



Southend High School for Girls

A Level Transition Summer Task booklet

MATHS



Name:

Maths Class:

Maths Teacher:

Please write all working out on paper.

You will need to hand this work to your maths teacher by **30th September 2025**.

Please ensure you complete **ALL 'PRACTICE'** questions. The 'extend' sections are optional – will gain you extra achievement points.

Please ensure **ALL** your working out present.

1. 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.

Practice

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 $13 - 2(m + 7)$

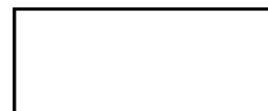
b $5p(p^2 + 6p) - 9p(2p - 3)$

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 $21x^2 - 35x$

$3x - 5$



$7x$

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 $\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2$

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 $b-\sqrt{c}$

Practice

1 Simplify.

a $\sqrt{45}$

c $\sqrt{48}$

e $\sqrt{300}$

g $\sqrt{72}$

b $\sqrt{125}$

d $\sqrt{175}$

f $\sqrt{28}$

h $\sqrt{162}$

Hint

One of the two numbers you choose at the start must be a square number.

2 Simplify.

a $\sqrt{72} + \sqrt{162}$

c $\sqrt{50} - \sqrt{8}$

e $2\sqrt{28} + \sqrt{28}$

b $\sqrt{45} - 2\sqrt{5}$

d $\sqrt{75} - \sqrt{48}$

f $2\sqrt{12} - \sqrt{12} + \sqrt{27}$

Watch out!

Check you have chosen the highest square number at the start.

3 Expand and simplify.

a $(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3})(\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3})$

c $(4 - \sqrt{5})(\sqrt{45} + 2)$

b $(3 + \sqrt{3})(5 - \sqrt{12})$

d $(5 + \sqrt{2})(6 - \sqrt{8})$

4 Rationalise and simplify, if possible.

a $\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$

c $\frac{2}{\sqrt{7}}$

e $\frac{2}{\sqrt{2}}$

g $\frac{\sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{24}}$

b $\frac{1}{\sqrt{11}}$

d $\frac{2}{\sqrt{8}}$

f $\frac{5}{\sqrt{5}}$

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 $(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y})(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y})$

7 Rationalise and simplify, if possible.

a $\frac{1}{\sqrt{9} - \sqrt{8}}$

b $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y}}$

3. 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
- $a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m$
- $a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$
- The square root of a number produces two solutions, e.g. $\sqrt{16} = \pm 4$.

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 $\frac{3x^2 \times x^3}{2x^2}$

b $\frac{10x^5}{2x^2 \times x}$

c $\frac{3x \times 2x^3}{2x^3}$

d $\frac{7x^3 y^2}{14x^5 y}$

e $\frac{y^2}{y^{\frac{1}{2}} \times y}$

f $\frac{c^{\frac{1}{2}}}{c^2 \times c^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

g $\frac{(2x^2)^3}{4x^0}$

h $\frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}} \times x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{x^{-2} \times x^3}$

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 $\left(\frac{9}{16}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$

f $\left(\frac{27}{64}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$

7 Write the following as a single power of x .

a $\frac{1}{x}$

b $\frac{1}{x^7}$

c $\sqrt[4]{x}$

d $\sqrt[5]{x^2}$

e $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$

f $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$

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

4. 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 $(x - y)(x + y)$.

Practice

1 Factorise.

a $6x^4y^3 - 10x^3y^4$

c $25x^2y^2 - 10x^3y^2 + 15x^2y^3$

b $21a^3b^5 + 35a^5b^2$

2 Factorise

a $x^2 + 7x + 12$

c $x^2 - 11x + 30$

e $x^2 - 7x - 18$

g $x^2 - 3x - 40$

b $x^2 + 5x - 14$

d $x^2 - 5x - 24$

f $x^2 + x - 20$

h $x^2 + 3x - 28$

3 Factorise

a $36x^2 - 49y^2$

c $18a^2 - 200b^2c^2$

b $4x^2 - 81y^2$

4 Factorise

a $2x^2 + x - 3$

c $2x^2 + 7x + 3$

e $10x^2 + 21x + 9$

b $6x^2 + 17x + 5$

d $9x^2 - 15x + 4$

f $12x^2 - 38x + 20$

5 Simplify the algebraic fractions.

a $\frac{2x^2 + 4x}{x^2 - x}$

c $\frac{x^2 - 2x - 8}{x^2 - 4x}$

e $\frac{x^2 - x - 12}{x^2 - 4x}$

b $\frac{x^2 + 3x}{x^2 + 2x - 3}$

d $\frac{x^2 - 5x}{x^2 - 25}$

f $\frac{2x^2 + 14x}{2x^2 + 4x - 70}$

6 Simplify

a $\frac{9x^2 - 16}{3x^2 + 17x - 28}$

c $\frac{4 - 25x^2}{10x^2 - 11x - 6}$

b $\frac{2x^2 - 7x - 15}{3x^2 - 17x + 10}$

d $\frac{6x^2 - x - 1}{2x^2 + 7x - 4}$

Hint

Take the highest common factor outside the bracket.

