A-Level Mathematics

Information Booklet

Well done for choosing one of the most popular A-level courses and I hope you are excited to continue your journey through Mathematics this September!

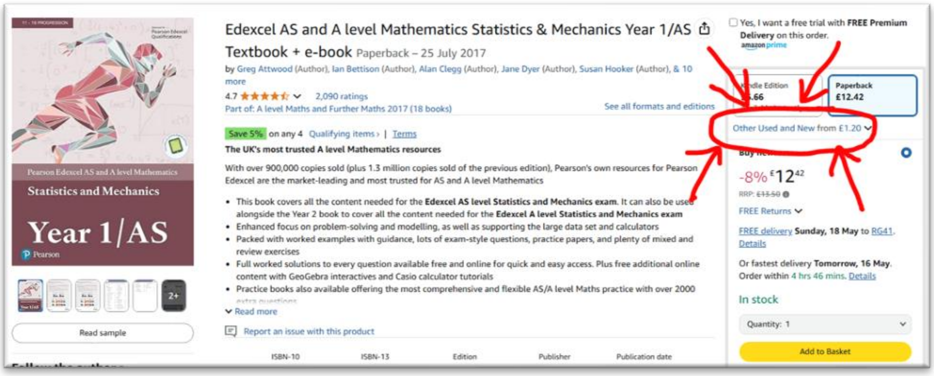
This booklet contains some important information that you will need before you start the course, so please read it carefully.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch by email.

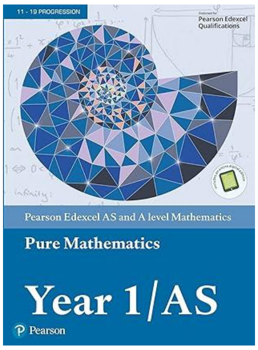
KS5 Maths Coordinator: Mr R Green r.green@holt.wokingham.sch.uk

Required Equipment

Textbooks:
We are following the *Pearson Edexcel* A-Level Maths course.
You will need the Pure book from the first lesson in September.
New textbooks usually include a digital copy too, but second hand is fine. You may be able to find a Year 13 student wanting to sell these on. I recommend checking the **"Other used and New"** tab on Amazon for some cheap second-hand copies.

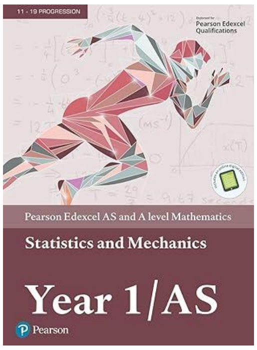


Pearson Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics
Pure Mathematics Year 1/AS



ISBN-13: 978-1292183398

Pearson Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics
Statistics & Mechanics Year 1/AS



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Calculator:
You will need an A-level appropriate calculator.
We **very strongly recommend** you purchase a **Casio graphical calculator.**

The vast majority of students and staff use a **Casio fx-CG50** graphical calculator and we will teach you how to use it during the course. Any Casio graphical calculator is fine, but the more similar it is to your classmates/teacher, the easier you will find it to learn.

Note: From September 2025, Casio are no longer selling the fx-CG50 and are replacing it with the newer fx-CG100 model. You may find the fx-CG50 hard to find in stock from September.

Look on eBay for second-hand calculators, although a new one is a good investment. I think www.studentcalculators.co.uk have reasonably priced new calculators compared to high-street shops.

Casio fx-CG100

Casio fx-CG50

Casio fx-9860G-III

Essential Bridging Tasks

A level Maths builds on the GCSE and we will assume that you have a sound grasp of these skills from the very start of the course.

We also know that maths can go rusty very quickly if you do not practice it.

With that in mind it is essential that you do some practice over the summer in order to get off to the best start possible on the A level course.

You will have an induction test in the first few weeks of your maths course to check your understanding and see if more support is needed.
Completing the bridging work will help prepare you for this.

