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COURSE MATERIALS

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Year 10 Headstart Mathematics

Polynomials Term 3 – Week 3

Name

Class day and time

Teacher name



Term 3 – Week 3 – Theory

The Remainder Theorem:

The Remainder Theorem states that the remainder R of a polynomial P(x) divided by a linear factor (x - a) is equal to P(a), i.e. R = P(a).

Proof:

By long division, all polynomials when divided by a linear factor (x - a) can be expressed in the form:

$$P(x) = (x - a).Q(x) + R(x)$$

where P(x) is the dividend, (x - a) is the divisor, Q(x) is the quotient and R(x) is the remainder.

We have seen earlier that the degree of R(x) must be less than the degree of the divisor. Since the divisor is a linear factor then R(x) must be a constant or a zero polynomial. So we can write R(x) as R, where R is a constant.

Hence,
$$P(x) = (x - a).Q(x) + R$$
.

By substituting x = a, then

$$P(a) = (a - a) \cdot Q(a) + R$$
$$P(a) = 0 \cdot Q(a) + R$$

$\therefore P(a) = R$

Example:

By the remainder theorem, find the remainder when $P(x) = 3x^5 - 2x^3 + x^2 - 15$ is divided by (2x - 3).

Solution:

$$P\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = 3\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^5 - 2\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - 15$$
$$\therefore P\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = \frac{105}{32}$$

 \therefore The remainder is $\frac{105}{32}$.

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Example:

Given that when the polynomial $P(x) = 2x^4 - ax^2 + 3x - 10$ is divided by (2x - 1) the remainder is 8, find the value of a.

Solution:

$$P\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 - a\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + 3\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - 10$$

$$P\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{67}{8} - \frac{a}{4}$$
Given $P\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 8$, so
$$-\frac{67}{8} - \frac{a}{4} = 8$$

$$-\frac{a}{4} = \frac{131}{8}$$

$$\therefore a = -\frac{131}{2}$$

Example:

When $P(x) = 2x^3 - ax^2 + b$ is divided by (x - 1) and (x + 3), the remainders are 5 and -12 respectively, find the values of a and b.

Solution:

 $P(1) = 2(1)^{3} - a(1)^{2} + b$ P(1) = 2 - a + bGiven P(1) = 5, so 2 - a + b = 5 b - a = 3 - - -(1) $P(-3) = 2(-3)^{3} - a(-3)^{2} + b$ P(-3) = -54 - 9a + bGiven P(-3) = -12, so -54 - 9a + b = -12b - 9a = 42 - - -(2)



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Solving (1) and (2) simultaneously,

Subtract (2) from (1):

$$8a = -39$$
$$\therefore a = -\frac{39}{8}$$

Substitute $a = -\frac{39}{8}$ into (1):

$$b - \left(-\frac{39}{8}\right) = 3$$
$$b + \frac{39}{8} = 3$$
$$\therefore b = -\frac{15}{8}$$

Example:

Find the values of *m* and *n*, if $P(x) = x^3 + mx^2 + x + n$ is divisible by $(x^2 - 5x + 6)$.

Solution:

$$x^{2} - 5x + 6 = (x - 2)(x - 3)$$

$$P(2) = 2^{3} + m(2)^{2} + 2 + n$$

$$P(2) = 4m + n + 10$$
Since $P(x)$ is divisible by $(x - 2)$, then

$$P(2) = 0$$

So, 4m + n + 10 = 0

$$4m + n = -10 - - - -(1)$$

$$P(3) = 3^3 + m(3)^2 + 3 + n$$

P(3) = 9m + n + 30

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Since P(x) is divisible by (x - 3), then

P(3) = 0

So, 9m + n + 30 = 0

9m + n = -30 - - - -(2)

Solving (1) and (2) simultaneously,

Subtract (1) from (2),

5m = -20

 $\therefore m = -4$

Substitute m = -4 into (1):

4(-4) + n = -10-16 + n = -10 $\therefore n = 6$

Example:

- (i) Show that $P(x) = 2x^3 + x^2 15x 18$ is divisible by $(x^2 x 6)$.
- (ii) By observing the leading term and the constant term, what is the other linear factor of P(x)?
- (iii) Hence, solve $P(x) \leq 0$.

