

Algebraic Methods - Edexcel Past Exam Questions **MARK SCHEME**

Question 1: June 05 Q3

Question number	Scheme	Marks
	<p>(a) Attempt to evaluate $f(-4)$ or $f(4)$</p> $f(-4) = 2(-4)^3 + (-4)^2 - 25(-4) + 12 \quad (= 128 + 16 + 100 + 12) = 0,$ <p style="text-align: center;">so is a factor.</p> <p>(b) $(x + 4)(2x^2 - 7x + 3)$</p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....$(2x - 1)(x - 3)$</p>	<p>M1</p> <p>A1 (2)</p> <p>M1 A1</p> <p>M1 A1 (4)</p> <p>6</p>
	<p>(b) First M requires $(2x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$.</p> <p>Second M for the attempt to factorise the quadratic.</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u></p> <p>$(x + 4)(2x^2 + ax + b) = 2x^3 + (8 + a)x^2 + (4a + b)x + 4b = 0$, then compare coefficients to find <u>values</u> of a and b. [M1]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">$a = -7, b = 3$ [A1]</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u></p> <p>Factor theorem: Finding that $f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0, \therefore (2x - 1)$ is a factor [M1, A1]</p> <p>n.b. Finding that $f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0, \therefore (x - \frac{1}{2})$ is a factor scores M1, A0, unless the factor 2 subsequently appears.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finding that $f(3) = 0, \therefore (x - 3)$ is a factor [M1, A1]</p>	



Question 2: Jan 06 Q1

Question number	Scheme	Marks
	<p>(a) $2+1-5+c=0$ or $-2+c=0$ $\underline{c=2}$</p> <p>(b) $f(x) = (x-1)(2x^2+3x-2)$ $(x-1)$ <div style="text-align: right;">division</div> $= \dots \underline{(2x-1)(x+2)}$</p> <p>(c) $f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = 2 \times \frac{27}{8} + \frac{9}{4} - \frac{15}{2} + c$ Remainder $= c + 1.5 = \underline{3.5}$ ft their c</p>	<p>M1 A1 (2)</p> <p>B1 M1 M1 A1 (4)</p> <p>M1 A1ft (2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
	<p>(a) M1 for evidence of substituting $x = 1$ leading to linear equation in c</p> <p>(b) B1 for identifying $(x-1)$ as a factor 1st M1 for attempting to divide. Other factor must be at least $(2x^2 + \text{one other term})$ 2nd M1 for attempting to factorise a quadratic resulting from attempted division A1 for just $(2x-1)(x+2)$.</p> <p>(c) M1 for attempting $f(\pm\frac{3}{2})$. If not implied by $1.5 + c$, we must see some substitution of $\pm\frac{3}{2}$. A1 follow through their c only, but it must be a number.</p>	

Question 3: June 06 Q4

Question number	Scheme	Marks
	<p>(a) $f(-2) = 2(-2)^3 + 3(-2)^2 - 29(-2) - 60$ M: Attempt $f(2)$ or $f(-2)$ $= -16 + 12 + 58 - 60 = -6$ A1 (2)</p> <p>(b) $f(-3) = 2(-3)^3 + 3(-3)^2 - 29(-3) - 60$ M: Attempt $f(3)$ or $f(-3)$ $(= -54 + 27 + 87 - 60) = 0 \therefore (x + 3)$ is a factor A1 (2)</p> <p>(c) $(x + 3)(2x^2 - 3x - 20)$ M1 A1 $= (x + 3)(2x + 5)(x - 4)$ M1 A1 (4)</p>	8
	<p>(a) <u>Alternative (long division):</u> Divide by $(x + 2)$ to get $(2x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$. [M1] $(2x^2 - x - 27)$, remainder $= -6$ [A1]</p> <p>(b) A1 requires zero and a simple conclusion (even just a tick, or Q.E.D.).</p> <p>(c) First M requires division by $(x + 3)$ to get $(2x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$. Second M for the attempt to factorise their quadratic. Usual rule: $(2x^2 + ax + b) = (2x + c)(x + d)$, where $cd = b$.</p> <p><u>Alternative (first 2 marks):</u> $(x + 3)(2x^2 + ax + b) = 2x^3 + (6 + a)x^2 + (3a + b)x + 3b = 0$, then compare coefficients to find <u>values</u> of a and b. [M1] $a = -3, b = -20$ [A1]</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u> Factor theorem: Finding that $f\left(-\frac{5}{2}\right) = 0 \therefore$ factor is, $(2x + 5)$ [M1, A1] Finding that $f(4) = 0 \therefore$ factor is, $(x - 4)$ [M1, A1] “Combining” all 3 factors is <u>not</u> required. If just one of these is found, score the <u>first 2 marks</u> M1 A1 M0 A0.</p> <p><u>Losing a factor of 2:</u> $(x + 3)\left(x + \frac{5}{2}\right)(x - 4)$ scores M1 A1 M1 A0.</p> <p><u>Answer only, one sign wrong:</u> e.g. $(x + 3)(2x - 5)(x - 4)$ scores M1 A1 M1 A0.</p>	