Main Bridging Task: *AMSP Transition to A-level Maths Course*

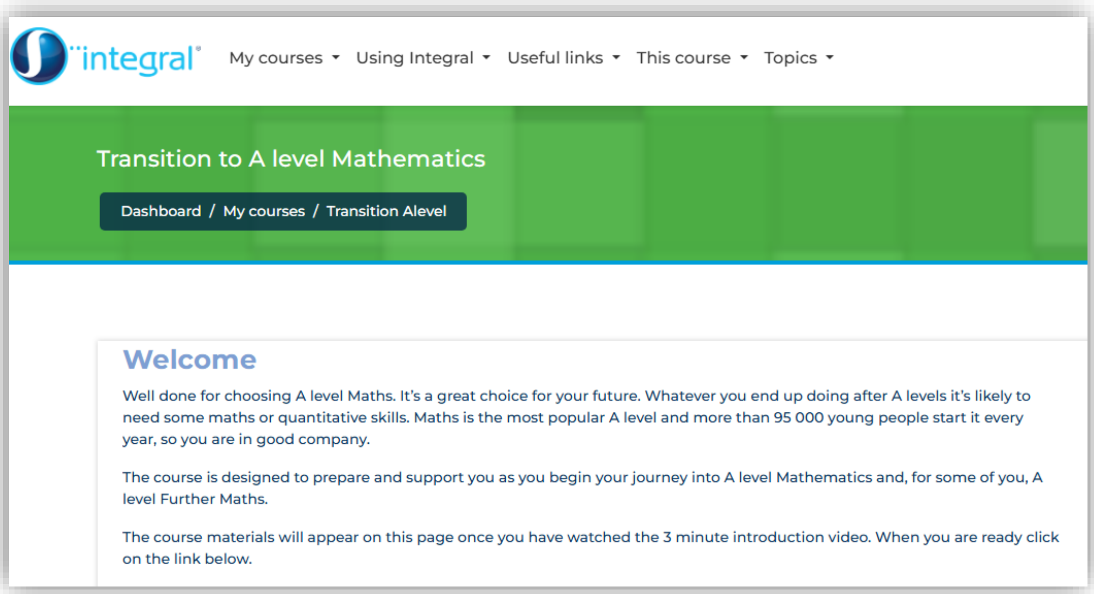
- We would like you to sign up to and complete as much of the AMSP's "Transition to A-level Mathematics" course as possible. This uses the Integral maths website which we also use throughout Y12 and Y13.

- The course is an interactive series of online videos, presentations, and questions that cover the essential topics for A-level success such as:
  - Integers & proof
  - Geometry
  - Surds & Indices
  - Coordinate Geometry
  - Algebraic Manipulation
  - Trigonometry
  - Completing the Square

- At the end of the course you can download a certificate which we would like you to share with your teacher in September.

- Please sign-up for the free course here: Register for Course
  Alternatively, email r.green@holt.wokingham.sch.uk to be signed up.

- More info available here: Transition to A level Mathematics course - AMSP



Alternative Bridging Task: *Practice Tasks*

If you choose not to complete the Transition to A-Level Maths course above, then I strongly recommend you at least check your skills by completing the practice tasks at the end of this booklet instead.

These cover:

- Expanding Brackets
- Surds
- Indices
- Factorising

Complete these tasks and mark your work. Make sure you do corrections.

Optional Bridging Task: *Essential Skills*

Transition to A level Mathematics resources: Essential Skills | AMSP

The above website has some excellent resources to refresh and stretch your GCSE knowledge. You may want to use it in conjunction with the above tasks as there are some help videos and explanations you may find useful.

There are 6 sections:

- Simplifying
- Expanding
- Factorising
- Rearranging
- Solving
- Sketching

The tasks range from routine practice through to some more challenging problems to solve. Please use the website to help recap, practice and inspire you. Have fun with the problems!

Optional Bridging Task: *Learn Your Graphical Calculator*

Your calculator is only useful to you if you know how to use it. We will guide you through it in lessons, but you may want to have a look at some of these guides and activities.

Resources Archive - Casio Calculators

Scroll down the page and look at how to do various Calculations, Equations and Functions. Ignore the sections that you don't recognise, e.g. matrices and finance section.

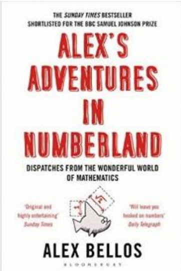
Enrichment

Maths is a rich and varied subject that spans across cultures and throughout human history. Wider reading and engagement in the mathematical world outside of your studies will not only enrich your understanding and enjoyment of the course but can be a lot of fun.

Here are some resources that members of The Holt School Maths Department recommend.

