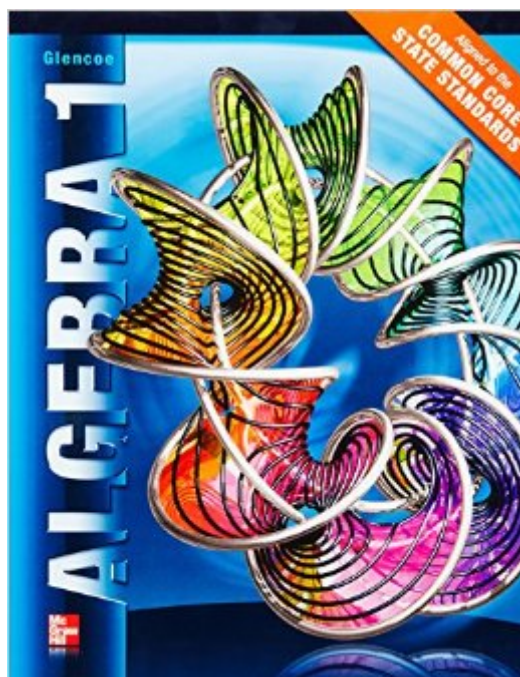


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Customer Reviews

I am a patent attorney currently working in Silicon Valley. I have a PhD in chemical engineering. Before law school, I taught 9-12 grade math and science for several years. I have been tutoring a student with learning disability for about 5 years. This is the math textbook that the student uses at his private high school in Mountain View, California. This is a poorly-written, substandard textbook. Here are some of my thoughts: 1) Common Core may be a good idea for setting a standard that all students should strive to meet, but for this particular book, the execution is substandard. This book lacks thoughtfulness, and contains careless presentations and mistakes in many places. 2) For example, at page 1363 of the e-book version, practice problem 20: solve the equation $2x^2 - 5x = -7$ by using the quadratic formula. The instruction on this page directs the readers to look at examples 1-2 in the earlier pages 1354-1357. However, examples 1-2 will not help you with this particular problem at all. In fact, $2x^2 - 5x = -7$ has no real solution, because the discriminant is negative here.

Critically, the earlier examples 1-2 do not discuss any negative discriminant situation.³) It is only later, with example 4 at page 1361, that the negative discriminant topic is briefly addressed. The summary table at page 1361 shows that when the discriminant is negative, there is no real solution because there is no x-intercept. But the book fails to explain further. Why will there never be any x-intercept when the discriminant is negative? Why will the quadratic formula cause problems when the discriminant happens to be negative? How do we deal with the negative discriminant problem by introducing the concept of an imaginary number?

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