Question 4: Jan 07 Q5

Question Number	Scheme	Marks
(a)	$f(-2) = (-2)^3 + 4(-2)^2 + (-2) - 6$ $\{ = -8 + 16 - 2 - 6 \}$ $= 0, \therefore x + 2 \text{ is a factor}$	M1 A1 (2)
(b)	$x^3 + 4x^2 + x - 6 = (x + 2)(x^2 + 2x - 3)$ $= (x + 2)(x + 3)(x - 1)$	M1, A1 M1, A1 (4)
(c)	-3, -2, 1	B1 (1) (7)



Question 5: June 07 Q2

Question number	Scheme	Marks
	$f(2) = 24 - 20 - 32 + 12 = -16$ (M: Attempt $f(2)$ or $f(-2)$) (If continues to say 'remainder = 16', isw) Answer must be seen in part (a), not part (b). $(x + 2)(3x^2 - 11x + 6)$ $(x + 2)(3x - 2)(x - 3)$ (If continues to 'solve an equation', isw)	M1 A1 (2) M1 A1 M1 A1 (4) 6
	<p>(a) Answer only (if correct) scores both marks. (16 as 'answer only' is M0 A0). <u>Alternative (long division):</u> Divide by $(x - 2)$ to get $(3x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$. [M1] $(3x^2 + x - 14)$, and -16 seen. [A1] (If continues to say 'remainder = 16', isw)</p> <p>(b) First M requires division by $(x + 2)$ to get $(3x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$. Second M for attempt to factorise <u>their</u> quadratic, even if wrongly obtained, perhaps with a remainder from their division. Usual rule: $(kx^2 + ax + b) = (px + c)(qx + d)$, where $pq = k$ and $cd = b$. Just solving their quadratic by the formula is M0. "Combining" all 3 factors is <u>not</u> required.</p> <p><u>Alternative (first 2 marks):</u> $(x + 2)(3x^2 + ax + b) = 3x^3 + (6 + a)x^2 + (2a + b)x + 2b = 0$, then compare coefficients to find <u>values</u> of a and b. [M1] $a = -11, b = 6$ [A1]</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u> Factor theorem: Finding that $f(3) = 0 \therefore$ factor is, $(x - 3)$ [M1, A1] Finding that $f\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = 0 \therefore$ factor is, $(3x - 2)$ [M1, A1] If just one of these is found, score the <u>first 2 marks</u> M1 A1 M0 A0. <u>Losing a factor of 3:</u> $(x + 2)\left(x - \frac{2}{3}\right)(x - 3)$ scores M1 A1 M1 A0. <u>Answer only, one sign wrong:</u> e.g. $(x + 2)(3x - 2)(x + 3)$ scores M1 A1 M1 A0.</p>	