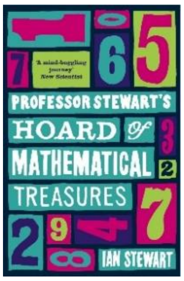
Book Recommendations

Alex's Adventures in Numberland
Alex Bellos



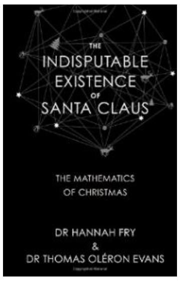
Exploding the myth that maths is best left to the geeks, Alex Bellos covers subjects from adding to algebra, from set theory to statistics and from logarithms to logical paradoxes. In doing so, he explains how mathematical ideas underpin just about everything in our lives.

Professor Stewart's Hoard of Mathematical Treasures
Ian Stewart



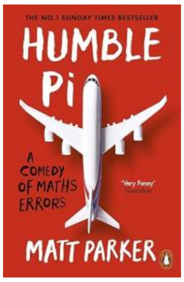
Ian Stewart presents a new and magical mix of games, puzzles, paradoxes, brainteasers, and riddles. He mingles these with forays into ancient and modern mathematical thought, appallingly hilarious mathematical jokes, and enquiries into the great mathematical challenges of the present and past.

The Indisputable Existence of Santa Claus
Hannah Fry & Thomas Oleron Evans



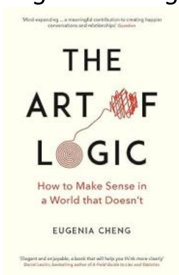
Full of diagrams, sketches and graphs, beautiful equations, Markov chains and matrices, *The Indisputable Existence of Santa Exists* brightens up the bleak midwinter with stockingfuls of mathematical marvels.

Humble Pi
Matt Parker



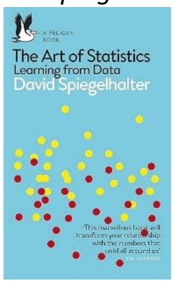
What makes a bridge wobble when it's not meant to? Billions of dollars mysteriously vanish into thin air? A building rock when its resonant frequency matches a gym class leaping to Snap's 1990 hit *I've Got The Power*? The answer is maths. Or, to be precise, what happens when maths goes wrong in the real world.

The Art of Logic
Eugenia Cheng



In The Art of Logic, Eugenia Cheng shows how anyone can think like a mathematician - and see, argue and think better. Learn how to simplify complex decisions without over-simplifying them. Discover the power of analogies and the dangers of false equivalences. Find out how people construct misleading arguments, and how we can argue back.

The Art of Statistics
David Spiegelhalter



Do busier hospitals have higher survival rates? How many trees are there on the planet? Why do old men have big ears? David Spiegelhalter reveals the answers to these and many other questions - questions that can only be addressed using statistical science.

Other Recommendations

Hidden Figures *(Film)*  The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.	**More or Less: Behind the Statistics** (Radio Show/Podcast)  A weekly radio show and podcast, hosted by economist Tim Harford examining the truth behind numbers and claims made by politicians and newspapers. Available on BBC Sounds: BBC Sounds - More or Less: Behind the Stats	**Gresham College Maths Lectures** *(Talks)* GRESHAM COLLEGE SINCE 1597 Accessible and interesting lectures on popular maths topics from some of the world's leading mathematicians, scientists and authors. Such as "How to Prove 1 = 0" and "The Maths of Boomerangs" Available here: Browse All | Gresham College
Sumaze! *App/Game*  Download the free sumaze! apps. No instructions, learn by playing. Once you have completed the logarithms levels, research logarithms online. Can you find the unknown values below?	**The Science Museum (London)** *Trip* SCIENCE MUSEUM From war and peace to life, death, money, trade and beauty, the objects in Mathematics: The Winton Gallery reveal how mathematics connects to every aspect of our lives. Mathematics: The Winton Gallery | Science Museum	**Numberphile** *Youtube* "Video's about numbers and stuff" – A huge collection of short videos hosted by top mathematicians, scientists and maths popularisers to discuss strange and wonderful applications of maths. Numberphile - YouTube

What follows are the **Practice Tasks**
for the alternative bridging work task.
(Answers are at the end)

Expanding brackets and simplifying expressions

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1a. Algebraic expressions – basic algebraic manipulation, indices and surds

Key points

- When you expand one set of brackets you must multiply everything inside the bracket by what is outside.
- When you expand two linear expressions, each with two terms of the form $ax + b$, where $a \neq 0$ and $b \neq 0$, you create four terms. Two of these can usually be simplified by collecting like terms.

