Algebra Basics



Substitution: Replace the letters with the values.

$$a = 2$$
, $b = 3$, $c = -5$

1.
$$4b = 4 \times 2 = 8$$

2.
$$7b - 3c = (7 \times 3) - (3 \times -5) = 21 - 15 = 21 + 15 = 36$$

3.
$$5b^2 + 1 = 5 \times (3)^2 + 1 = 5 \times 9 + 1 = 45 + 1 = 46$$

4.
$$2c^3 = 2 \times (-5)^3 = 2 \times -125 = -250$$

5.
$$\frac{3ac}{2b} = \frac{3 \times 2 \times -5}{2 \times 3} = \frac{-30}{6} = -5$$

Collecting Like terms:

- Can only simplify like terms.
- Be sure to include the sign before the term

e.g.
$$2a + 3b - a + 4b = a + 7b$$

 $2a - a = a + 3b + 4b = +7b$

Essential knowledge:

$$a + a + a = 3$$

$$d = 4d$$

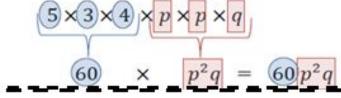
Exam Questions

For exam questions on some of these topics, scan the QR Codes!

Building knowledge: Simplifying expressions (multiplying)

- Multiply the numbers and terms separately
- Remember your rules of indices

e.g.
$$5p \times 3q \times 4p = 60p^2q$$



Solving Equations: The balancing method

To work out the value of an unknown in an equation, do the inverse operation to both 10x+3=23



Brackets



Expanding Single Brackets:

- To expand single brackets, multiply what is outside the bracket by everything inside:
- A number or a letter next to a bracket means multiplied by.
- Remember laws of indices when letters are outside the bracket

E.g. Expand 3(5a - 2)

$$3(5a-2) = (3 \times 5a) - (3 \times 2)$$

= 15a - 6

Factorising Single Brackets:

Factorising is the opposite of expanding.

- Find the HCF of both terms.

e.g. 1
$$10a + 15 = 5(2a + 3)$$

10 & 15 both in the 5 times table

$$10a = \cancel{5} \times \cancel{2}a \qquad 15 = \cancel{5} \times \cancel{3}$$

e.g. 2
$$6x^2 - 21xy = 3x(2x - 7y)$$

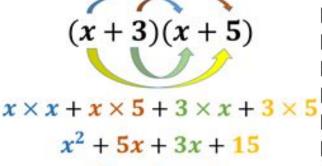
6 & 21 both in the 3 times table Both terms have an in them

$$6x^2 = 3x \times 2x \qquad 21xy = 3x \times 7y$$

Expanding Double Brackets: 1

To expand double brackets, multiply everything in the first bracket by everything in the second bracket.

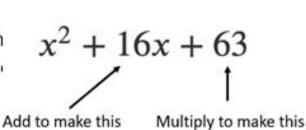
Then collect like terms



$$x^2 + 8x + 15$$

Factorising Double Brackets:

To factorise (put back into brackets), find two numbers the add to make the middle numbers and multiply to make the last number.



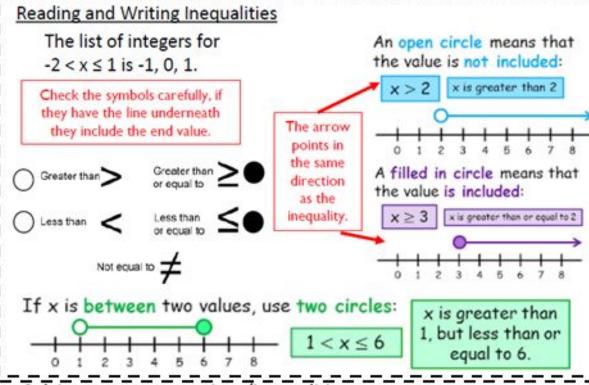
Expanding Double Brackets Factorising Double Brackets





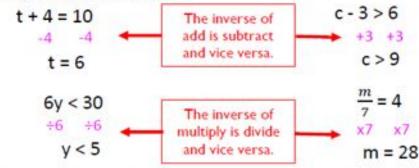
Inequalities





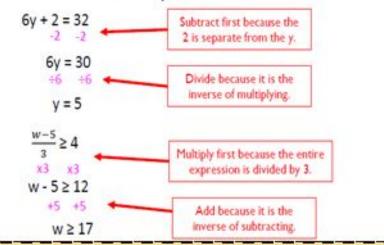
Solving one step equations/inequalities

To solve any equation or inequality we need to do the inverse of the operation that we see.



Solving two step equations/inequalities

To solve a two step equation or inequality we need to complete 2 inverse calculations in a specific order.



KEY POINT:

Inequalities behave like equations when we solve them, but remember, the solution will often be a range of values as opposed to just one unique solution!



Solving Inequalities



Quadratics



Step 3—Quadratic

 $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

formula.

i.e.

Substitute your values into the

For the quadratic formula to

work you must arrange your

Quadratic = 0

 $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

Using this can be faster than

completing the square but some questions ask you to use

more than one method.

equation in the form

SOLVING QUADRATICS

Step 1—Try factorising first

Because it is the easiest method! Write your equation in the form (if you can)

If you can find two numbers that add up to b and multiply together to give c you can factorise.

 $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

Step 2—Complete the Square

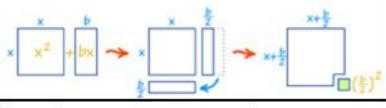
Line of symmetry

x = -1

Turning point

-1, -9)

If your quadratic equation won't factorise (doesn't make a complete square) you can have a go at completing the square.



All quadratic graphs have a parabola shape:

$$y = -x^{2}$$

$$y = x^{2}$$

$$y = x^{2}$$

The roots of a quadratic graph are where the graph touches the x axis

Examples

$$y = x^2 + 2x - 8$$

A quadratic equation can be solved from its graph.

The roots of the graph tell us the possible solutions for the equation.

There can be 1 root, 2 roots or no roots for a quadratic equation. This is dependant on how many times the I

graph crosses the x axis. Roots x = -4





x = 2

v intercept = -8

Quadratic Formula

Simultaneous Equations

For two linear equations:



Simultaneous
equations are
when more than
one equation are
given, which
involve more than
one variable. The
variables have the
same value in

each equation.

wo lillear equations	•	
3x + 2y = 18		
3x - y = 9	×	2
3x + 2y = 18		
6x - 2y = 18	+	
9x = 36		

x = 4

Substitute in x = 4 into an original

3x + 2y = 18

12 + 2y = 18

2v = 6

y = 3

 $(3 \times 4) + 2y = 18$

Two linear equations:

in each question.

Subtract or add one equation from/to the other to eliminate one variable. Solve your equation which now only contains one variable. Choose either of the original equations to substitute your new value into. Solve your equation which now only contains one variable. You can use both values in the other equation to check

Ensure that one of your variables has the same coefficient

Key Words Simultaneous

Substitution

Elimination

Linear Quadratic PRACTICE

equation

Solve this set of simultaneous Equations

1) 3x + 2y = 44x + 5y = 17

S = X = -X and Y = S = X

your answer.

Exam Questions