Shulgi's ***Laws of X*** (2050 BCE)

[Shulgi's *Laws of X* is the second oldest surviving code of law in the historical record today.]

He who erases my name on this inscription shall be obliterated — especially he who replaces *my* name with *their* name!

May his city be hated by the wind god Enlil,
may his city gates be left open (and undefended), and
may the young men of his city go blind!

- If a man buys a *sar* of land, then he shall pay a shekel of silver for the *sar* of land.
- If a man is healed by a healer, then he shall pay the healer 5 shekels of silver.
- If a man lends 10 shekels of silver, then he *not only* shall be repaid 10 shekels of silver *but also* shall be paid 2 shekels of silver for every year that his 10 shekels were borrowed.
- If a man lends 300 grains of barley, then he shall be repaid 400 grains of barley in a year.

Questions about Shulgi's ***Laws of X***

1. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, what is the price of a sar of land?

2. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, what price must someone pay for being healed by a healer?

3. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P\,(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 10 shekels of silver for a year.
   (a) What is the value of t?
   (b) What is the value of P?

4. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P\,(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 10 shekels of silver for a year. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, how much do they owe in total after the completion of one year? In other words, what is the value of A?

5. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P\,(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 10 shekels of silver for a year. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, what is the price of borrowing 10 shekels of silver for a year? In other words, what is the value of $A - P$ after borrowing 10 shekels of silver for a year?

6. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P\,(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 10 shekels of silver for a year. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, what is the interest rate? In other words, what is the value of r? (Hint: Divide your answer to question 5 by your answer to question 3b.)

7. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 300 grains of barley for a year.
    (a) What is the value of t?
    (b) What is the value of P?

8. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 300 grains of barley. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, how much do they owe in total after the completion of one year? In other words, what is the value of A?

9. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 300 grains of barley for a year. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, what is the price of borrowing 300 grains of barley for a year? In other words, what is the value of $A - P$ after borrowing 300 grains of barley for a year?

10. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 300 grains of barley for a year. According to Shulgi's *Laws of X*, what is the interest rate? In other words, what is the value of r? (Hint: Divide your answer to question 9 by your answer to question 7b.)