Examples

Example 1 Expand $4(3x - 2)$

$4(3x - 2) = 12x - 8$	Multiply everything inside the bracket by the 4 outside the bracket

Example 2 Expand and simplify $3(x + 5) - 4(2x + 3)$

$3(x + 5) - 4(2x + 3)$ $= 3x + 15 - 8x - 12$ $= 3 - 5x$	**1** Expand each set of brackets separately by multiplying $(x + 5)$ by 3 and $(2x + 3)$ by -4 **2** Simplify by collecting like terms: $3x - 8x = -5x$ and $15 - 12 = 3$

Example 3 Expand and simplify $(x + 3)(x + 2)$

$(x + 3)(x + 2)$ $= x(x + 2) + 3(x + 2)$ $= x^2 + 2x + 3x + 6$ $= x^2 + 5x + 6$	**1** Expand the brackets by multiplying $(x + 2)$ by x and $(x + 2)$ by 3 **2** Simplify by collecting like terms: $2x + 3x = 5x$

Example 4 Expand and simplify $(x - 5)(2x + 3)$

$(x - 5)(2x + 3)$ $= x(2x + 3) - 5(2x + 3)$ $= 2x^2 + 3x - 10x - 15$ $= 2x^2 - 7x - 15$	**1** Expand the brackets by multiplying $(2x + 3)$ by x and $(2x + 3)$ by -5 **2** Simplify by collecting like terms: $3x - 10x = -7x$

Practice

Watch out!

When multiplying (or dividing) positive and negative numbers, if the signs are the same the answer is ‘+’; if the signs are different the answer is ‘–’

1 Expand.

a $3(2x - 1)$ **b** $-2(5pq + 4q^2)$

c $-(3xy - 2y^2)$

2 Expand and simplify.

a $7(3x + 5) + 6(2x - 8)$ **b** $8(5p - 2) - 3(4p + 9)$

c $9(3s + 1) - 5(6s - 10)$ **d** $2(4x - 3) - (3x + 5)$

3 Expand.

a $3x(4x + 8)$ **b** $4k(5k^2 - 12)$

c $-2h(6h^2 + 11h - 5)$ **d** $-3s(4s^2 - 7s + 2)$

4 Expand and simplify.

a $3(y^2 - 8) - 4(y^2 - 5)$ **b** $2x(x + 5) + 3x(x - 7)$

c $4p(2p - 1) - 3p(5p - 2)$ **d** $3b(4b - 3) - b(6b - 9)$

5 Expand $\frac{1}{2}(2y - 8)$

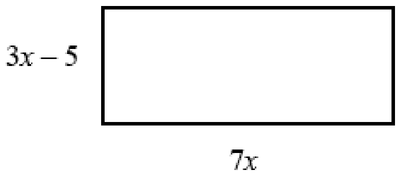
6 Expand and simplify.

a $13 - 2(m + 7)$ **b** $5p(p^2 + 6p) - 9p(2p - 3)$

7 The diagram shows a rectangle.

Write down an expression, in terms of x, for the area of the rectangle.

Show that the area of the rectangle can be written as $21x^2 - 35x$



8 Expand and simplify.

a $(x + 4)(x + 5)$ **b** $(x + 7)(x + 3)$

c $(x + 7)(x - 2)$ **d** $(x + 5)(x - 5)$

e $(2x + 3)(x - 1)$ **f** $(3x - 2)(2x + 1)$

g $(5x - 3)(2x - 5)$ **h** $(3x - 2)(7 + 4x)$

i $(3x + 4y)(5y + 6x)$ **j** $(x + 5)^2$

k $(2x - 7)^2$ **l** $(4x - 3y)^2$

Extend

9 Expand and simplify $(x + 3)^2 + (x - 4)^2$

10 Expand and simplify.

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

Surds and rationalising the denominator

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1a. Algebraic expressions – basic algebraic manipulation, indices and surds

Key points

- A surd is the square root of a number that is not a square number, for example $\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5},$ etc.
- Surds can be used to give the exact value for an answer.
- $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$
- $\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}}$
- 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 $\sqrt{50}$

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

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

$\sqrt{147} - 2\sqrt{12}$ $= \sqrt{49 \times 3} - 2\sqrt{4 \times 3}$	**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
$= \sqrt{49} \times \sqrt{3} - 2\sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{3}$	**2** Use the rule $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$
$= 7 \times \sqrt{3} - 2 \times 2 \times \sqrt{3}$	**3** Use $\sqrt{49} = 7$ and $\sqrt{4} = 2$
$= 7\sqrt{3} - 4\sqrt{3}$ $= 3\sqrt{3}$	**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 $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}}$

