Surds and rationalising the denominator

Key points

- A surd is the square root of a number that is not a square number, for example $\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}$,
- Surds can be used to give the exact value for an answer.
- $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$ and $\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}}$
- To rationalise the denominator means to remove the surd from the denominator of a fraction.
- To rationalise $\frac{a}{\sqrt{b}}$ you multiply the numerator and denominator by the surd $\sqrt{b}$
- To rationalise $\frac{a}{b+\sqrt{c}}$ you multiply the numerator and denominator by $b-\sqrt{c}$

Examples

Example 1 Simplify $\sqrt{50}$

$\sqrt{50} = \sqrt{25 \times 2}$ $= \sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{2}$ $= 5 \times \sqrt{2}$ $= 5\sqrt{2}$	**1** Choose two factors of 50. One must be a square number **2** Use the rule $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$ **3** Use $\sqrt{25} = 5$

Example 2 Simplify $\sqrt{147} - 2\sqrt{12}$

$\sqrt{147} - 2\sqrt{12}$ $= \sqrt{49 \times 3} - 2\sqrt{4 \times 3}$ $= \sqrt{49} \times \sqrt{3} - 2\sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{3}$ $= 7 \times \sqrt{3} - 2 \times 2 \times \sqrt{3}$ $= 7\sqrt{3} - 4\sqrt{3}$ $= 3\sqrt{3}$	**1** Simplify $\sqrt{147}$ and $2\sqrt{12}$. Choose two numbers that are factors of 147 and two numbers that are factors of 12. One of each pair of factors must be a square number **2** Use the rule $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$ **3** Use $\sqrt{49} = 7$ and $\sqrt{4} = 2$ **4** Collect like terms

Example 3 Simplify $\left(\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{2}\right)\left(\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{2}\right)$

$\left(\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{2}\right)\left(\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{2}\right)$ $= \sqrt{49} - \sqrt{7}\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{2}\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{4}$ $= 7 - 2$ $= 5$	**1** Expand the brackets. A common mistake here is to write $\left(\sqrt{7}\right)^2 = 49$ **2** Collect like terms: $-\sqrt{7}\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{2}\sqrt{7}$ $= -\sqrt{7}\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{7}\sqrt{2} = 0$

Example 4 Rationalise $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}}$ $= \frac{1 \times \sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{9}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	**1** Multiply the numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{3}$ **2** Use $\sqrt{9} = 3$

Example 5 Rationalise and simplify $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}}$

$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}} \times \frac{\sqrt{12}}{\sqrt{12}}$ $= \frac{\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{4 \times 3}}{12}$ $= \frac{2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{12}$ $= \frac{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{6}$	**1** Multiply the numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{12}$ **2** Simplify $\sqrt{12}$ in the numerator. Choose two numbers that are factors of 12. One of the factors must be a square number **3** Use the rule $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$ **4** Use $\sqrt{4} = 2$ **5** Simplify the fraction: $\frac{2}{12}$ simplifies to $\frac{1}{6}$

Example 6 Rationalise and simplify $\frac{3}{2+\sqrt{5}}$

$\frac{3}{2+\sqrt{5}} = \frac{3}{2+\sqrt{5}} \times \frac{2-\sqrt{5}}{2-\sqrt{5}}$ $= \frac{3\left(2-\sqrt{5}\right)}{\left(2+\sqrt{5}\right)\left(2-\sqrt{5}\right)}$ $= \frac{6-3\sqrt{5}}{4+2\sqrt{5}-2\sqrt{5}-5}$ $= \frac{6-3\sqrt{5}}{-1}$ $= 3\sqrt{5}-6$	**1** Multiply the numerator and denominator by $2-\sqrt{5}$ **2** Expand the brackets **3** Simplify the fraction **4** Divide the numerator by −1 Remember to change the sign of all terms when dividing by −1

Practice

1 Simplify.

a $\sqrt{45}$ **b** $\sqrt{125}$

c $\sqrt{48}$ **d** $\sqrt{175}$

e $\sqrt{300}$ **f** $\sqrt{28}$

g $\sqrt{72}$ **h** $\sqrt{162}$

Hint

One of the two numbers you choose at the start must be a square number.

2 Simplify.

a $\sqrt{72}+\sqrt{162}$ **b** $\sqrt{45}-2\sqrt{5}$

c $\sqrt{50}-\sqrt{8}$ **d** $\sqrt{75}-\sqrt{48}$

e $2\sqrt{28}+\sqrt{28}$ **f** $2\sqrt{12}-\sqrt{12}+\sqrt{27}$

Watch out!

Check you have chosen the highest square number at the start.

3 Expand and simplify.

a $(\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3})(\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{3})$ **b** $(3+\sqrt{3})(5-\sqrt{12})$

c $(4-\sqrt{5})(\sqrt{45}+2)$ **d** $(5+\sqrt{2})(6-\sqrt{8})$

4 Rationalise and simplify, if possible.

a $\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ **b** $\frac{1}{\sqrt{11}}$

c $\frac{2}{\sqrt{7}}$ **d** $\frac{2}{\sqrt{8}}$

e $\frac{2}{\sqrt{2}}$ **f** $\frac{5}{\sqrt{5}}$

g $\frac{\sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{24}}$ **h** $\frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{45}}$

5 Rationalise and simplify.

a $\frac{1}{3-\sqrt{5}}$ **b** $\frac{2}{4+\sqrt{3}}$ **c** $\frac{6}{5-\sqrt{2}}$

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Extend

6 Expand and simplify $\left(\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}\right)\left(\sqrt{x}-\sqrt{y}\right)$

7 Rationalise and simplify, if possible.

a $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{9}-\sqrt{8}}$ **b** $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x}-\sqrt{y}}$

Answers

1 **a** $3\sqrt{5}$ **b** $5\sqrt{5}$
c $4\sqrt{3}$ **d** $5\sqrt{7}$
e $10\sqrt{3}$ **f** $2\sqrt{7}$
g $6\sqrt{2}$ **h** $9\sqrt{2}$

2 **a** $15\sqrt{2}$ **b** $\sqrt{5}$
c $3\sqrt{2}$ **d** $\sqrt{3}$
e $6\sqrt{7}$ **f** $5\sqrt{3}$

3 **a** -1 **b** $9-\sqrt{3}$
c $10\sqrt{5}-7$ **d** $26-4\sqrt{2}$

4 **a** $\dfrac{\sqrt{5}}{5}$ **b** $\dfrac{\sqrt{11}}{11}$
c $\dfrac{2\sqrt{7}}{7}$ **d** $\dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$
e $\sqrt{2}$ **f** $\sqrt{5}$
g $\dfrac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$ **h** $\dfrac{1}{3}$

5 **a** $\dfrac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4}$ **b** $\dfrac{2(4-\sqrt{3})}{13}$ **c** $\dfrac{6(5+\sqrt{2})}{23}$

6 $x-y$

7 **a** $3+2\sqrt{2}$ **b** $\dfrac{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}}{x-y}$

Rules of indices

Key points

- $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$
- $\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$
- $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$
- $a^0 = 1$
- $a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$ i.e. the nth root of a
- $a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = \left(\sqrt[n]{a}\right)^m$
- $a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$
- The square root of a number produces two solutions, e.g. $\sqrt{16} = \pm 4$.