Solution:

- (i) $x^2 x 6 = (x 3)(x + 2)$ $P(3) = 2(3)^3 + 3^2 - 15(3) - 18$ $\therefore P(3) = 0$ $P(-2) = 2(-2)^3 + (-2)^2 - 15(-2) - 18$ $\therefore P(-2) = 0$ By the remainder theorem, $(x^2 - x - 6)$ is a factor of P(x).
- (ii) Since the leading term is $2x^3$ and the constant term is -18, then the other factor must be (2x + 3). Test by the remainder theorem,

$$P\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) = 2\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^3 + \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - 15\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) - 18$$

$$\therefore P\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) = 0$$

$$\therefore (2x + 3) \text{ is the other factor.}$$

 \therefore (2*x* + 3) is the other factor.

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The Factor Theorem:

The factor theorem states that if P(a) = 0 then x - a is a factor of P(x).

Proof:

By the Remainder Theorem which states that the remainder R of a polynomial P(x) divided by a linear factor (x - a) is equal to P(a), i.e. R = P(a).

In this case, if the remainder is equal to zero when P(x) is divided by x - a then x - a must be a factor of P(x), because P(x) is completely divisible by x - a.

The following useful results can be obtained from the Factor Theorem:

For a polynomial $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$:

- (i) If P(x) is a polynomial with integer coefficients and α is an integer zero of P(x), then α is a divisor of the constant term.
- (ii) If P(x) has k distinct real zeros $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_k$, then $(x \alpha_1)(x \alpha_2) ... (x \alpha_k)$ is a factor of P(x).
- (iii) If P(x) has degree n and n distinct real zeros $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_k$, then $P(x) = a_n(x \alpha_1)(x \alpha_2) ... (x \alpha_n)$, where a_n is the leading coefficient.
- (iv) A polynomial of degree n cannot have more than n distinct real zeros.
- (v) A polynomial of degree at most n, which has more than n distinct real zeros, is the zero polynomial (i.e. the polynomial in which $a_0 = a_1 = \cdots = a_n = 0$).

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Proof for (i):

If P(x) is a polynomial with integer coefficients and α is an integer zero of P(x), then α is a divisor of the constant term.

Let $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$ be a polynomial with integer coefficients, i.e. a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n are integers.

Suppose α is an integer zero of P(x),

So, $P(\alpha) = 0$ by the Factor Theorem.

$$P(\alpha) = a_n \alpha^n + a_{n-1} \alpha^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 \alpha^2 + a_1 \alpha + a_0$$

$$P(\alpha) = \alpha (a_n \alpha^{n-1} + a_{n-1} \alpha^{n-2} + \dots + a_2 \alpha^1 + a_1) + a_0$$

$$0 = \alpha (a_n \alpha^{n-1} + a_{n-1} \alpha^{n-2} + \dots + a_2 \alpha^1 + a_1) + a_0$$

$$a_0 = -\alpha (a_n \alpha^{n-1} + a_{n-1} \alpha^{n-2} + \dots + a_2 \alpha^1 + a_1)$$

$$a_0 = \alpha (-a_n \alpha^{n-1} - a_{n-1} \alpha^{n-2} - \dots - a_2 \alpha^1 - a_1)$$

Since a_0 is an integer multiple of α , then

 $\therefore \alpha$ is a divisor of a_0 .

Example:

- (i) Find all the zeros for $P(x) = x^4 4x^3 x^2 + 16x 12$.
- (ii) Hence, factorise P(x) into linear factors.

Solution:

(i) $P(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 - x^2 + 16x - 12$, since all the coefficients are integers then the zeros are the divisors of the constant term.

The divisors of -12 are $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$ and ± 6 . $P(1) = 1^4 - 4(1)^3 - (1)^2 + 16(1) - 12 = 0$. $P(-1) = (-1)^4 - 4(-1)^3 - (-1)^2 + 16(-1) - 12 = -24$. $P(2) = 2^4 - 4(2)^3 - (2)^2 + 16(2) - 12 = 0$. $P(-2) = (-2)^4 - 4(-2)^3 - (-2)^2 + 16(-2) - 12 = 0$. $P(3) = 3^4 - 4(3)^3 - (3)^2 + 16(3) - 12 = 0$. $\therefore 1, \pm 2$ and 3 are the zeros of P(x).

(ii)
$$\therefore P(x) = (x-1)(x+2)(x-2)(x-3)$$

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Proof for (ii):

If P(x) has k distinct real zeros $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k$, then $(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_k)$ is a factor of P(x).

Let P(x) be a polynomial with k distinct real zeros, namely $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_k$.

Then, $P(\alpha_1) = 0$, so $x - \alpha_1$ is a factor of P(x).

Hence, $P(x) = (x - \alpha_1)Q_1(x)$, where $Q_1(x)$ is a polynomial.