Extend

7 Simplify $\sqrt{x^2 + 10x + 25}$

8 Simplify $\frac{(x+2)^2 + 3(x+2)^2}{x^2 - 4}$

5. Completing the square

A LEVEL LINKS

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

Key points

- Completing the square for a quadratic rearranges $ax^2 + bx + c$ into the form $p(x + q)^2 + r$
- If $a \neq 1$, then factorise using a as a common factor.

Practice

- Write the following quadratic expressions in the form $(x + p)^2 + q$

a	$x^2 + 4x + 3$	b	$x^2 - 10x - 3$
c	$x^2 - 8x$	d	$x^2 + 6x$
e	$x^2 - 2x + 7$	f	$x^2 + 3x - 2$
- Write the following quadratic expressions in the form $p(x + q)^2 + r$

a	$2x^2 - 8x - 16$	b	$4x^2 - 8x - 16$
c	$3x^2 + 12x - 9$	d	$2x^2 + 6x - 8$
- Complete the square.

a	$2x^2 + 3x + 6$	b	$3x^2 - 2x$
c	$5x^2 + 3x$	d	$3x^2 + 5x + 3$

Extend

- Write $(25x^2 + 30x + 12)$ in the form $(ax + b)^2 + c$.

6.1 Solving quadratic equations by factorisation

A LEVEL LINKS

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

Key points

- A quadratic equation is an equation in the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ where $a \neq 0$.
- To factorise a quadratic equation find two numbers whose sum is b and whose products is ac .
- When the product of two numbers is 0, then at least one of the numbers must be 0.
- If a quadratic can be solved it will have two solutions (these may be equal).

Practice

1 Solve

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| a $6x^2 + 4x = 0$ | b $28x^2 - 21x = 0$ |
| c $x^2 + 7x + 10 = 0$ | d $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$ |
| e $x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0$ | f $x^2 + 3x - 10 = 0$ |
| g $x^2 - 10x + 24 = 0$ | h $x^2 - 36 = 0$ |
| i $x^2 + 3x - 28 = 0$ | j $x^2 - 6x + 9 = 0$ |
| k $2x^2 - 7x - 4 = 0$ | l $3x^2 - 13x - 10 = 0$ |

2 Solve

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a $x^2 - 3x = 10$ | b $x^2 - 3 = 2x$ |
| c $x^2 + 5x = 24$ | d $x^2 - 42 = x$ |
| e $x(x + 2) = 2x + 25$ | f $x^2 - 30 = 3x - 2$ |
| g $x(3x + 1) = x^2 + 15$ | h $3x(x - 1) = 2(x + 1)$ |

Hint

Get all terms onto one side of the equation.

6.2 Solving quadratic equations by completing the square

A LEVEL LINKS

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

Key points

- Completing the square lets you write a quadratic equation in the form $p(x + q)^2 + r = 0$.

Practice

3 Solve by completing the square.

a $x^2 - 4x - 3 = 0$

c $x^2 + 8x - 5 = 0$

e $2x^2 + 8x - 5 = 0$

b $x^2 - 10x + 4 = 0$

d $x^2 - 2x - 6 = 0$

f $5x^2 + 3x - 4 = 0$

4 Solve by completing the square.

a $(x - 4)(x + 2) = 5$

b $2x^2 + 6x - 7 = 0$

c $x^2 - 5x + 3 = 0$

Hint

Get all terms onto one side of the equation.

6.3 Solving quadratic equations by using the formula

A LEVEL LINKS

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

Key points

- Any quadratic equation of the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ can be solved using the formula $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
- If $b^2 - 4ac$ is negative then the quadratic equation does not have any real solutions.
- It is useful to write down the formula before substituting the values for a , b and c .

Practice

- 5 Solve, giving your solutions in surd form.

a $3x^2 + 6x + 2 = 0$

b $2x^2 - 4x - 7 = 0$

- 6 Solve the equation $x^2 - 7x + 2 = 0$

Give your solutions in the form $\frac{a \pm \sqrt{b}}{c}$, where a , b and c are integers.

- 7 Solve $10x^2 + 3x + 3 = 5$

Give your solution in surd form.

Hint

Get all terms onto one side of the equation.

Extend

- 8 Choose an appropriate method to solve each quadratic equation, giving your answer in surd form when necessary.

a $4x(x - 1) = 3x - 2$

b $10 = (x + 1)^2$

c $x(3x - 1) = 10$

8.1 Solving linear simultaneous equations using the elimination method

A LEVEL LINKS

Scheme of work: 1c. Equations – quadratic/linear simultaneous

Key points

- Two equations are simultaneous when they are both true at the same time.
- Solving simultaneous linear equations in two unknowns involves finding the value of each unknown which works for both equations.
- Make sure that the coefficient of one of the unknowns is the same in both equations.
- Eliminate this equal unknown by either subtracting or adding the two equations.