Examples

Example 1 Evaluate 10^0

$10^0 = 1$	Any value raised to the power of zero is equal to 1

Example 2 Evaluate $9^{\frac{1}{2}}$

$9^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{9}$ $= 3$	Use the rule $a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$

Example 3 Evaluate $27^{\frac{2}{3}}$

$27^{\frac{2}{3}} = \left(\sqrt[3]{27}\right)^2$ $= 3^2$ $= 9$	**1** Use the rule $a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \left(\sqrt[n]{a}\right)^m$ **2** Use $\sqrt[3]{27} = 3$

Example 4 Evaluate 4^{-2}

$4^{-2} = \frac{1}{4^2}$ $= \frac{1}{16}$	**1** Use the rule $a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$ **2** Use $4^2 = 16$

Example 5 Simplify $\dfrac{6x^5}{2x^2}$

$\dfrac{6x^5}{2x^2} = 3x^3$	$6 \div 2 = 3$ and use the rule $\dfrac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$ to give $\dfrac{x^5}{x^2} = x^{5-2} = x^3$

Example 6 Simplify $\dfrac{x^3 \times x^5}{x^4}$

$\dfrac{x^3 \times x^5}{x^4} = \dfrac{x^{3+5}}{x^4} = \dfrac{x^8}{x^4}$ $= x^{8-4} = x^4$	**1** Use the rule $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$ **2** Use the rule $\dfrac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$

Example 7 Write $\dfrac{1}{3x}$ as a single power of x

$\dfrac{1}{3x} = \dfrac{1}{3}x^{-1}$	Use the rule $\dfrac{1}{a^m} = a^{-m}$, note that the fraction $\dfrac{1}{3}$ remains unchanged

Example 8 Write $\dfrac{4}{\sqrt{x}}$ as a single power of x

$\dfrac{4}{\sqrt{x}} = \dfrac{4}{x^{\frac{1}{2}}}$ $= 4x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$	**1** Use the rule $a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$ **2** Use the rule $\dfrac{1}{a^m} = a^{-m}$

Practice

1 Evaluate.

a 14^0 **b** 3^0 **c** 5^0 **d** x^0

2 Evaluate.

a $49^{\frac{1}{2}}$ **b** $64^{\frac{1}{3}}$ **c** $125^{\frac{1}{3}}$ **d** $16^{\frac{1}{4}}$

3 Evaluate.

a $25^{\frac{3}{2}}$ **b** $8^{\frac{5}{3}}$ **c** $49^{\frac{3}{2}}$ **d** $16^{\frac{3}{4}}$

4 Evaluate.

a 5^{-2} **b** 4^{-3} **c** 2^{-5} **d** 6^{-2}

5 Simplify.

a $\frac{3x^2 \times x^3}{2x^2}$ **b** $\frac{10x^5}{2x^2 \times x}$ **c** $\frac{3x \times 2x^3}{2x^3}$ **d** $\frac{7x^3y^2}{14x^5y}$

e $\frac{y^2}{y^{\frac{1}{2}} \times y}$ **f** $\frac{c^{\frac{1}{2}}}{c^2 \times c^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ **g** $\frac{\left(2x^2\right)^3}{4x^0}$ **h** $\frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}} \times x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{x^{-2} \times x^3}$

6 Evaluate.

a $4^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **b** $27^{-\frac{2}{3}}$ **c** $9^{-\frac{1}{2}} \times 2^3$

d $16^{\frac{1}{4}} \times 2^{-3}$ **e** $\left(\frac{9}{16}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **f** $\left(\frac{27}{64}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$

> **Watch out!**
>
> Remember that any value raised to the power of zero is 1. This is the rule $a^0 = 1$.

7 Write the following as a single power of x.

a $\frac{1}{x}$ **b** $\frac{1}{x^7}$ **c** $\sqrt[4]{x}$

d $\sqrt[5]{x^2}$ **e** $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$ **f** $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$

8 Write the following without negative or fractional powers.

a x^{-3} **b** x^0 **c** $x^{\frac{1}{5}}$

d $x^{\frac{2}{5}}$ **e** $x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **f** $x^{-\frac{3}{4}}$

9 Write the following in the form ax^n.

a $5\sqrt{x}$ **b** $\frac{2}{x^3}$ **c** $\frac{1}{3x^4}$

d $\frac{2}{\sqrt{x}}$ **e** $\frac{4}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$ **f** 3

Extend

10 Write as sums of powers of x.

a $\frac{x^5+1}{x^2}$ **b** $x^2\left(x+\frac{1}{x}\right)$ **c** $x^{-4}\left(x^2+\frac{1}{x^3}\right)$

Answers

1	**a**	1	**b**	1	**c**	1	**d**	1
2	**a**	7	**b**	4	**c**	5	**d**	2
3	**a**	125	**b**	32	**c**	343	**d**	8
4	**a**	$\frac{1}{25}$	**b**	$\frac{1}{64}$	**c**	$\frac{1}{32}$	**d**	$\frac{1}{36}$
5	**a**	$\frac{3x^3}{2}$	**b**	$5x^2$				
	c	$3x$	**d**	$\frac{y}{2x^2}$				
	e	$y^{\frac{1}{2}}$	**f**	c^{-3}				
	g	$2x^6$	**h**	x				
6	**a**	$\frac{1}{2}$	**b**	$\frac{1}{9}$	**c**	$\frac{8}{3}$		
	d	$\frac{1}{4}$	**e**	$\frac{4}{3}$	**f**	$\frac{16}{9}$		
7	**a**	x^{-1}	**b**	x^{-7}	**c**	$x^{\frac{1}{4}}$		
	d	$x^{\frac{2}{5}}$	**e**	$x^{-\frac{1}{3}}$	**f**	$x^{-\frac{2}{3}}$		
8	**a**	$\frac{1}{x^3}$	**b**	1	**c**	$\sqrt[5]{x}$		
	d	$\sqrt[5]{x^2}$	**e**	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$	**f**	$\frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{x^3}}$		
9	**a**	$5x^{\frac{1}{2}}$	**b**	$2x^{-3}$	**c**	$\frac{1}{3}x^{-4}$		
	d	$2x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$	**e**	$4x^{-\frac{1}{3}}$	**f**	$3x^0$		
10	**a**	$x^3 + x^{-2}$	**b**	$x^3 + x$	**c**	$x^{-2} + x^{-7}$		

Factorising expressions

Key points

- Factorising an expression is the opposite of expanding the brackets.
- A quadratic expression is in the form $ax^2 + bx + c$, where $a \neq 0$.
- To factorise a quadratic equation find two numbers whose sum is b and whose product is ac.
- An expression in the form $x^2 - y^2$ is called the difference of two squares. It factorises to $(x - y)(x + y)$.

Examples

Example 1 Factorise $15x^2y^3 + 9x^4y$

$15x^2y^3 + 9x^4y = 3x^2y(5y^2 + 3x^2)$	The highest common factor is $3x^2y$. So take $3x^2y$ outside the brackets and then divide each term by $3x^2y$ to find the terms in the brackets

Example 2 Factorise $4x^2 - 25y^2$

$4x^2 - 25y^2 = (2x + 5y)(2x - 5y)$	This is the difference of two squares as the two terms can be written as $(2x)^2$ and $(5y)^2$

Example 3 Factorise $x^2 + 3x - 10$

$b = 3$, $ac = -10$ So $x^2 + 3x - 10 = x^2 + 5x - 2x - 10$ $= x(x + 5) - 2(x + 5)$ $= (x + 5)(x - 2)$	**1** Work out the two factors of $ac = -10$ which add to give $b = 3$ (5 and -2) **2** Rewrite the b term ($3x$) using these two factors **3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms **4** $(x + 5)$ is a factor of both terms

Example 4 Factorise $6x^2 - 11x - 10$

$b = -11$, $ac = -60$ So $6x^2 - 11x - 10 = 6x^2 - 15x + 4x - 10$ $= 3x(2x - 5) + 2(2x - 5)$ $= (2x - 5)(3x + 2)$	**1** Work out the two factors of $ac = -60$ which add to give $b = -11$ (-15 and 4) **2** Rewrite the b term ($-11x$) using these two factors **3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms **4** $(2x - 5)$ is a factor of both terms

