

Chapter 4 Factors and Polynomials

1. $p(x) = ax^3 + 3x^2 + bx - 12$ has a factor of $2x + 1$. When $p(x)$ is divided by $x - 3$ the remainder is 105.

a. Find the value of a and of b .

$$p\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{a}{8} + \frac{3}{4} - \frac{b}{2} - 12$$

[5]

$$0 = -a + 6 - 4b - 96$$

$$0 = -a - 4b - 90$$

$$a + 4b = -90 \quad \text{--- (1) } \times 3$$

$$p(3) = 27a + 27 + 3b - 12$$

$$105 = 27a + 3b + 15$$

$$27a + 3b = 90 \quad \text{--- (2) } \times 4$$

$$3a + 12b = -270$$

$$108a + 48b = 360$$

$$\hline 105a = 630$$

$$a = 6$$

$$6 + 4b = -90$$

$$4b = -96$$

$$b = -24$$

b. Using your values of a and b , write $p(x)$ as a product of $2x + 1$ and a quadratic factor.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2x+1 \overline{) \begin{array}{r} 3x^2 - 12 \\ 6x^3 + 3x^2 - 24x - 12 \\ \underline{-6x^3 + 3x^2} \\ -24x - 12 \\ \underline{-24x - 12} \\ 0 \end{array} }
 \end{array}$$

$$p(x) = (3x^2 - 12)(2x + 1) \quad [2]$$

c. Hence solve $p(x) = 0$.

$$p(x) = (3x^2 - 12)(2x + 1)$$

[2]

$$3x^2 - 12 = 0$$

$$3x^2 = 12$$

$$x^2 = 4$$

$$x = \pm 2$$

$$2x + 1 = 0$$

$$2x = -1$$

$$x = -\frac{1}{2}$$

2. $p(x) = 6x^3 + ax^2 + 12x + b$, where a and b are integers. $p(x)$ has a remainder of 11 when divided by $x - 3$ and a remainder of -21 when divided by $x + 1$.

(a) Given that $p(x) = (x - 2)Q(x)$, find $Q(x)$, a quadratic factor with numerical coefficients.

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(x) &= 6x^3 + ax^2 + 12x + b \\
 p(3) &= 11 & p(-1) &= -21 \\
 162 + 9a + 36 + b &= 11 & -6 + a - 12 + b &= -21 \\
 9a + b &= -187 & a + b &= -3 \\
 & & \underline{9a + b} &= \underline{-187} \\
 & & -8a &= 184 \\
 & & a &= -23 \\
 & & b &= -3 - a \\
 & & &= -3 + 23 \\
 & & &= 20 \\
 p(x) &= 6x^3 - 23x^2 + 12x + 20
 \end{aligned}$$

[6]

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x-2 \overline{) \begin{array}{r} 6x^3 - 23x^2 + 12x + 20 \\ \underline{- 3x^2 + 12x} \\ 6x^3 - 12x^2 \\ \underline{- 11x^2 + 12x} \\ - 11x^2 + 22x \\ \underline{- 11x^2 + 22x} \\ - 10x + 20 \\ \underline{- 10x + 20} \\ 0 \end{array} \\
 \end{array}$$

$$Q(x) = 6x^2 - 11x - 10$$

(b) Hence solve $p(x) = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x-2)(6x^2 - 11x - 10) &= 0 \\
 x = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad (2x-5)(3x+2) &= 0 \\
 x = \frac{5}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad x = -\frac{2}{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

[2]

3. DO NOT USE A CALCULATOR IN THIS QUESTION.

$$p(x) = 15x^3 + 22x^2 - 15x + 2$$

(a) Find the remainder when $p(x)$ is divided by $x + 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} p(-1) &= -15 + 22 + 15 + 2 \\ &= 24 \end{aligned}$$

[2]

(b) (i) Show that $x+2$ is a factor of $p(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= 15x^3 + 22x^2 - 15x + 2 \\ p(-2) &= -120 + 88 + 30 + 2 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

[1]

$\therefore x + 2$ is a factor of $p(x)$.

(ii) Write $p(x)$ as a product of linear factors.

$$\begin{array}{r} \overline{15x^2 - 8x + 1} \\ x+2 \overline{) 15x^3 + 22x^2 - 15x + 2} \\ \underline{-15x^3 - 30x^2} \\ -8x^2 - 15x \\ \underline{+8x^2 + 16x} \\ x + 2 \\ \underline{ x + 2} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

[3]

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= (x+2)(15x^2 - 8x + 1) \\ &= (x+2)(3x-1)(5x-1) \end{aligned}$$

4. The polynomial $p(x) = 6x^3 + ax^2 + bx + 2$, where a and b are integers, has a factor of $x - 2$.

a. Given that $p(1) = -2p(0)$, find the value of a and of b .