Question 6: June 08 Q1

Question number	Scheme	Marks
	<p>(a) Attempt to find $f(-4)$ or $f(4)$. $(f(-4) = 2(-4)^3 - 3(-4)^2 - 39(-4) + 20)$ $(= -128 - 48 + 156 + 20) = 0$, so $(x + 4)$ is a factor.</p> <p>(b) $2x^3 - 3x^2 - 39x + 20 = (x + 4)(2x^2 - 11x + 5)$ $\dots(2x - 1)(x - 5)$ (The 3 brackets need not be written together) or $\dots\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)(2x - 10)$ or equivalent</p>	<p>M1 A1 (2)</p> <p>M1 A1 M1 A1cso (4)</p> <p>6</p>
	<p>(a) Long division scores no marks in part (a). The <u>factor theorem</u> is required. However, the first two marks in (b) can be earned from division seen in (a)... ... but if a different long division result is seen in (b), the work seen in (b) takes precedence for marks in (b). A1 requires zero and a simple <u>conclusion</u> (even just a tick, or Q.E.D.), or may be scored by a <u>preamble</u>, e.g. 'If $f(-4) = 0$, $(x + 4)$ is a factor....'</p> <p>(b) First M requires use of $(x + 4)$ to obtain $(2x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$, even with a remainder. Working need not be seen... this could be done 'by inspection'. Second M for the attempt to factorise their three-term quadratic. Usual rule: $(kx^2 + ax + b) = (px + c)(qx + d)$, where $cd = b$ and $pq = k$. If 'solutions' appear before or after factorisation, ignore... ... but factors must be seen to score the second M mark.</p> <p><u>Alternative (first 2 marks):</u> $(x + 4)(2x^2 + ax + b) = 2x^3 + (8 + a)x^2 + (4a + b)x + 4b = 0$, then compare coefficients to find <u>values</u> of a and b. [M1] $a = -11, b = 5$ [A1]</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u> Factor theorem: Finding that $f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0 \therefore$ factor is, $(2x - 1)$ [M1, A1] Finding that $f(5) = 0 \therefore$ factor is, $(x - 5)$ [M1, A1] "Combining" all 3 factors is <u>not</u> required. If just one of these is found, score the <u>first 2 marks</u> M1 A1 M0 A0. <u>Losing a factor of 2:</u> $(x + 4)\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)(x - 5)$ scores M1 A1 M1 A0. <u>Answer only, one sign wrong:</u> e.g. $(x + 4)(2x - 1)(x + 5)$ scores M1 A1 M1 A0</p>	



Question 7: June 10 Q2

Question Number	Scheme	Marks
	(a) Attempting to find $f(3)$ or $f(-3)$ $f(3) = 3(3)^3 - 5(3)^2 - (58 \times 3) + 40 = 81 - 45 - 174 + 40 = -98$	M1 A1 (2)
	(b) $\{3x^3 - 5x^2 - 58x + 40 = (x - 5)\} (3x^2 + 10x - 8)$ Attempt to <u>factorise</u> 3-term quadratic, or to use the quadratic formula (see general principles at beginning of scheme). This mark may be implied by the correct solutions to the quadratic. $(3x - 2)(x + 4) = 0 \quad x = \dots \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{-10 \pm \sqrt{100 + 96}}{6}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ (or exact equiv.), $-4, 5$ (Allow 'implicit' solns, e.g. $f(5) = 0$, etc.) Completely correct solutions without working: full marks.	M1 A1 M1 A1 ft A1 (5) 7
<p>(a) <u>Alternative (long division):</u> Divide by $(x - 3)$ to get $(3x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$. [M1] $(3x^2 + 4x - 46)$, and -98 seen. [A1] (If continues to say 'remainder = 98', isw)</p> <p>(b) 1st M requires use of $(x - 5)$ to obtain $(3x^2 + ax + b)$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$. (Working need not be seen... this could be done 'by inspection'.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(3x² + 10x - 8) ←</p> <p>2nd M for the attempt to <u>factorise</u> their 3-term quadratic, or to solve it using the quadratic formula. Factorisation: $(3x^2 + ax + b) = (3x + c)(x + d)$, where $cd = b$.</p> <p>A1ft: Correct factors for their 3-term quadratic <u>followed by a solution</u> (at least one value, which might be incorrect), <u>or</u> numerically correct expression from the quadratic formula for their 3-term quadratic.</p> <p><u>Note</u> therefore that if the quadratic is correctly factorised but no solutions are given, the last 2 marks will be lost.</p> <p><u>Alternative (first 2 marks):</u> $(x - 5)(3x^2 + ax + b) = 3x^3 + (a - 15)x^2 + (b - 5a)x - 5b = 0$, then compare coefficients to find <u>values</u> of a and b. [M1] $a = 10, b = -8$ [A1]</p>		