Example 5 Simplify $\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9}$

$\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9}$	**1** Factorise the numerator and the denominator
For the numerator: $b = -4$, $ac = -21$ So $x^2 - 4x - 21 = x^2 - 7x + 3x - 21$ $= x(x - 7) + 3(x - 7)$ $= (x - 7)(x + 3)$	**2** Work out the two factors of $ac = -21$ which add to give $b = -4$ (-7 and 3) **3** Rewrite the b term ($-4x$) using these two factors **4** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms **5** $(x - 7)$ is a factor of both terms
For the denominator: $b = 9$, $ac = 18$ So $2x^2 + 9x + 9 = 2x^2 + 6x + 3x + 9$ $= 2x(x + 3) + 3(x + 3)$ $= (x + 3)(2x + 3)$	**6** Work out the two factors of $ac = 18$ which add to give $b = 9$ (6 and 3) **7** Rewrite the b term ($9x$) using these two factors **8** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms **9** $(x + 3)$ is a factor of both terms
So $\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9} = \dfrac{(x-7)(x+3)}{(x+3)(2x+3)}$ $= \dfrac{x-7}{2x+3}$	**10** $(x + 3)$ is a factor of both the numerator and denominator so cancels out as a value divided by itself is 1

Practice

1 Factorise.

a $6x^4y^3 - 10x^3y^4$ **b** $21a^3b^5 + 35a^5b^2$

c $25x^2y^2 - 10x^3y^2 + 15x^2y^3$

Hint

Take the highest common factor outside the bracket.

2 Factorise

a $x^2 + 7x + 12$ **b** $x^2 + 5x - 14$

c $x^2 - 11x + 30$ **d** $x^2 - 5x - 24$

e $x^2 - 7x - 18$ **f** $x^2 + x - 20$

g $x^2 - 3x - 40$ **h** $x^2 + 3x - 28$

3 Factorise

a $36x^2 - 49y^2$ **b** $4x^2 - 81y^2$

c $18a^2 - 200b^2c^2$

4 Factorise

a $2x^2 + x - 3$ **b** $6x^2 + 17x + 5$

c $2x^2 + 7x + 3$ **d** $9x^2 - 15x + 4$

e $10x^2 + 21x + 9$ **f** $12x^2 - 38x + 20$

5 Simplify the algebraic fractions.

a $\dfrac{2x^2+4x}{x^2-x}$ **b** $\dfrac{x^2+3x}{x^2+2x-3}$

c $\dfrac{x^2-2x-8}{x^2-4x}$ **d** $\dfrac{x^2-5x}{x^2-25}$

e $\dfrac{x^2-x-12}{x^2-4x}$ **f** $\dfrac{2x^2+14x}{2x^2+4x-70}$

6 Simplify

a $\dfrac{9x^2-16}{3x^2+17x-28}$ **b** $\dfrac{2x^2-7x-15}{3x^2-17x+10}$

c $\dfrac{4-25x^2}{10x^2-11x-6}$ **d** $\dfrac{6x^2-x-1}{2x^2+7x-4}$

Extend

7 Simplify $\sqrt{x^2+10x+25}$

8 Simplify $\dfrac{(x+2)^2+3(x+2)^2}{x^2-4}$

Answers

1 **a** $2x^3y^3(3x - 5y)$ **b** $7a^3b^2(3b^3 + 5a^2)$
c $5x^2y^2(5 - 2x + 3y)$

2 **a** $(x + 3)(x + 4)$ **b** $(x + 7)(x - 2)$
c $(x - 5)(x - 6)$ **d** $(x - 8)(x + 3)$
e $(x - 9)(x + 2)$ **f** $(x + 5)(x - 4)$
g $(x - 8)(x + 5)$ **h** $(x + 7)(x - 4)$

3 **a** $(6x - 7y)(6x + 7y)$ **b** $(2x - 9y)(2x + 9y)$
c $2(3a - 10bc)(3a + 10bc)$

4 **a** $(x - 1)(2x + 3)$ **b** $(3x + 1)(2x + 5)$
c $(2x + 1)(x + 3)$ **d** $(3x - 1)(3x - 4)$
e $(5x + 3)(2x +3)$ **f** $2(3x - 2)(2x -5)$

5 **a** $\frac{2(x+2)}{x-1}$ **b** $\frac{x}{x-1}$
c $\frac{x+2}{x}$ **d** $\frac{x}{x+5}$
e $\frac{x+3}{x}$ **f** $\frac{x}{x-5}$

6 **a** $\frac{3x+4}{x+7}$ **b** $\frac{2x+3}{3x-2}$
c $\frac{2-5x}{2x-3}$ **d** $\frac{3x+1}{x+4}$

7 $(x + 5)$

8 $\frac{4(x+2)}{x-2}$

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Completing the square

Key points

- Completing the square for a quadratic rearranges $ax^2 + bx + c$ into the form $p(x + q)^2 + r$
- If $a \neq 1$, then factorise using a as a common factor.

Examples

Example 1 Complete the square for the quadratic expression $x^2 + 6x - 2$

$x^2 + 6x - 2$ $= (x + 3)^2 - 9 - 2$ $= (x + 3)^2 - 11$	**1** Write $x^2 + bx + c$ in the form $\left(x+\frac{b}{2}\right)^2-\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2+c$ **2** Simplify

Example 2 Write $2x^2 - 5x + 1$ in the form $p(x + q)^2 + r$

$2x^2 - 5x + 1$ $= 2\left(x^2-\frac{5}{2}x\right)+1$ $= 2\left[\left(x-\frac{5}{4}\right)^2-\left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^2\right]+1$ $= 2\left(x-\frac{5}{4}\right)^2-\frac{25}{8}+1$ $= 2\left(x-\frac{5}{4}\right)^2-\frac{17}{8}$	**1** Before completing the square write $ax^2 + bx + c$ in the form $a\left(x^2+\frac{b}{a}x\right)+c$ **2** Now complete the square by writing $x^2-\frac{5}{2}x$ in the form $\left(x+\frac{b}{2}\right)^2-\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ **3** Expand the square brackets – don't forget to multiply $\left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^2$ by the factor of 2 **4** Simplify

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Practice

1 Write the following quadratic expressions in the form $(x + p)^2 + q$

a $x^2 + 4x + 3$ **b** $x^2 - 10x - 3$

c $x^2 - 8x$ **d** $x^2 + 6x$

e $x^2 - 2x + 7$ **f** $x^2 + 3x - 2$

2 Write the following quadratic expressions in the form $p(x + q)^2 + r$

a $2x^2 - 8x - 16$ **b** $4x^2 - 8x - 16$

c $3x^2 + 12x - 9$ **d** $2x^2 + 6x - 8$

3 Complete the square.

a $2x^2 + 3x + 6$ **b** $3x^2 - 2x$

c $5x^2 + 3x$ **d** $3x^2 + 5x + 3$

Extend

4 Write $(25x^2 + 30x + 12)$ in the form $(ax + b)^2 + c$.

Answers

1 **a** $(x + 2)^2 - 1$ **b** $(x - 5)^2 - 28$

c $(x - 4)^2 - 16$ **d** $(x + 3)^2 - 9$

e $(x - 1)^2 + 6$ **f** $\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{17}{4}$

2 **a** $2(x - 2)^2 - 24$ **b** $4(x - 1)^2 - 20$

c $3(x + 2)^2 - 21$ **d** $2\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{25}{2}$

3 **a** $2\left(x + \frac{3}{4}\right)^2 + \frac{39}{8}$ **b** $3\left(x - \frac{1}{3}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{3}$

c $5\left(x + \frac{3}{10}\right)^2 - \frac{9}{20}$ **d** $3\left(x + \frac{5}{6}\right)^2 + \frac{11}{12}$

4 $(5x + 3)^2 + 3$

Solving quadratics by factorisation

Key points

- A quadratic equation is an equation in the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ where $a \neq 0$.
- To factorise a quadratic equation find two numbers whose sum is b and whose products is ac.
- When the product of two numbers is 0, then at least one of the numbers must be 0.
- If a quadratic can be solved it will have two solutions (these may be equal).

