What does 6 ÷ 2(2 + 1) equal?

This is the subject of a poll on the internet!
The main controversy was whether the answer is 1 or 9.
Some people thought that BOTH answers were correct!

There is, of course, a UNIQUE answer and I will explain it in great detail to avoid any confusion.

Firstly there is a world-wide convention about the order in which we do the arithmetical operations. There are several mnemonics which help people remember the order, such as BIDMAS which means:

B = do brackets first
I = do Indices next
D = Division and **M** = Multiplication but these are EQUAL in importance.
If they both occur we simply start from the left
A = Addition and **S** = Subtraction and these are also EQUAL in importance.
If the problem has been reduced to just additions and subtractions, we start from the left.

Now consider: **6 ÷ 2(2 + 1)**
This actually MEANS: **6 ÷ 2 × (2 + 1)**
Brackets first produces: **6 ÷ 2 × 3**
D and M are equal so starting from the left: **3 × 3**
Finally do M: **9**

The only correct answer is of course **9**

Incidentally, if we wanted to divide the **6** by **2(2+ 1)** we would NEED more brackets as follows:

6 ÷ (2(2 + 1))
= **6 ÷ (2×(2 + 1))**
= **6 ÷ (2×(3))**
= **6 ÷ (6)**
= 1