Practice

Solve these simultaneous equations.

1 $4x + y = 8$
 $x + y = 5$

2 $3x + y = 7$
 $3x + 2y = 5$

3 $4x + y = 3$
 $3x - y = 11$

4 $3x + 4y = 7$
 $x - 4y = 5$

5 $2x + y = 11$
 $x - 3y = 9$

6 $2x + 3y = 11$
 $3x + 2y = 4$

8.2 Solving linear simultaneous equations using the substitution method

A LEVEL LINKS

Scheme of work: 1c. Equations – quadratic/linear simultaneous

Textbook: Pure Year 1, 3.1 Linear simultaneous equations

Key points

- The substitution method is the method most commonly used for A level. This is because it is the method used to solve linear and quadratic simultaneous equations.

Practice

Solve these simultaneous equations.

7 $y = x - 4$
 $2x + 5y = 43$

8 $y = 2x - 3$
 $5x - 3y = 11$

9 $2y = 4x + 5$
 $9x + 5y = 22$

10 $2x = y - 2$
 $8x - 5y = -11$

11 $3x + 4y = 8$
 $2x - y = -13$

12 $3y = 4x - 7$
 $2y = 3x - 4$

13 $3x = y - 1$
 $2y - 2x = 3$

14 $3x + 2y + 1 = 0$
 $4y = 8 - x$

Extend

15 Solve the simultaneous equations $3x + 5y - 20 = 0$ and $2(x + y) = \frac{3(y - x)}{4}$.

9. Solving linear and quadratic simultaneous equations

A LEVEL LINKS

Scheme of work: 1c. Equations – quadratic/linear simultaneous

Key points

- Make one of the unknowns the subject of the linear equation (rearranging where necessary).
- Use the linear equation to substitute into the quadratic equation.
- There are usually two pairs of solutions.

Practice

Solve these simultaneous equations.

1 $y = 2x + 1$
 $x^2 + y^2 = 10$

2 $y = 6 - x$
 $x^2 + y^2 = 20$

3 $y = x - 3$
 $x^2 + y^2 = 5$

4 $y = 9 - 2x$
 $x^2 + y^2 = 17$

5 $y = 3x - 5$
 $y = x^2 - 2x + 1$

6 $y = x - 5$
 $y = x^2 - 5x - 12$

7 $y = x + 5$
 $x^2 + y^2 = 25$

8 $y = 2x - 1$
 $x^2 + xy = 24$

9 $y = 2x$
 $y^2 - xy = 8$

10 $2x + y = 11$
 $xy = 15$

Extend

11 $x - y = 1$
 $x^2 + y^2 = 3$

12 $y - x = 2$
 $x^2 + xy = 3$

11. Linear inequalities

A LEVEL LINKS

Scheme of work: 1d. Inequalities – linear and quadratic (including graphical solutions)

Key points

- Solving linear inequalities uses similar methods to those for solving linear equations.
- When you multiply or divide an inequality by a negative number you need to reverse the inequality sign, e.g. $<$ becomes $>$.

Practice

1 Solve these inequalities.

a $4x > 16$

b $5x - 7 \leq 3$

c $1 \geq 3x + 4$

d $5 - 2x < 12$

e $\frac{x}{2} \geq 5$

f $8 < 3 - \frac{x}{3}$

2 Solve these inequalities.

a $\frac{x}{5} < -4$

b $10 \geq 2x + 3$

c $7 - 3x > -5$

3 Solve

a $2 - 4x \geq 18$

b $3 \leq 7x + 10 < 45$

c $6 - 2x \geq 4$

d $4x + 17 < 2 - x$

e $4 - 5x < -3x$

f $-4x \geq 24$

4 Solve these inequalities.

a $3t + 1 < t + 6$

b $2(3n - 1) \geq n + 5$

5 Solve.

a $3(2 - x) > 2(4 - x) + 4$

b $5(4 - x) > 3(5 - x) + 2$

Extend

6 Find the set of values of x for which $2x + 1 > 11$ and $4x - 2 > 16 - 2x$.

12. Quadratic inequalities

A LEVEL LINKS

Scheme of work: 1d. Inequalities – linear and quadratic (including graphical solutions)

Key points

- First replace the inequality sign by $=$ and solve the quadratic equation.
- Sketch the graph of the quadratic function.
- Use the graph to find the values which satisfy the quadratic inequality.

Practice

- 1 Find the set of values of x for which $(x + 7)(x - 4) \leq 0$
- 2 Find the set of values of x for which $x^2 - 4x - 12 \geq 0$
- 3 Find the set of values of x for which $2x^2 - 7x + 3 < 0$
- 4 Find the set of values of x for which $4x^2 + 4x - 3 > 0$
- 5 Find the set of values of x for which $12 + x - x^2 \geq 0$

Extend

Find the set of values which satisfy the following inequalities.

- 6 $x^2 + x \leq 6$
- 7 $x(2x - 9) < -10$
- 8 $6x^2 \geq 15 + x$