Examples

Example 1 Solve $5x^2 = 15x$

$5x^2 = 15x$ $5x^2 - 15x = 0$ $5x(x - 3) = 0$ So $5x = 0$ or $(x - 3) = 0$ Therefore $x = 0$ or $x = 3$	**1** Rearrange the equation so that all of the terms are on one side of the equation and it is equal to zero. Do not divide both sides by x as this would lose the solution $x = 0$. **2** Factorise the quadratic equation. $5x$ is a common factor. **3** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero. **4** Solve these two equations.

Example 2 Solve $x^2 + 7x + 12 = 0$

$x^2 + 7x + 12 = 0$ $b = 7$, $ac = 12$ $x^2 + 4x + 3x + 12 = 0$ $x(x + 4) + 3(x + 4) = 0$ $(x + 4)(x + 3) = 0$ So $(x + 4) = 0$ or $(x + 3) = 0$ Therefore $x = -4$ or $x = -3$	**1** Factorise the quadratic equation. Work out the two factors of $ac = 12$ which add to give you $b = 7$. (4 and 3) **2** Rewrite the b term ($7x$) using these two factors. **3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms. **4** $(x + 4)$ is a factor of both terms. **5** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero. **6** Solve these two equations.

Example 3 Solve $9x^2 - 16 = 0$

$9x^2 - 16 = 0$ $(3x + 4)(3x - 4) = 0$ So $(3x + 4) = 0$ or $(3x - 4) = 0$ $x = -\frac{4}{3}$ or $x = \frac{4}{3}$	**1** Factorise the quadratic equation. This is the difference of two squares as the two terms are $(3x)^2$ and $(4)^2$. **2** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero. **3** Solve these two equations.

Example 4 Solve $2x^2 - 5x - 12 = 0$

$b = -5$, $ac = -24$	**1** Factorise the quadratic equation. Work out the two factors of $ac = -24$ which add to give you $b = -5$. (-8 and 3)
So $2x^2 - 8x + 3x - 12 = 0$	**2** Rewrite the b term ($-5x$) using these two factors.
$2x(x - 4) + 3(x - 4) = 0$	**3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms.
$(x - 4)(2x + 3) = 0$	**4** $(x - 4)$ is a factor of both terms.
So $(x - 4) = 0$ or $(2x + 3) = 0$	**5** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero.
$x = 4$ or $x = -\frac{3}{2}$	**6** Solve these two equations.

Practice

1 Solve

a $6x^2 + 4x = 0$ **b** $28x^2 - 21x = 0$

c $x^2 + 7x + 10 = 0$ **d** $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$

e $x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0$ **f** $x^2 + 3x - 10 = 0$

g $x^2 - 10x + 24 = 0$ **h** $x^2 - 36 = 0$

i $x^2 + 3x - 28 = 0$ **j** $x^2 - 6x + 9 = 0$

k $2x^2 - 7x - 4 = 0$ **l** $3x^2 - 13x - 10 = 0$

2 Solve

a $x^2 - 3x = 10$ **b** $x^2 - 3 = 2x$

c $x^2 + 5x = 24$ **d** $x^2 - 42 = x$

e $x(x + 2) = 2x + 25$ **f** $x^2 - 30 = 3x - 2$

g $x(3x + 1) = x^2 + 15$ **h** $3x(x - 1) = 2(x + 1)$

Hint

Get all terms onto one side of the equation.

Answers

1 **a** $x = 0$ or $x = -\frac{2}{3}$ **b** $x = 0$ or $x = \frac{3}{4}$

c $x = -5$ or $x = -2$ **d** $x = 2$ or $x = 3$

e $x = -1$ or $x = 4$ **f** $x = -5$ or $x = 2$

g $x = 4$ or $x = 6$ **h** $x = -6$ or $x = 6$

i $x = -7$ or $x = 4$ **j** $x = 3$

k $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ or $x = 4$ **l** $x = -\frac{2}{3}$ or $x = 5$

2 **a** $x = -2$ or $x = 5$ **b** $x = -1$ or $x = 3$

c $x = -8$ or $x = 3$ **d** $x = -6$ or $x = 7$

e $x = -5$ or $x = 5$ **f** $x = -4$ or $x = 7$

g $x = -3$ or $x = 2\frac{1}{2}$ **h** $x = -\frac{1}{3}$ or $x = 2$

Solving quadratics by completing the square

Key points

- Completing the square lets you write a quadratic equation in the form $p(x + q)^2 + r = 0$.

Examples

Example 5 Solve $x^2 + 6x + 4 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$x^2 + 6x + 4 = 0$ $(x + 3)^2 - 9 + 4 = 0$ $(x + 3)^2 - 5 = 0$ $(x + 3)^2 = 5$ $x + 3 = \pm\sqrt{5}$ $x = \pm\sqrt{5} - 3$ So $x = -\sqrt{5} - 3$ or $x = \sqrt{5} - 3$	**1** Write $x^2 + bx + c = 0$ in the form $\left(x+\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 + c = 0$ **2** Simplify. **3** Rearrange the equation to work out x. First, add 5 to both sides. **4** Square root both sides. Remember that the square root of a value gives two answers. **5** Subtract 3 from both sides to solve the equation. **6** Write down both solutions.

Example 6 Solve $2x^2 - 7x + 4 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$2x^2 - 7x + 4 = 0$ $2\left(x^2 - \frac{7}{2}x\right) + 4 = 0$ $2\left[\left(x - \frac{7}{4}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^2\right] + 4 = 0$ $2\left(x - \frac{7}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{49}{8} + 4 = 0$ $2\left(x - \frac{7}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{17}{8} = 0$ $2\left(x - \frac{7}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{17}{8}$	**1** Before completing the square write $ax^2 + bx + c$ in the form $a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x\right) + c$ **2** Now complete the square by writing $x^2 - \frac{7}{2}x$ in the form $\left(x+\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2$ **3** Expand the square brackets. **4** Simplify. *(continued on next page)* **5** Rearrange the equation to work out x. First, add $\frac{17}{8}$ to both sides.

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$\left(x-\frac{7}{4}\right)^2=\frac{17}{16}$	**6** Divide both sides by 2.
$x-\frac{7}{4}=\pm\frac{\sqrt{17}}{4}$	**7** Square root both sides. Remember that the square root of a value gives two answers.
$x=\pm\frac{\sqrt{17}}{4}+\frac{7}{4}$	**8** Add $\frac{7}{4}$ to both sides.
So $x=\frac{7}{4}-\frac{\sqrt{17}}{4}$ or $x=\frac{7}{4}+\frac{\sqrt{17}}{4}$	**9** Write down both the solutions.

Practice

3 Solve by completing the square.

a $x^2 - 4x - 3 = 0$ **b** $x^2 - 10x + 4 = 0$

c $x^2 + 8x - 5 = 0$ **d** $x^2 - 2x - 6 = 0$

e $2x^2 + 8x - 5 = 0$ **f** $5x^2 + 3x - 4 = 0$

4 Solve by completing the square.

a $(x - 4)(x + 2) = 5$

b $2x^2 + 6x - 7 = 0$

c $x^2 - 5x + 3 = 0$

> **Hint**
>
> Get all terms onto one side of the equation.

