

A LEVEL Cambridge Topical Past Papers

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

P1,P2

2017 — 2023

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1 - (9231/11\_Summer\_2017\_Q7) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

By finding a cubic equation whose roots are  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ , solve the set of simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha + \beta + \gamma &= -1, \\ \alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 &= 29, \\ \frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} &= -1.\end{aligned}\quad [8]$$

2 - (9231/13\_Summer\_2017\_Q1) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

The roots of the cubic equation  $x^3 + 2x^2 - 3 = 0$  are  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

- (i) By using the substitution  $y = \frac{1}{x^2}$ , find the cubic equation with roots  $\frac{1}{\alpha^2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{\beta^2}$  and  $\frac{1}{\gamma^2}$ . [3]

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- (ii) Hence find the value of  $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2} + \frac{1}{\gamma^2}$ . [1]

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- (iii) Find also the value of  $\frac{1}{\alpha^2\beta^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2\gamma^2} + \frac{1}{\gamma^2\alpha^2}$ . [1]

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3 - (9231/11\_Winter\_2017\_Q4) - *Roots Of Polynomial Equations*

The cubic equation  $2x^3 - 3x^2 + 4x - 10 = 0$  has roots  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

(i) Find the value of  $(\alpha + 1)(\beta + 1)(\gamma + 1)$ . [4]

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(ii) Find the value of  $(\beta + \gamma)(\gamma + \alpha)(\alpha + \beta)$ . [4]

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4 - (9231/11\_Summer\_2018\_Q4) - *Roots Of Polynomial Equations*

It is given that the equation

$$x^3 - 21x^2 + kx - 216 = 0,$$

where  $k$  is a constant, has real roots  $a$ ,  $ar$  and  $ar^{-1}$ .

(i) Find the numerical values of the roots.

[6]

(ii) Deduce the value of  $k$ .

[2]

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5 - (9231/13\_Summer\_2018\_Q6) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

The equation

$$9x^3 - 9x^2 + x - 2 = 0$$

has roots  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ .

(i) Use the substitution  $y = 3x - 1$  to show that  $3\alpha - 1, 3\beta - 1, 3\gamma - 1$  are the roots of the equation

$$y^3 - 2y - 7 = 0. \quad [2]$$

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The sum  $(3\alpha - 1)^n + (3\beta - 1)^n + (3\gamma - 1)^n$  is denoted by  $S_n$ .

(ii) Find the value of  $S_3$ . [2]

(iii) Find the value of  $S_{-2}$ . [4]

6 - (9231/11\_Winter\_2018\_Q2) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

The roots of the equation

$$x^3 + px^2 + qx + r = 0$$

are  $\alpha$ ,  $2\alpha$ ,  $4\alpha$ , where  $p$ ,  $q$ ,  $r$  and  $\alpha$  are non-zero real constants.

(i) Show that

$$2p\alpha + q = 0.$$

[4]

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(ii) Show that

$$p^3 r - q^3 = 0.$$

[2]



# ANSWERS

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## 1 - (9231/11\_Summer\_2017\_Q7) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

$2\sum\alpha\beta = 1 - 29 \Rightarrow \sum\alpha\beta = -14$	M1A1
$\frac{\sum\alpha\beta}{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \frac{-14}{\alpha\beta\gamma} = -1 \Rightarrow \alpha\beta\gamma = 14$	M1A1 FT
$\Rightarrow x^3 + x^2 - 14x - 14 = 0$	A1
$\Rightarrow (x+1)(x^2 - 14)$	M1A1
$\Rightarrow$ Solution is $-1$ , in $\pm\sqrt{14}$ any order. Accept $\pm 3.74$ (awrt) SR B1 for correct roots without working	A1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8</b>

## 2 - (9231/13\_Summer\_2017\_Q1) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

(i)	$y = \frac{1}{x^2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}$	M1
	$\frac{1}{y\sqrt{y}} + \frac{2}{y} - 3 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{y\sqrt{y}} = 3 - \frac{2}{y}$	M1
	$\Rightarrow 9y^3 - 12y^2 + 4y - 1 = 0$ SR B1 for finding cubic by manipulating roots	A1
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>3</b>
(ii)	$\frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2} + \frac{1}{\gamma^2} = \frac{12}{9}$ or $\frac{4}{3}$	B1FT
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>
(iii)	$\frac{1}{\alpha^2\beta^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2\gamma^2} + \frac{1}{\gamma^2\alpha^2} = \frac{4}{9}$	B1FT
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>

**3** - (9231/11\_Winter\_2017\_Q4) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

(i)	$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = \frac{3}{2}$ $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = 2$ $\alpha\beta\gamma = 5 + \beta + \gamma =$ $\frac{3}{2}\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = 2\alpha\beta\gamma = 5$	B1	(Can be awarded in (ii) if not seen here) SOI
	$(\alpha+1)(\beta+1)(\gamma+1) = \alpha\beta\gamma + (\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha) +$ $(\alpha + \beta + \gamma) + 1$	M1A1	Multiply out and group for M1
	$= 5 + 2 + 1\frac{1}{2} + 1 = 9\frac{1}{2}$	A1FT	Alt method: Let $x = y-1$ M1 Sub and expand                                  M1, A1 $2y^3 - 9y^2 - 16y - 19 = 0$ A1 Product of roots = 19/2
		4	
(ii)	$(\beta + \gamma)(\gamma + \alpha)(\alpha + \beta) = \left(\frac{1}{2} - \alpha\right)\left(\frac{1}{2} - \beta\right)\left(\frac{1}{2} - \gamma\right)$	M1	Alt methods: $= (\sum \alpha)(\sum \alpha\beta) - \alpha\beta\gamma$ or $\sum \alpha^2 \sum \alpha + 2\alpha\beta\gamma - \sum \alpha^3$
	$= \frac{27}{8} - \frac{9}{4}(\alpha + \beta + \gamma) + \frac{3}{2}(\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha) - \alpha\beta\gamma$	A1	
	$= \frac{27}{8} - \frac{9}{4} \times \frac{3}{2} + \frac{3}{2} \times 2 - 5 = -2$	M1A1	
		4	

