based examples to those on the moon and other planets. At other times, the lessons are simply too densely packed with material. For example, Lesson 63 on the Unit Circle and Radian measures is accurately written but those 5 pages are relatively stuffed. Some chapters are well written and explained, however, e.g., Lesson 38 on Dividing Polynomials Using Long Division, Lesson 44 on Rationalizing Denominators: nice bite size pieces of material presented in a straightforward manner. What I have liked about Saxon's earlier math books is the repetition, the continual returning to concepts and methods introduced previously. There is some of that here but it is not consistent. However, I was rather grateful that the Logic and Truth Tables material was NOT

returned to after a handful of exercises over the next 5 to 6 lessons following the Investigation. Another, not so minor complaint are the mistakes in the solution manual, or in some cases (as mentioned previously) solutions using techniques that had not been introduced in the book. The solutions for Understanding Cryptography are atrocious. This turned out to be a major irritant when I did not want to take the time to work through the solutions myself, graded his work using the solution manual, and at times mistakenly marked his answers as wrong when they weren't. In short this book is a major disappointment and hopefully an outlier in the Saxon math book series. I am now wary of purchasing more advanced Saxon math books---the first thing I will check in the future is to see whether or not the book has an author listed!

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