Answers

3 **a** $x = 2 + \sqrt{7}$ or $x = 2 - \sqrt{7}$ **b** $x = 5 + \sqrt{21}$ or $x = 5 - \sqrt{21}$

c $x = -4 + \sqrt{21}$ or $x = -4 - \sqrt{21}$ **d** $x = 1 + \sqrt{7}$ or $x = 1 - \sqrt{7}$

e $x = -2 + \sqrt{6.5}$ or $x = -2 - \sqrt{6.5}$ **f** $x = \frac{-3+\sqrt{89}}{10}$ or $x = \frac{-3-\sqrt{89}}{10}$

4 **a** $x = 1 + \sqrt{14}$ or $x = 1 - \sqrt{14}$ **b** $x = \frac{-3+\sqrt{23}}{2}$ or $x = \frac{-3-\sqrt{23}}{2}$

c $x = \frac{5+\sqrt{13}}{2}$ or $x = \frac{5-\sqrt{13}}{2}$

Solving quadratics by using the formula

Key points

- Any quadratic equation of the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ can be solved using the formula $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
- If $b^2 - 4ac$ is negative then the quadratic equation does not have any real solutions.
- It is useful to write down the formula before substituting the values for a, b and c.

Examples

Example 7 Solve $x^2 + 6x + 4 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$a = 1, b = 6, c = 4$ $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	**1** Identify a, b and c and write down the formula. Remember that $-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$ is all over $2a$, not just part of it.
$x = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{6^2 - 4(1)(4)}}{2(1)}$	**2** Substitute $a = 1$, $b = 6$, $c = 4$ into the formula.
$x = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{20}}{2}$	**3** Simplify. The denominator is 2, but this is only because $a = 1$. The denominator will not always be 2.
$x = \frac{-6 \pm 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$	**4** Simplify $\sqrt{20}$. $\sqrt{20} = \sqrt{4 \times 5} = \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{5} = 2\sqrt{5}$
$x = -3 \pm \sqrt{5}$	**5** Simplify by dividing numerator and denominator by 2.
So $x = -3 - \sqrt{5}$ or $x = \sqrt{5} - 3$	**6** Write down both the solutions.

Example 8 Solve $3x^2 - 7x - 2 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$a = 3, b = -7, c = -2$ $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	**1** Identify a, b and c, making sure you get the signs right and write down the formula. Remember that $-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$ is all over $2a$, not just part of it.
$x = \frac{-(-7) \pm \sqrt{(-7)^2 - 4(3)(-2)}}{2(3)}$	**2** Substitute $a = 3$, $b = -7$, $c = -2$ into the formula.
$x = \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{73}}{6}$	**3** Simplify. The denominator is 6 when $a = 3$. A common mistake is to always write a denominator of 2.
So $x = \frac{7 - \sqrt{73}}{6}$ or $x = \frac{7 + \sqrt{73}}{6}$	**4** Write down both the solutions.

Practice

5 Solve, giving your solutions in surd form.

a $3x^2 + 6x + 2 = 0$ **b** $2x^2 – 4x – 7 = 0$

6 Solve the equation $x^2 – 7x + 2 = 0$

Give your solutions in the form $\frac{a \pm \sqrt{b}}{c}$, where a, b and c are integers.

7 Solve $10x^2 + 3x + 3 = 5$

Give your solution in surd form.

> **Hint**
>
> Get all terms onto one side of the equation.

Extend

8 Choose an appropriate method to solve each quadratic equation, giving your answer in surd form when necessary.

a $4x(x – 1) = 3x – 2$

b $10 = (x + 1)^2$

c $x(3x – 1) = 10$

Answers

5 **a** $x = –1 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$ or $x = –1 – \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$ **b** $x = 1 + \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}$ or $x = 1 – \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}$

6 $x = \frac{7+\sqrt{41}}{2}$ or $x = \frac{7-\sqrt{41}}{2}$

7 $x = \frac{-3+\sqrt{89}}{20}$ or $x = \frac{-3-\sqrt{89}}{20}$

8 **a** $x = \frac{7+\sqrt{17}}{8}$ or $x = \frac{7-\sqrt{17}}{8}$

b $x = –1 + \sqrt{10}$ or $x = –1 – \sqrt{10}$

c $x = –1\frac{2}{3}$ or $x = 2$

Solving linear simultaneous equations using the elimination method

Key points

- Two equations are simultaneous when they are both true at the same time.
- Solving simultaneous linear equations in two unknowns involves finding the value of each unknown which works for both equations.
- Make sure that the coefficient of one of the unknowns is the same in both equations.
- Eliminate this equal unknown by either subtracting or adding the two equations.

Examples

Example 1 Solve the simultaneous equations $3x + y = 5$ and $x + y = 1$

$3x + y = 5$ $-\quad x + y = 1$ $2x \quad = 4$ So $x = 2$	**1** Subtract the second equation from the first equation to eliminate the y term.
Using $x + y = 1$ $2 + y = 1$ So $y = -1$	**2** To find the value of y, substitute $x = 2$ into one of the original equations.
Check: equation 1: $3 \times 2 + (-1) = 5$ YES equation 2: $2 + (-1) = 1$ YES	**3** Substitute the values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Example 2 Solve $x + 2y = 13$ and $5x - 2y = 5$ simultaneously.

$x + 2y = 13$ $+\quad 5x - 2y = 5$ $6x \quad = 18$ So $x = 3$	**1** Add the two equations together to eliminate the y term.
Using $x + 2y = 13$ $3 + 2y = 13$ So $y = 5$	**2** To find the value of y, substitute $x = 3$ into one of the original equations.
Check: equation 1: $3 + 2 \times 5 = 13$ YES equation 2: $5 \times 3 - 2 \times 5 = 5$ YES	**3** Substitute the values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Example 3 Solve $2x + 3y = 2$ and $5x + 4y = 12$ simultaneously.

$(2x + 3y = 2) \times 4 \rightarrow \quad 8x + 12y = 8$ $(5x + 4y = 12) \times 3 \rightarrow \quad 15x + 12y = 36$ $7x \quad = 28$ So $x = 4$	**1** Multiply the first equation by 4 and the second equation by 3 to make the coefficient of y the same for both equations. Then subtract the first equation from the second equation to eliminate the y term.
Using $2x + 3y = 2$ $2 \times 4 + 3y = 2$ So $y = -2$	**2** To find the value of y, substitute $x = 4$ into one of the original equations.
Check: equation 1: $2 \times 4 + 3 \times (-2) = 2$ YES equation 2: $5 \times 4 + 4 \times (-2) = 12$ YES	**3** Substitute the values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Practice

Solve these simultaneous equations.

1 $4x + y = 8$
$x + y = 5$

2 $3x + y = 7$
$3x + 2y = 5$

3 $4x + y = 3$
$3x - y = 11$

4 $3x + 4y = 7$
$x - 4y = 5$

5 $2x + y = 11$
$x - 3y = 9$

6 $2x + 3y = 11$
$3x + 2y = 4$

Answers

1 $x = 1, y = 4$

2 $x = 3, y = -2$

3 $x = 2, y = -5$

4 $x = 3, y = -\frac{1}{2}$

5 $x = 6, y = -1$

6 $x = -2, y = 5$

Solving linear simultaneous equations using the substitution method

Key points

- The subsitution method is the method most commonly used for A level. This is because it is the method used to solve linear and quadratic simultaneous equations.

