

# Expanding and Factorising Higher Order Polynomials

A *polynomial* is any function of the form  $f(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots + c_{n-1}x^{n-1} + c_nx^n$  where  $c_n \in R$ . For example:

$$2x - x^3$$

$$1 + x^2 + 3x^4$$

$$2x^3 - x^2 + 4x - 1$$

Factorising a polynomial means writing it as the product of other polynomials.

For example:  $x^3 + x^2 - 2x - 2 = (x^2 - 2)(x + 1)$  and  $x^3 + 2x^2 - 11x - 12 = (x - 3)(x + 4)(x + 1)$

## Level 1 – 2

1. Expand and simplify the following:

a)  $(x - 1)(x + 2)(x - 3)$

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b)  $(x - 2)(x + 3)(2x - 1)$

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c)  $(x - 2)^3$

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d)  $(2x + 1)^3$

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Level 3 – 4

2. Completely factorise the following expressions:

a)  $x^4 + 3x^2 - 4$

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b)  $x^8 - 8x^4 - 9$

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c)  $x^6 + 5x^3 - 14$

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d)  $x^4 - 1$

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e)  $x^8 - 256$

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Level 5 – 6

3. Completely factorise the following expressions:

a)  $(2x - 1)^5(3x + 2)^4 - (2x - 1)^4(3x + 2)^5$

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b)  $3(4x + 5)^7(2x - 1)^4 + (4x + 5)^6(2x - 1)^5$

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c)  $(x - 3)^6(x + 2)^4 + (x - 3)^4(x + 2)^6$

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d)  $6(2 - x)^5(3x - 1)^4 - 4(2 - x)^6(3x - 1)^5$

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4. Completely factorise the following:

a)  $x^3 + 2x^2 + x - 4$  .....

*Hint:  $(x - 1)$  is one factor* .....

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b)  $x^3 - x^2 - 3x + 6$  .....

*Hint:  $(x + 2)$  is one factor* .....

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c)  $x^3 + 3x^2 - 6x - 8$  .....

*Hint:  $(x + 4)$  is one factor* .....

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5. In part a) of the previous question, replace  $x$  with the value of 1. In part b) replace  $x$  with the value of -2. In part c) replace  $x$  with -4. Use any patterns you notice to factorise the following:

a)  $x^3 + x + 2$ . *Hint: use guess and check to find the first factor.*

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b)  $2x^3 + 8x^2 + 2x - 12$

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c)  $3x^3 + 9x^2 - 12x - 36$

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6. If  $S = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \dots + ar^{n-1}$  show that  $S = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$ .

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