Also, $P(\alpha_2) = 0$, so $P(\alpha_2) = (\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)Q_1(\alpha_2) = 0$, but $\alpha_2 - \alpha_1 \neq 0$ so $Q_1(\alpha_2) = 0$.

Thus, $Q_1(x) = (x - \alpha_2)Q_2(x)$, where $Q_2(x)$ is a polynomial.

So, $P(x) = (x - \alpha_1)Q_1(x)$

 $P(x) = (x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2)Q_2(x)$

Repeat the same steps k times, it can be shown that $P(x) = (x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_k)Q_k(x)$ for some polynomial $Q_k(x)$.

$$\therefore (x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_k)$$
 is a factor of $P(x)$.

Example:

- (i) Factorise $P(x) = x^4 x^3 3x^2 + 5x 2$ into linear factors.
- (ii) Hence, solve $P(x) \leq 0$.

Solution:

(i) $P(x) = x^4 - x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x - 2$, since all the coefficients are integers then the zeros are the divisors of the constant term.

The divisors of -2 are ± 1 and ± 2 . $P(1) = (1)^4 - (1)^3 - 3(1)^2 + 5(1) - 2 = 0$, so (x - 1) is a factor of P(x). By long division (eliminated), $x^4 - x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x - 2 = (x - 1)(x^3 - 3x + 2)$ Let $Q(x) = x^3 - 3x + 2$ $Q(1) = 1^3 - 3(1) + 2 = 0$, so (x - 1) is a factor of Q(x)By long division (eliminated), $x^3 - 3x + 2 = (x - 1)(x^2 + x - 2)$ So, $P(x) = x^4 - x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x - 2$ $= (x - 1)(x^3 - 3x + 2)$ $= (x - 1)(x - 1)(x^2 + x - 2)$ $= (x - 1)^2(x^2 + x - 2)$ $= (x - 1)^2(x^2 - 1)(x + 2)$ $\therefore P(x) = (x - 1)^3(x + 2)$

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Proof for (iii):

If P(x) has degree n and n distinct real zeros $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_k$, then $P(x) = a_n(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) ... (x - \alpha_n)$, where a_n is the leading coefficient.

Let $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$ be a degree *n* polynomial with *n* distinct real zeros $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$.

Then by (ii), $(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)$ is a factor of P(x).

So, $P(x) = (x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)Q(x)$, where Q(x) is a polynomial.

Now, both P(x) and $(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)$ are of degrees *n*, then Q(x) must be a constant.

By comparing coefficients of leading terms x^n ,

 $a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0 = (x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)Q(x)$

$$Q(x) = a_n$$
.

 $\therefore P(x) = a_n(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)$, where a_n is the leading coefficient.

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Example:

Factorise $P(x) = 2x^3 - 4x^2 - 2x + 4$ into linear factors.

Solution:

 $P(x) = 2x^3 - 4x^2 - 2x + 4$, since all the coefficients are integers then the zeros are the divisors of the constant term.

The divisors of 4 are ± 1 , ± 2 and ± 4 .

 $P(1) = 2(1)^3 - 4(1)^2 - 2(1) + 4 = 0$, so (x - 1) is a factor of P(x).

 $P(-1) = 2(-1)^3 - 4(-1)^2 - 2(-1) + 4 = 0$, so (x + 1) is a factor of P(x).

$$P(2) = 2(2)^3 - 4(2)^2 - 2(2) + 4 = 0$$
, so $(x - 2)$ is a factor of $P(x)$.

So, (x - 1)(x + 1)(x - 2) are factors of P(x).

Since the leading coefficient of P(x) is 2 then,

$$\therefore P(x) = 2(x-1)(x+1)(x-2)$$

Proof for (iv):

A polynomial of degree *n* cannot have more than *n* distinct real zeros.

This can be proved by **contradiction**.

Suppose a polynomial P(x) of degree n has n + 1 distinct real zeros. Then, P(x) has n + 1 factors, namely $(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)(x - \alpha_{n+1})$.

By (iii), $P(x) = a_n(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)(x - \alpha_{n+1})$ so P(x) is a polynomial of degree n + 1.

Hence, this is a contradiction because P(x) is a polynomial of degree n.

 \therefore A polynomial of degree n can have at most n distinct real zeros.



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Example:

How many distinct real zeros can the polynomial $P(x) = 3x^4 + 4x - 2$ have?

Solution:

The polynomial $P(x) = 3x^4 + 4x - 2$ can have at most 4 distinct real zeros.