Examples

Example 4 Solve the simultaneous equations $y = 2x + 1$ and $5x + 3y = 14$

$5x + 3(2x + 1) = 14$	**1** Substitute $2x + 1$ for y into the second equation.
$5x + 6x + 3 = 14$ $11x + 3 = 14$	**2** Expand the brackets and simplify.
$11x = 11$ So $x = 1$	**3** Work out the value of x.
Using $y = 2x + 1$ $y = 2 \times 1 + 1$ So $y = 3$	**4** To find the value of y, substitute $x = 1$ into one of the original equations.
Check: equation 1: $3 = 2 \times 1 + 1$ YES equation 2: $5 \times 1 + 3 \times 3 = 14$ YES	**5** Substitute the values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Example 5 Solve $2x - y = 16$ and $4x + 3y = -3$ simultaneously.

$y = 2x - 16$	**1** Rearrange the first equation.
$4x + 3(2x - 16) = -3$	**2** Substitute $2x - 16$ for y into the second equation.
$4x + 6x - 48 = -3$ $10x - 48 = -3$	**3** Expand the brackets and simplify.
$10x = 45$ So $x = 4\frac{1}{2}$	**4** Work out the value of x.
Using $y = 2x - 16$ $y = 2 \times 4\frac{1}{2} - 16$ So $y = -7$	**5** To find the value of y, substitute $x = 4\frac{1}{2}$ into one of the original equations.
Check: equation 1: $2 \times 4\frac{1}{2} - (-7) = 16$ YES equation 2: $4 \times 4\frac{1}{2} + 3 \times (-7) = -3$ YES	**6** Substitute the values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

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Practice

Solve these simultaneous equations.

7 $y = x - 4$
$2x + 5y = 43$

8 $y = 2x - 3$
$5x - 3y = 11$

9 $2y = 4x + 5$
$9x + 5y = 22$

10 $2x = y - 2$
$8x - 5y = -11$

11 $3x + 4y = 8$
$2x - y = -13$

12 $3y = 4x - 7$
$2y = 3x - 4$

13 $3x = y - 1$
$2y - 2x = 3$

14 $3x + 2y + 1 = 0$
$4y = 8 - x$

Extend

15 Solve the simultaneous equations $3x + 5y - 20 = 0$ and $2(x+y) = \frac{3(y-x)}{4}$.

Answers

7 $x = 9, y = 5$

8 $x = -2, y = -7$

9 $x = \frac{1}{2}, y = 3\frac{1}{2}$

10 $x = \frac{1}{2}, y = 3$

11 $x = -4, y = 5$

12 $x = -2, y = -5$

13 $x = \frac{1}{4}, y = 1\frac{3}{4}$

14 $x = -2, y = 2\frac{1}{2}$

15 $x = -2\frac{1}{2}, y = 5\frac{1}{2}$

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Solving linear and quadratic simultaneous equations

Key points

- Make one of the unknowns the subject of the linear equation (rearranging where necessary).
- Use the linear equation to substitute into the quadratic equation.
- There are usually two pairs of solutions.

Examples

Example 1 Solve the simultaneous equations $y = x + 1$ and $x^2 + y^2 = 13$

$x^2 + (x + 1)^2 = 13$	**1** Substitute $x + 1$ for y into the second equation.
$x^2 + x^2 + x + x + 1 = 13$ $2x^2 + 2x + 1 = 13$	**2** Expand the brackets and simplify.
$2x^2 + 2x - 12 = 0$ $(2x - 4)(x + 3) = 0$	**3** Factorise the quadratic equation.
So $x = 2$ or $x = -3$	**4** Work out the values of x.
Using $y = x + 1$ When $x = 2$, $y = 2 + 1 = 3$ When $x = -3$, $y = -3 + 1 = -2$	**5** To find the value of y, substitute both values of x into one of the original equations.
So the solutions are $x = 2,\ y = 3$ and $x = -3, y = -2$	
Check: equation 1: $3 = 2 + 1$ YES and $-2 = -3 + 1$ YES equation 2: $2^2 + 3^2 = 13$ YES and $(-3)^2 + (-2)^2 = 13$ YES	**6** Substitute both pairs of values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Example 2 Solve $2x + 3y = 5$ and $2y^2 + xy = 12$ simultaneously.

$x = \frac{5-3y}{2}$	**1** Rearrange the first equation.
$2y^2 + \left(\frac{5-3y}{2}\right)y = 12$	**2** Substitute $\frac{5-3y}{2}$ for x into the second equation. Notice how it is easier to substitute for x than for y.
$2y^2 + \frac{5y-3y^2}{2} = 12$ $4y^2 + 5y - 3y^2 = 24$ $y^2 + 5y - 24 = 0$	**3** Expand the brackets and simplify.
$(y + 8)(y - 3) = 0$	**4** Factorise the quadratic equation.
So $y = -8$ or $y = 3$	**5** Work out the values of y.
Using $2x + 3y = 5$ When $y = -8$, $2x + 3 \times (-8) = 5$, $x = 14.5$ When $y = 3$, $2x + 3 \times 3 = 5$, $x = -2$ So the solutions are $x = 14.5$, $y = -8$ and $x = -2$, $y = 3$	**6** To find the value of x, substitute both values of y into one of the original equations.
Check: equation 1: $2 \times 14.5 + 3 \times (-8) = 5$ YES and $2 \times (-2) + 3 \times 3 = 5$ YES equation 2: $2\times(-8)^2 + 14.5\times(-8) = 12$ YES and $2 \times (3)^2 + (-2) \times 3 = 12$ YES	**7** Substitute both pairs of values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Practice

Solve these simultaneous equations.

1 $y = 2x + 1$
$x^2 + y^2 = 10$

2 $y = 6 - x$
$x^2 + y^2 = 20$

3 $y = x - 3$
$x^2 + y^2 = 5$

4 $y = 9 - 2x$
$x^2 + y^2 = 17$

5 $y = 3x - 5$
$y = x^2 - 2x + 1$

6 $y = x - 5$
$y = x^2 - 5x - 12$

7 $y = x + 5$
$x^2 + y^2 = 25$

8 $y = 2x - 1$
$x^2 + xy = 24$

9 $y = 2x$
$y^2 - xy = 8$

10 $2x + y = 11$
$xy = 15$

Extend

11 $x - y = 1$
$x^2 + y^2 = 3$

12 $y - x = 2$
$x^2 + xy = 3$

Answers

1 $x = 1, y = 3$

$x = -\frac{9}{5}, y = -\frac{13}{5}$

2 $x = 2, y = 4$

$x = 4, y = 2$

3 $x = 1, y = -2$

$x = 2, y = -1$

4 $x = 4, y = 1$

$x = \frac{16}{5}, y = \frac{13}{5}$

5 $x = 3, y = 4$

$x = 2, y = 1$

6 $x = 7, y = 2$

$x = -1, y = -6$

7 $x = 0, y = 5$

$x = -5, y = 0$

8 $x = -\frac{8}{3}, y = -\frac{19}{3}$

$x = 3, y = 5$

9 $x = -2, y = -4$

$x = 2, y = 4$

10 $x = \frac{5}{2}, y = 6$

$x = 3, y = 5$

11 $x = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, y = \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$

$x = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}, y = \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$

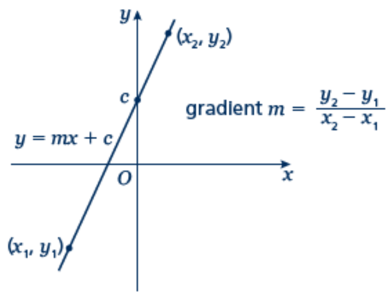
12 $x = \frac{-1+\sqrt{7}}{2}, y = \frac{3+\sqrt{7}}{2}$

$x = \frac{-1-\sqrt{7}}{2}, y = \frac{3-\sqrt{7}}{2}$

Straight line graphs

Key points

- A straight line has the equation $y = mx + c$, where m is the gradient and c is the y-intercept (where $x = 0$).
- The equation of a straight line can be written in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers.
- When given the coordinates (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) of two points on a line the gradient is calculated using the formula $m = \dfrac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$



Examples

Example 1 A straight line has gradient $-\frac{1}{2}$ and y-intercept 3.