**4** - (9231/11\_Summer\_2018\_Q4) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

(i)	$\alpha\beta\gamma = a^3 = 216 \Rightarrow a = 6$	M1 A1	Uses product of roots
	$a + ar + ar^{-1} = 21$ $6(1+r+r^{-1}) = 21$	M1	Uses sum of roots
	$2r^2 - 5r + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 2$ or $r = 0.5$	M1 A1	Substitutes for $a$ and solves quadratic
	Roots are 6, 12, 3	A1	
		6	
(ii)	$k = \alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \beta\gamma = 6(12) + 6(3) + 12(3) = 126$	M1 A1	Or finds coefficient of $x$ in $(x-3)(x-6)(x-12)$ . Or substitutes root into equation
		2	

5 - (9231/13\_Summer\_2018\_Q6) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

(i)	Substitutes $x = \frac{y+1}{3}$	M1	Accept substitution of $y = 3x - 1$ into given equation and derivation of equation in $x$ .
	Obtains the given result	A1	AG.
(ii)	$S_3 = 2S_1 + 7 \times 3$	M1	Uses $y^3 = 2y + 7$ . Or uses formula for $\Sigma (3\alpha - 1)^3$
	$= 21$	A1	
(iii)	$S_{-1} = \frac{(3\alpha-1)(3\beta-1) + (3\alpha-1)(3\gamma-1) + (3\beta-1)(3\gamma-1)}{(3\alpha-1)(3\beta-1)(3\gamma-1)} = \frac{-2}{7}$	M1 A1	Award M1A1 if $S_{-1} = -\frac{2}{7}$ written down directly.
	$7S_{-2} = S_1 - 2S_{-1}$	M1	Uses $7y^{-2} = y - 2y^{-1}$ .
	$s_{-2} = \frac{4}{49}$	A1	
	Alt method: $S_{-2} = \Sigma \frac{1}{(3\alpha-1)^2} = \frac{\Sigma(3\alpha-1)^2(3\beta-1)^2}{(3\alpha-1)^2(3\beta-1)^2(3\gamma-1)^2} =$	M1 A1	Alt method: Finds cubic with roots $\frac{1}{3\alpha-1}$ , etc. M1 $7z^3 + 2z^2 - 1 = 0$ A1 Uses $S_2 = (S_1)^2 - 2\Sigma\alpha\beta$ M1 $= \frac{4}{49}$ A1
	$\frac{(\Sigma(3\alpha-1)(3\beta-1))^2 - 2(3\alpha-1)(3\beta-1)(3\gamma-1)(\Sigma(3\alpha-1))}{(3\alpha-1)^2(3\beta-1)^2(3\gamma-1)^2}$	M1	
$= \frac{(-2)2 - 2(7)(0)}{7^2} = \frac{4}{49}$	A1		
		8	

6 - (9231/11\_Winter\_2018\_Q2) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

(i)	$\alpha + 2\alpha + 4\alpha = -p$	B1	Sum of roots.
	$2\alpha^2 + 4\alpha^2 + 8\alpha^2 = q$	B1	Sum of products in pairs.
	$\frac{14\alpha^2}{7\alpha} = -\frac{q}{p}$	M1	Combines equations.
	$\Rightarrow 2p\alpha + q = 0$	A1	Verifies result (AG).
		4	
(ii)	$8\alpha^3 = -r$	B1	Product of roots.
	$\Rightarrow r = \frac{q^3}{p^3} \Rightarrow p^3r - q^3 = 0$	B1	Verifies result (AG).
		2	

7 - (9231/12\_Winter\_2018\_Q1) - Roots Of Polynomial Equations

(i)	$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 5, \alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \beta\gamma = 13$	B1	Sum of roots and $\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \beta\gamma$ . SOI
	$\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 = 5^2 - 2(13)$	M1	Uses $\Sigma\alpha^2 = (\Sigma\alpha)^2 - 2(\Sigma\alpha\beta)$
	$= -1$	A1	www
		3	
(ii)	$\alpha^3 + \beta^3 + \gamma^3 = 5(\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2) - 13(\alpha + \beta + \gamma) + 12$	M1	Uses $\alpha^3 = 5\alpha^2 - 13\alpha + 4$ .
	$= 5(-1) - 13(5) + 12 = -58$	A1	
	Alt method: Use formula e.g. $\Sigma\alpha^3 = (\Sigma\alpha)(\Sigma\alpha^2 - \Sigma\alpha\beta) + 3\alpha\beta\gamma$ Or $(\Sigma\alpha)^3 - 3(\Sigma\alpha)(\Sigma\alpha\beta) + 3\alpha\beta\gamma$		
		2	