Proof for (v):

A polynomial of degree at most n, which has more than n distinct real zeros, is the zero polynomial (i.e. the polynomial in which $a_0 = a_1 = \cdots = a_n = 0$).

This can be proved by **contradiction**.

Suppose a polynomial P(x) had degree and it is at most n.

Also, suppose P(x) has n + 1 distinct real zeros. So by (iii), $P(x) = a_n(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)(x - \alpha_{n+1})$. Thus, P(x) is a polynomial of degree n + 1.

This is a contradiction. $\therefore P(x)$ cannot have a degree.

Since P(x) has no degree then it is the zero polynomial.

Example:

Find the values of p, q and r, if the polynomial $P(x) = 2px^2 + (2q - 3)x + r^2 - 1$ has three zeros.

Solution:

Since the degree of P(x) is 2 then it cannot have more than 2 zeros. It is given that it has three zeros, hence P(x) is the zero polynomial.

So, all the coefficients of P(x) are equal to 0.

$$2p = 0$$

$$\therefore p = 0$$

$$2q - 3 = 0$$

$$2q = 3$$

$$\therefore q = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$r^{2} - 1 = 0$$

$$r^{2} = 1$$

$$\therefore r = \pm 1$$

$$\therefore p = 0, q = \frac{3}{2} \text{ and } r = \pm 1.$$

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Example:

- (i) The polynomial $P(x) = x^4 + ax^3 7x^2 + bx 18$ has a factor $(x^2 3x + 2)$, find the values of a and b.
- (ii) Hence, express P(x) in terms of linear factors.

Solution:

(i) Since $(x^2 - 3x + 2) = (x - 1)(x - 2)$ is a factor of P(x) then, $P(1) = 1^4 + a(1)^3 - 7(1)^2 + b(1) - 18 = 0$ So, a + b - 24 = 0 a + b = 24 - - - -(1) $P(2) = 2^4 + a(2)^3 - 7(2)^2 + b(2) - 18 = 0$ So, 8a + 2b - 30 = 0 8a + 2b = 30 4a + b = 15 - - - -(2)(2) - (1): 3a = -9 $\therefore a = -3$ Substitute a = -3 into (1), -3 + b = 24 $\therefore b = 27$ $\therefore P(x) = x^4 - 3x^3 - 7x^2 + 27x - 18$

(ii) Given
$$(x^2 - 3x + 2)$$
 is a factor of $P(x)$.
By long division (eliminated), $P(x) = (x^2 - 3x + 2)(x^2 - 9)$
 $\therefore P(x) = (x - 1)(x - 2)(x - 3)(x + 3)$

Example:

When a polynomial P(x) is divided by (5x - 2)(3x + 1) the remainder is 6x + 5, find the remainder when the polynomial is divided by (3x + 1).

Solution:

The polynomial P(x) can be expressed in the following form:

P(x) = (5x - 2)(3x + 1)Q(x) + (6x + 5), where Q(x) is a polynomial.

When P(x) is divided by (3x + 1), then

$$P\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) = \left[5\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) - 2\right] \left[3\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) + 1\right] Q\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) + \left[6\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) + 5\right]$$
$$= \left(-3\frac{2}{3}\right)(0)Q\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) + 3$$
$$\therefore P\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) = 3$$

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: The remainder when P(x) is divided by (3x + 1) is 3.

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Term 3 – Week 3 – Homework

The Remainder Theorem:

1. By the remainder theorem, find the remainder when: a) $P(x) = x^4 + 2x^2 + 4x - 5$ is divided by x.

b) $P(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x - 9$ is divided by (x + 1).

c) $P(x) = x^6 + 2x^5 + 4x - 3$ is divided by (x - 3).

d) $P(x) = 3x^4 - 8x^2 - 3x + 1$ is divided by (x - 5).

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- e) $P(x) = 7x x^2 2x^3$ is divided by (3x + 2).

f) $P(x) = 1 - 3x + x^2 - 3x^3$ is divided by (2x - 1).

g) $P(x) = 6x^2 + 5x^3 - 5x^5$ is divided by $\left(x + \frac{1}{3}\right)$.

h) $P(x) = x^8 - 8x^7 + 4x - 4$ is divided by $\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)$.

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2. When $P(x) = x^4 - x^2 + ax + 1$ is divided by (x - 3), the remainder is 6, find the value of a.

3. When $P(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 + a$ is divided by (x + 2), the remainder is -4, find the value of a.

4. Given that when $P(x) = 2x^3 + 9x^2 + ax + b$ is divided by (x + 2) and (x - 6) the remainders are 1 and 3 respectively, find the values of a and b.