$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}}\times\frac{\sqrt{12}}{\sqrt{12}}$ $= \frac{\sqrt{2}\times\sqrt{4\times3}}{12}$ $= \frac{2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{12}$ $= \frac{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{6}$	**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 $\dfrac{3}{2+\sqrt{5}}$

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

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

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** $\frac{6}{5-\sqrt{2}}$

Extend

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

7 Rationalise and simplify, if possible.

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

Rules of indices

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1a. Algebraic expressions – basic algebraic manipulation, indices and surds

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 *n*th 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 $\frac{6x^5}{2x^2}$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 $\dfrac{3x^2 \times x^3}{2x^2}$ **b** $\dfrac{10x^5}{2x^2 \times x}$

c $\dfrac{3x \times 2x^3}{2x^3}$ **d** $\dfrac{7x^3y^2}{14x^5y}$

e $\dfrac{y^2}{y^{\frac{1}{2}} \times y}$ **f** $\dfrac{c^{\frac{1}{2}}}{c^2 \times c^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

g $\dfrac{(2x^2)^3}{4x^0}$ **h** $\dfrac{x^{\frac{1}{2}} \times x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{x^{-2} \times x^3}$

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

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

7 Write the following as a single power of x.

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

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

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

Factorising expressions

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1b. Quadratic functions – factorising, solving, graphs and the discriminants

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 $x^2 + 3x - 10$

$b = 3$, $ac = -10$	**1** Work out the two factors of $ac = -10$ which add to give $b = 3$ (5 and −2)
So $x^2 + 3x - 10 = x^2 + 5x - 2x - 10$	**2** Rewrite the b term ($3x$) using these two factors
$= x(x + 5) - 2(x + 5)$	**3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms
$= (x + 5)(x - 2)$	**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: $b = -4$, $ac = -21$	**2** Work out the two factors of $ac = -21$ which add to give $b = -4$ (−7 and 3)
So $x^2 - 4x - 21 = x^2 - 7x + 3x - 21$ $= x(x - 7) + 3(x - 7)$ $= (x - 7)(x + 3)$	**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: $b = 9$, $ac = 18$	**6** Work out the two factors of $ac = 18$ which add to give $b = 9$ (6 and 3)
So $2x^2 + 9x + 9 = 2x^2 + 6x + 3x + 9$ $= 2x(x + 3) + 3(x + 3)$ $= (x + 3)(2x + 3)$	**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 Expanding Brackets

1 **a** $6x - 3$ **b** $-10pq - 8q^2$
c $-3xy + 2y^2$

2 **a** $21x + 35 + 12x - 48 = 33x - 13$
b $40p - 16 - 12p - 27 = 28p - 43$
c $27s + 9 - 30s + 50 = -3s + 59 = 59 - 3s$
d $8x - 6 - 3x - 5 = 5x - 11$

3 **a** $12x^2 + 24x$ **b** $20k^3 - 48k$
c $10h - 12h^3 - 22h^2$ **d** $21s^2 - 21s^3 - 6s$

4 **a** $-y^2 - 4$ **b** $5x^2 - 11x$
c $2p - 7p^2$ **d** $6b^2$

5 $y - 4$

6 **a** $-1 - 2m$ **b** $5p^3 + 12p^2 + 27p$

7 $7x(3x - 5) = 21x^2 - 35x$

8 **a** $x^2 + 9x + 20$ **b** $x^2 + 10x + 21$
c $x^2 + 5x - 14$ **d** $x^2 - 25$
e $2x^2 + x - 3$ **f** $6x^2 - x - 2$
g $10x^2 - 31x + 15$ **h** $12x^2 + 13x - 14$
i $18x^2 + 39xy + 20y^2$ **j** $x^2 + 10x + 25$
k $4x^2 - 28x + 49$ **l** $16x^2 - 24xy + 9y^2$

9 $2x^2 - 2x + 25$

10 **a** $x^2 - 1 - \frac{2}{x^2}$ **b** $x^2 + 2 + \frac{1}{x^2}$

Answers Surds

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

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

6 $x-y$

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

Answers Indices

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**	$x^{-2} + x^{-7}$		

Answers factorising

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