Write the equation of the line in the form $ax + by + c = 0$.

$m = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $c = 3$ So $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 3$ $\frac{1}{2}x + y - 3 = 0$ $x + 2y - 6 = 0$	**1** A straight line has equation $y = mx + c$. Substitute the gradient and y-intercept given in the question into this equation. **2** Rearrange the equation so all the terms are on one side and 0 is on the other side. **3** Multiply both sides by 2 to eliminate the denominator.

Example 2 Find the gradient and the y-intercept of the line with the equation $3y - 2x + 4 = 0$.

$3y - 2x + 4 = 0$ $3y = 2x - 4$ $y = \frac{2}{3}x - \frac{4}{3}$ Gradient = $m = \frac{2}{3}$ y-intercept = $c = -\frac{4}{3}$	**1** Make y the subject of the equation. **2** Divide all the terms by three to get the equation in the form $y = \ldots$ **3** In the form $y = mx + c$, the gradient is m and the y-intercept is c.

Example 3 Find the equation of the line which passes through the point (5, 13) and has gradient 3.

$m = 3$ $y = 3x + c$	**1** Substitute the gradient given in the question into the equation of a straight line $y = mx + c$.
$13 = 3 \times 5 + c$	**2** Substitute the coordinates $x = 5$ and $y = 13$ into the equation.
$13 = 15 + c$ $c = -2$	**3** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = 3x - 2$	**4** Substitute $c = -2$ into the equation $y = 3x + c$

Example 4 Find the equation of the line passing through the points with coordinates (2, 4) and (8, 7).

$x_1 = 2$, $x_2 = 8$, $y_1 = 4$ and $y_2 = 7$ $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{7-4}{8-2} = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$	**1** Substitute the coordinates into the equation $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ to work out the gradient of the line.
$y = \frac{1}{2}x + c$	**2** Substitute the gradient into the equation of a straight line $y = mx + c$.
$4 = \frac{1}{2} \times 2 + c$	**3** Substitute the coordinates of either point into the equation.
$c = 3$	**4** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = \frac{1}{2}x + 3$	**5** Substitute $c = 3$ into the equation $y = \frac{1}{2}x + c$

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Practice

1 Find the gradient and the y-intercept of the following equations.

a $y = 3x + 5$ **b** $y = -\frac{1}{2}x - 7$

c $2y = 4x - 3$ **d** $x + y = 5$

e $2x - 3y - 7 = 0$ **f** $5x + y - 4 = 0$

Hint
Rearrange the equations to the form $y = mx + c$

2 Copy and complete the table, giving the equation of the line in the form $y = mx + c$.

Gradient	y-intercept	Equation of the line
5	0	
–3	2	
4	–7	

3 Find, in the form $ax + by + c = 0$ where a, b and c are integers, an equation for each of the lines with the following gradients and y-intercepts.

a gradient $-\frac{1}{2}$, y-intercept –7 **b** gradient 2, y-intercept 0

c gradient $\frac{2}{3}$, y-intercept 4 **d** gradient –1.2, y-intercept –2

4 Write an equation for the line which passes though the point (2, 5) and has gradient 4.

5 Write an equation for the line which passes through the point (6, 3) and has gradient $-\frac{2}{3}$

6 Write an equation for the line passing through each of the following pairs of points.

a (4, 5), (10, 17) **b** (0, 6), (–4, 8)

c (–1, –7), (5, 23) **d** (3, 10), (4, 7)

Extend

7 The equation of a line is $2y + 3x - 6 = 0$.
Write as much information as possible about this line.

Answers

1 **a** $m = 3, c = 5$ **b** $m = -\frac{1}{2}, c = -7$

c $m = 2, c = -\frac{3}{2}$ **d** $m = -1, c = 5$

e $m = \frac{2}{3}, c = -\frac{7}{3}$ or $-2\frac{1}{3}$ **f** $m = -5, c = 4$

2

Gradient	*y*-intercept	Equation of the line
5	0	$y = 5x$
–3	2	$y = -3x + 2$
4	–7	$y = 4x - 7$

3 **a** $x + 2y + 14 = 0$ **b** $2x - y = 0$

c $2x - 3y + 12 = 0$ **d** $6x + 5y + 10 = 0$

4 $y = 4x - 3$

5 $y = -\frac{2}{3}x + 7$

6 **a** $y = 2x - 3$ **b** $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 6$

c $y = 5x - 2$ **d** $y = -3x + 19$

7 $y = -\frac{3}{2}x + 3$, the gradient is $-\frac{3}{2}$ and the *y*-intercept is 3.

The line intercepts the axes at (0, 3) and (2, 0).

Students may sketch the line or give coordinates that lie on the line such as $\left(1, \frac{3}{2}\right)$ or $(4, -3)$.

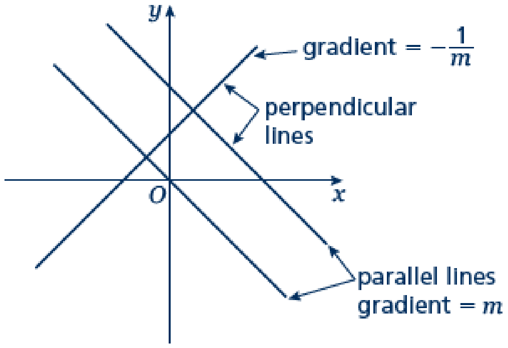
edexcel

Parallel and perpendicular lines

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 2a. Straight-line graphs, parallel/perpendicular, length and area problems

Key points

- When lines are parallel they have the same gradient.
- A line perpendicular to the line with equation $y = mx + c$ has gradient $-\frac{1}{m}$.



Examples

Example 1 Find the equation of the line parallel to $y = 2x + 4$ which passes through the point (4, 9).

$y = 2x + 4$ $m = 2$	**1** As the lines are parallel they have the same gradient.
$y = 2x + c$	**2** Substitute $m = 2$ into the equation of a straight line $y = mx + c$.
$9 = 2 \times 4 + c$	**3** Substitute the coordinates into the equation $y = 2x + c$
$9 = 8 + c$ $c = 1$	**4** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = 2x + 1$	**5** Substitute $c = 1$ into the equation $y = 2x + c$

Example 2 Find the equation of the line perpendicular to $y = 2x - 3$ which passes through the point (−2, 5).

$y = 2x - 3$ $m = 2$ $-\frac{1}{m} = -\frac{1}{2}$	**1** As the lines are perpendicular, the gradient of the perpendicular line is $-\frac{1}{m}$.
$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + c$	**2** Substitute $m = -\frac{1}{2}$ into $y = mx + c$.
$5 = -\frac{1}{2} \times (-2) + c$	**3** Substitute the coordinates (–2, 5) into the equation $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + c$
$5 = 1 + c$ $c = 4$	**4** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 4$	**5** Substitute $c = 4$ into $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + c$.

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Example 3 A line passes through the points (0, 5) and (9, −1).
Find the equation of the line which is perpendicular to the line and passes through its midpoint.

$x_1 = 0$, $x_2 = 9$, $y_1 = 5$ and $y_2 = -1$ $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{-1-5}{9-0}$ $= \frac{-6}{9} = -\frac{2}{3}$	**1** Substitute the coordinates into the equation $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ to work out the gradient of the line.
$-\frac{1}{m} = \frac{3}{2}$	**2** As the lines are perpendicular, the gradient of the perpendicular line is $-\frac{1}{m}$.
$y = \frac{3}{2}x + c$	**3** Substitute the gradient into the equation $y = mx + c$.
Midpoint = $\left(\frac{0+9}{2}, \frac{5+(-1)}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{9}{2}, 2\right)$	**4** Work out the coordinates of the midpoint of the line.
$2 = \frac{3}{2} \times \frac{9}{2} + c$	**5** Substitute the coordinates of the midpoint into the equation.
$c = -\frac{19}{4}$	**6** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = \frac{3}{2}x - \frac{19}{4}$	**7** Substitute $c = -\frac{19}{4}$ into the equation $y = \frac{3}{2}x + c$.

