

43. Solution: D

If a month with one or more accidents is regarded as success and  $k$  = the number of failures before the fourth success, then  $k$  follows a negative binomial distribution and the requested probability is

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr[k \geq 4] &= 1 - \Pr[k \leq 3] = 1 - \sum_{k=0}^3 \binom{3+k}{k} \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^4 \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^k \\ &= 1 - \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^4 \left[ \binom{3}{0} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^0 + \binom{4}{1} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^1 + \binom{5}{2} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^2 + \binom{6}{3} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^3 \right] \\ &= 1 - \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^4 \left[ 1 + \frac{8}{5} + \frac{8}{5} + \frac{32}{25} \right] \\ &= 0.2898\end{aligned}$$

Alternatively the solution is

$$\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^4 + \binom{4}{1} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^4 \frac{3}{5} + \binom{5}{2} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^4 \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 + \binom{6}{3} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^4 \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^3 = 0.2898$$

which can be derived directly or by regarding the problem as a negative binomial distribution with

- i) success taken as a month with no accidents
- ii)  $k$  = the number of failures before the fourth success, and
- iii) calculating  $\Pr[k \leq 3]$