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(1) &= 6 + a + b + 2 & [4] \\
 &= a + b + 8 \\
 p(0) &= 2 \\
 p(1) &= -2p(0) \\
 a + b + 8 &= -4 \\
 a + b &= -12 \quad \text{--- ①} \\
 p(2) &= 48 + 4a + 2b + 2 \\
 4a + 2b &= -50 \quad \text{--- ②} \\
 -2a + b &= -24 \quad \text{--- ③} \\
 \hline
 2a &= -26 \\
 a &= -13 \\
 b &= -12 - a \\
 &= -12 + 13 \\
 &= 1
 \end{aligned}$$

b. Using your values of a and b ,

i. find the remainder when $p(x)$ is divided by $2x - 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(x) &= 6x^3 - 13x^2 + x + 2 \\
 p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= \frac{3}{4} - \frac{13}{4} + \frac{1}{2} + 2 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}
 \quad [2]$$

ii. factorise $p(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &2x-1 \overline{) \begin{array}{r} 3x^2 - 5x - 2 \\ 6x^3 - 13x^2 + x + 2 \\ \underline{-6x^2 + 3x^2} \\ -10x^2 + x + 2 \\ \underline{+10x^2 + 5x} \\ -4x + 2 \\ \underline{-4x + 2} \\ 0 \end{array} \\
 p(x) &= (2x-1)(3x^2 - 5x - 2) \\
 &= (2x-1)(x-2)(3x+1)
 \end{aligned}
 \quad [2]$$

5. The polynomial $p(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 - 19x + 4$, where a and b are constants, has a factor $x + 4$ and is such that $2p(1) = 5p(0)$.

a. Show that $p(x) = (x + 4)(Ax^2 + Bx + C)$, where A , B and C are integers to be found.

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= ax^3 + bx^2 - 19x + 4 \\ p(-4) &= -64a + 16b + 76 + 4 \\ 0 &= -64a + 16b + 80 \end{aligned}$$

[6]

$$\begin{aligned} 64a - 16b &= 80 \\ 4a - b &= 5 \quad \text{--- (1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(1) &= a + b - 19 + 4 \\ &= a + b - 15 \\ 2p(1) &= 2a + 2b - 30 \\ 5p(0) &= 4 \times 5 = 20 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2a + 2b &= 50 \\ a + b &= 25 \quad \text{--- (2)} \\ 4a - b &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4a - b = 5 \\ \underline{a + b = 25} \\ 3a = 30 \\ a = 6 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} b &= 25 - a \\ &= 25 - 6 \\ &= 19 \end{aligned}$$

$$p(x) = (x + 4)(6x^2 - 5x + 1)$$

$$\begin{array}{r} p(x) = 6x^3 + 19x^2 - 19x + 4 \\ \underline{6x^3 + 24x^2} \\ -5x^2 - 19x + 4 \\ \underline{-5x^2 - 20x} \\ x + 4 \\ \underline{x + 4} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

b. Hence factorise $p(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= (x + 4)(6x^2 - 5x + 1) \\ &= (x + 4)(2x - 1)(3x - 1) \end{aligned}$$

[1]

c. Find the remainder when $p'(x)$ is divided by x . (Chapter 12)

$$p'(x) = 18x^2 + 38x - 19$$

[1]

$$R = -19$$

6. DO NOT USE A CALCULATOR IN THIS QUESTION.

$$p(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 23x + 12$$

- a. Find the value of $p(\frac{1}{2})$.

$$\begin{aligned} p(\frac{1}{2}) &= \frac{2}{8} - \frac{3}{4} - \frac{23}{2} + 12 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad [1]$$

- b. Write $p(x)$ as the product of three linear factors and hence solve $p(x) = 0$.

$$\begin{array}{r} \quad \quad \quad x^2 - x - 12 \\ 2x-1 \overline{) 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 23x + 12} \\ \underline{- 2x^3 + x^2} \\ \quad -2x^2 - 23x \\ \quad \underline{-2x^2 + x} \\ -24x + 12 \\ \underline{-24x + 12} \\ 0 \end{array} \quad [5]$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= (2x-1)(x^2-x-12) \\ &= (2x-1)(x-4)(x+3) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= 0 \\ x &= \frac{1}{2} \text{ or } x = 4 \text{ or } x = -3 \end{aligned}$$