Question 18: June 11 Q1

Question Number	Scheme	Marks
(a)	$f(x) = 2x^3 - 7x^2 - 5x + 4$ Remainder = $f(1) = 2 - 7 - 5 + 4 = -6$ $= -6$	Attempts $f(1)$ or $f(-1)$. -6 M1 A1 [2]
(b)	$f(-1) = 2(-1)^3 - 7(-1)^2 - 5(-1) + 4$ and so $(x + 1)$ is a factor.	Attempts $f(-1)$. $f(-1) = 0$ with no sign or substitution errors and for conclusion. M1 A1 [2]
(c)	$f(x) = (x + 1)(2x^2 - 9x + 4)$ $= (x + 1)(2x - 1)(x - 4)$ (Note: Ignore the ePEN notation of (b) (should be (c)) for the final three marks in this part).	M1 A1 dM1 A1 [4] 8
(a)	M1 for attempting either $f(1)$ or $f(-1)$. Can be implied. Only one slip permitted. M1 can also be given for an attempt (at least two "subtracting" processes) at long division to give a remainder which is independent of x . A1 can be given also for -6 seen at the bottom of long division working. Award A0 for a candidate who finds -6 but then states that the remainder is 6. Award M1A1 for -6 without any working.	
(b)	M1: attempting only $f(-1)$. A1: must correctly show $f(-1) = 0$ and give a conclusion <i>in part (b) only</i> . Note: Stating "hence factor" or "it is a factor" or a "tick" or "QED" is fine for the conclusion. Note also that a conclusion can be implied from a preamble, eg: "If $f(-1) = 0$, $(x + 1)$ is a factor...." Note: Long division scores no marks in part (b). The factor theorem is required.	
(c)	1 st M1: Attempts long division or other method, to obtain $(2x^2 \pm ax \pm b)$, $a \neq 0$, even with a remainder. Working need not be seen as this could be done "by inspection." $(2x^2 \pm ax \pm b)$ must be seen <i>in part (c) only</i> . Award 1 st M0 if the quadratic factor is clearly found from dividing $f(x)$ by $(x - 1)$. Eg. Some candidates use their $(2x^2 - 5x - 10)$ in part (c) found from applying a long division method in part (a). 1 st A1: For seeing $(2x^2 - 9x + 4)$. 2 nd dM1: Factorises a 3 term quadratic. (see rule for factorising a quadratic). This is dependent on the previous method mark being awarded. This mark can also be awarded if the candidate applies the quadratic formula correctly. 2 nd A1: is cao and needs all three factors on one line. Ignore following work (such as a solution to a quadratic equation.) Note: Some candidates will go from $\{(x + 1)(2x^2 - 9x + 4)\}$ to $\{x = -1\}$, $x = \frac{1}{2}$, 4 , and not list all three factors. Award these responses M1A1M1A0. Alternative: 1 st M1: For finding either $f(4) = 0$ or $f(\frac{1}{2}) = 0$. 1 st A1: A second correct factor of usually $(x - 4)$ or $(2x - 1)$ found. Note that any one of the other correct factors found would imply the 1 st M1 mark. 2 nd dM1: For using two known factors to find the third factor, usually $(2x \pm 1)$. 2 nd A1 for correct answer of $(x + 1)(2x - 1)(x - 4)$. Alternative: (for the first two marks) 1 st M1: Expands $(x + 1)(2x^2 + ax + b)$ {giving $2x^3 + (a + 2)x^2 + (b + a)x + b$ } then compare coefficients to find values for a and b . 1 st A1: $a = -9$, $b = 4$ Not dealing with a factor of 2: $(x + 1)(x - \frac{1}{2})(x - 4)$ or $(x + 1)(x - \frac{1}{2})(2x - 8)$ scores M1A1M1A0. Answer only, with one sign error: eg. $(x + 1)(2x + 1)(x - 4)$ or $(x + 1)(2x - 1)(x + 4)$ scores M1A1M1A0. (c) Award M1A1M1A1 for Listing all three correct factors with no working.	