Practice

1 Find the equation of the line parallel to each of the given lines and which passes through each of the given points.

a $y = 3x + 1$ (3, 2)
b $y = 3 - 2x$ (1, 3)
c $2x + 4y + 3 = 0$ (6, –3)
d $2y - 3x + 2 = 0$ (8, 20)

2 Find the equation of the line perpendicular to $y = \frac{1}{2}x - 3$ which passes through the point (–5, 3).

> **Hint**
> If $m = \frac{a}{b}$ then the negative reciprocal $-\frac{1}{m} = -\frac{b}{a}$

3 Find the equation of the line perpendicular to each of the given lines and which passes through each of the given points.

a $y = 2x - 6$ (4, 0)
b $y = -\frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1}{2}$ (2, 13)
c $x - 4y - 4 = 0$ (5, 15)
d $5y + 2x - 5 = 0$ (6, 7)

4 In each case find an equation for the line passing through the origin which is also perpendicular to the line joining the two points given.

a (4, 3), (–2, –9) b (0, 3), (–10, 8)

Extend

5 Work out whether these pairs of lines are parallel, perpendicular or neither.

a $y = 2x + 3$
$y = 2x - 7$

b $y = 3x$
$2x + y - 3 = 0$

c $y = 4x - 3$
$4y + x = 2$

d $3x - y + 5 = 0$
$x + 3y = 1$

e $2x + 5y - 1 = 0$
$y = 2x + 7$

f $2x - y = 6$
$6x - 3y + 3 = 0$

6 The straight line $\mathbf{L_1}$ passes through the points *A* and *B* with coordinates (–4, 4) and (2, 1), respectively.

a Find the equation of $\mathbf{L_1}$ in the form $ax + by + c = 0$

The line $\mathbf{L_2}$ is parallel to the line $\mathbf{L_1}$ and passes through the point *C* with coordinates (–8, 3).

b Find the equation of $\mathbf{L_2}$ in the form $ax + by + c = 0$

The line $\mathbf{L_3}$ is perpendicular to the line $\mathbf{L_1}$ and passes through the origin.

c Find an equation of $\mathbf{L_3}$

Answers

1 a $y = 3x - 7$ b $y = -2x + 5$

c $y = -\frac{1}{2}x$ d $y = \frac{3}{2}x + 8$

2 $y = -2x - 7$

3 a $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 2$ b $y = 3x + 7$

c $y = -4x + 35$ d $y = \frac{5}{2}x - 8$

4 a $y = -\frac{1}{2}x$ b $y = 2x$

5 a Parallel b Neither c Perpendicular
d Perpendicular e Neither f Parallel

6 a $x + 2y - 4 = 0$ b $x + 2y + 2 = 0$ c $y = 2x$

Rearranging equations

Key points

- To change the subject of a formula, get the terms containing the subject on one side and everything else on the other side.
- You may need to factorise the terms containing the new subject.

Examples

Example 1 Make t the subject of the formula $v = u + at$.

$v = u + at$ $v - u = at$ $t = \frac{v-u}{a}$	**1** Get the terms containing t on one side and everything else on the other side. **2** Divide throughout by a.

Example 2 Make t the subject of the formula $r = 2t - \pi t$.

$r = 2t - \pi t$ $r = t(2 - \pi)$ $t = \frac{r}{2-\pi}$	**1** All the terms containing t are already on one side and everything else is on the other side. **2** Factorise as t is a common factor. **3** Divide throughout by $2 - \pi$.

Example 3 Make t the subject of the formula $\frac{t+r}{5} = \frac{3t}{2}$.

$\frac{t+r}{5} = \frac{3t}{2}$ $2t + 2r = 15t$ $2r = 13t$ $t = \frac{2r}{13}$	**1** Remove the fractions first by multiplying throughout by 10. **2** Get the terms containing t on one side and everything else on the other side and simplify. **3** Divide throughout by 13.

Example 4 Make t the subject of the formula $r = \frac{3t+5}{t-1}$.

$r = \frac{3t+5}{t-1}$	**1** Remove the fraction first by multiplying throughout by $t - 1$.
$r(t - 1) = 3t + 5$	**2** Expand the brackets.
$rt - r = 3t + 5$	**3** Get the terms containing t on one side and everything else on the other side.
$rt - 3t = 5 + r$	
$t(r - 3) = 5 + r$	**4** Factorise the LHS as t is a common factor.
$t = \frac{5+r}{r-3}$	**5** Divide throughout by $r - 3$.

Practice

Change the subject of each formula to the letter given in the brackets.

1 $C = \pi d$ [d]

2 $P = 2l + 2w$ [w]

3 $D = \frac{S}{T}$ [T]

4 $p = \frac{q-r}{t}$ [t]

5 $u = at - \frac{1}{2}t$ [t]

6 $V = ax + 4x$ [x]

7 $\frac{y-7x}{2} = \frac{7-2y}{3}$ [y]

8 $x = \frac{2a-1}{3-a}$ [a]

9 $x = \frac{b-c}{d}$ [d]

10 $h = \frac{7g-9}{2+g}$ [g]

11 $e(9 + x) = 2e + 1$ [e]

12 $y = \frac{2x+3}{4-x}$ [x]

13 Make r the subject of the following formulae.

a $A = \pi r^2$

b $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

c $P = \pi r + 2r$

d $V = \frac{2}{3}\pi r^2 h$

14 Make x the subject of the following formulae.

a $\frac{xy}{z} = \frac{ab}{cd}$

b $\frac{4\pi cx}{d} = \frac{3z}{py^2}$

15 Make $\sin B$ the subject of the formula $\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B}$

16 Make $\cos B$ the subject of the formula $b^2 = a^2 + c^2 - 2ac \cos B$.

Extend

17 Make x the subject of the following equations.

a $\frac{p}{q}(sx+t) = x-1$

b $\frac{p}{q}(ax+2y) = \frac{3p}{q^2}(x-y)$

Answers

1 $d = \dfrac{C}{\pi}$

2 $w = \dfrac{P - 2l}{2}$

3 $T = \dfrac{S}{D}$

4 $t = \dfrac{q - r}{p}$

5 $t = \dfrac{2u}{2a - 1}$

6 $x = \dfrac{V}{a + 4}$

7 $y = 2 + 3x$

8 $a = \dfrac{3x + 1}{x + 2}$

9 $d = \dfrac{b - c}{x}$

10 $g = \dfrac{2h + 9}{7 - h}$

11 $e = \dfrac{1}{x + 7}$

12 $x = \dfrac{4y - 3}{2 + y}$

13 **a** $r = \sqrt{\dfrac{A}{\pi}}$

b $r = \sqrt[3]{\dfrac{3V}{4\pi}}$

c $r = \dfrac{P}{\pi + 2}$

d $r = \sqrt{\dfrac{3V}{2\pi h}}$

14 **a** $x = \dfrac{abz}{cdy}$

b $x = \dfrac{3dz}{4\pi cpy^2}$

15 $\sin B = \dfrac{b \sin A}{a}$

16 $\cos B = \dfrac{a^2 + c^2 - b^2}{2ac}$

17 **a** $x = \dfrac{q + pt}{q - ps}$

b $x = \dfrac{3py + 2pqy}{3p - apq} = \dfrac{y(3 + 2q)}{3 - aq}$