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- 5. Given that when $P(x) = x^4 + 3x^2 ax + 1$ and $Q(x) = ax^2 x + 4$ are both divided by (x 1) the remainders are the same, find the value of a.

6. If $P(x) = x^3 + px^2 - 6x + q$ is divisible by $(x^2 + x - 2)$, find the values of p and q.



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7.

- (i) Show that $P(x) = x^3 + 5x^2 + 2x 8$ is divisible by (x 1) and (x + 2).
- (ii) Hence, by observing the leading term and the constant term, express P(x) in terms of linear factors.

8.

- (i) Show that $P(x) = x^3 3x^2 4x + 12$ is divisible by $(x^2 4)$.
- (ii) Hence, by observing the leading term and the constant term, find the other factor(s) of P(x).
- (iii) Solve P(x) < 0.

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9.

- (i) Show that $P(x) = 2x^3 + 5x^2 11x + 4$ is divisible by (x + 4) and (x 1).
- (ii) Hence, by observing the leading term and the constant term, express P(x) in terms of linear factors and solve $P(x) \ge 0$.

10. P(x) is a monic polynomial of degree 2. If (x - 1) is a factor and when P(x) is divided by (x - 2) the remainder is 6. Find P(x).



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Term 3 – Week 3 ¹⁹

The Factor Theorem:

1. Show that (x - 3) is a factor of $P(x) = 9x^3 - 26x^2 - 3x$.

2. Show that (2x + 1) is a factor of $Q(x) = 2x^4 + 3x^3 - x^2 - 3x - 1$.

3. Show that (3x - 1) is a factor of $P(x) = 6x^3 - 2x^2 + 9x - 3$.

4. Show that (x - 2) is a factor of $P(x) = 2x^3 + 6x^2 - 7x - 26$.



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Term 3 – Week 3 ²⁰

5.

- (i) Find all linear factors of $P(x) = x^3 2x^2 5x + 6$.
- (ii) Hence, solve $P(x) \leq 0$.

6.

- (i) Find all linear factors of $P(x) = 2x^3 + 9x^2 + 3x 4$.
- (ii) Hence, solve P(x) > 0.

7.

- (i) Show that (x + 3) is the only factor of $P(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 5x + 12$.
- (ii) Hence, sketch P(x).

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Term 3 – Week 3 ²¹

8.

- (i) Show that (2x + 3) is the only factor of $P(x) = 10x^3 + 19x^2 + 8x + 3$.
- (ii) Hence, sketch P(x).

9. Show that $x^3 - 27$ has only one real root.

10. Find the value of k such that $P(x) = 3x^3 + 2x + k$ is divisible by (x - 1).



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Term 3 – Week 3 ²²

11. Find the values of a and b such that $P(x) = ax^4 + 2x^3 + bx - 4$ is divisible by both (x + 1) and (x - 1).

12. Given that (x - 4) is a factor of $P(x) = x^3 - 7x^2 + 3x + k$, find the value of k.

13.

(i) If $(x^2 + x - 6)$ is a factor of $P(x) = x^4 + ax^2 + bx + 120$, find the values of a and b.

(ii) Hence, find the other two linear factors.

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Term 3 – Week 3 ²³

14.

(i) If $(x^2 + x - 12)$ is a factor of $P(x) = 2x^4 + ax^3 - 17x^2 + bx - 24$, find the values of a and b. (ii) Hence, find the other two linear factors.

15.

- (i) Show that (x 3)(x + 2) are factors of $P(x) = x^4 + 2x^3 13x^2 14x + 24$.
- (ii) Without long division, find the other factors of P(x).
- (iii) Hence, solve $P(x) \leq 0$.

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- Term 3 Week 3 ²⁴
- 16. Find the values of a, b, c and d, if the polynomial $P(x) = (a^2 4)x^3 + (3 2c)x^2 + (2b + d)x + b d$ has five zeros.

17. When a polynomial P(x) is divided by (3x + 2)(x + 1) the remainder is 5x - 6, find the remainder when the polynomial is divided by (3x + 2).

18. When a polynomial P(x) is divided by $x^2 - 9$ the remainder is $2x^2 + 5$, find the remainder when the polynomial is divided by (x + 3).



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Term 3 – Week 3 ²⁵

19. Write $-3x^2 + 16x - 12$ as a polynomial in terms of (x - 2).

20. Write $2x^3 - 6x^2 + 10x - 1$ as a polynomial in terms of (x - 1).

End of Homework

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