Equations, Expressions & Inequalities

I) An **equation** is a mathematical statement, in symbols, that two things are the same (or equivalent). Equations are written with an equal sign. Some expressions will ask you to find *missing numbers*. These are called *algebraic equations.* Expressions are number sentences.

Examples: 2 + 3 = 5   (4 - 3) x 5 = 5   10 + x = 20

II) An **expression** (or numerical expression) represents a single value. It consists of one or more numbers and operations, but *no equal sign*. Some expressions will ask you to find *missing numbers*. These are called *algebraic expressions*.

Examples: 3 · 4   3.4 ÷ 5   (4 - 3) x 5   10 + x

III) An **inequality** (not equal) compares two values, showing if one is less than, greater than, or simply not equal to another value. Inequalities are number sentences.

Examples: 5 > 4   4 x 4 < 20   29 – 2 > 15 + 2