

# Further Maths A-Level Starter Activity



## Topic: Imaginary and Complex Numbers

Chapter Reference: Core Pure 1, Chapter 1

**8**  
**minutes**

1. Write  $\sqrt{-49}$  in terms of  $i$ .

(1)

2. Express each of the following in terms  $a + bi$ ,

a)  $(3 + 5i) + (2 + 3i)$ ,

(1)

b)  $\frac{10-8i}{2}$ .

(1)

3. Solve the equation  $z^2 + 16 = 0$ .

(2)

4. The solutions to the quadratic equation,

$$z^2 - 10z + 28 = 0,$$

are  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ .

Find  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ , giving your answers in the form  $p \pm i\sqrt{q}$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are integers.

(3)



## Solutions

1.

$\sqrt{-49} = \sqrt{-49}\sqrt{-1} = 7i$	<b>M1</b>
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2.

a) $(3 + 5i) + (2 + 3i) = 5 + 8i$	<b>M1</b>
b) $\frac{10-8i}{2} = 5 - 4i$	<b>M1</b>

3.

$z^2 = -16$ $z = \sqrt{-16} = \sqrt{16 \times -1} = \pm\sqrt{16}\sqrt{-1}$	<b>M1</b>
$z = \pm 4i$ $= 4i, -4i$	<b>M1</b>

4.

$z = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{100 - 4(1)(28)}}{2(1)}$	<b>M1</b>
$z = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{100 - 112}}{2}$ $= \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{-12}}{2}$ $= \frac{10 \pm 2\sqrt{3}i}{2}$	<b>M1</b>
$z = 5 \pm \sqrt{3}i \quad (p = 5, q = 3)$	<b>M1</b>



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Activity



**Topic: Multiplying Complex Numbers**

Chapter Reference: Core Pure 1, Chapter 1

**9  
minutes**

1. Simplify  $(2 + i\sqrt{5})(\sqrt{5} - i)$  in terms  $a + bi$ ,

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2. If  $z = 5 - 3i$ ,  $w = 2 + 2i$ , express the following in the form of  $a + bi$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real constants,

a.  $z^2$ ,

(2)

b.  $\frac{z}{w}$ ,

(3)

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3. Given that  $z_1 = 3 + 2i$  and  $z_2 = \frac{12-5i}{z_1}$ ,

find  $z_2$  in the form  $a + bi$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real.

(2)

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## Solutions

1.

$(2 + i\sqrt{5})(\sqrt{5} - i) = 2\sqrt{5} - 2i + 5i - i^2\sqrt{5}$	<b>M1</b>
$= 3\sqrt{5} + 3i$	<b>M1</b>

2.

a) $z^2 = (5-3i)(5-3i)$ $= 25 - 15i - 15i + 9i^2$ $= 25 - 15i - 15i - 9$ $= 16 - 30i$	<b>M1</b>
b) $\frac{z}{w} = \frac{5-3i}{2+2i} = \frac{5-3i}{2+2i} = \frac{5-3i}{2+2i} \times \frac{2-2i}{2-2i}$	<b>M1</b>
$= \frac{10-10i-6i-6}{4+4} = \frac{4-16i}{8}$	<b>M1</b>
$= \frac{1}{2} - 2i$	<b>M1</b>

3.

$z_2 = \frac{12-5i}{3+2i} \times \frac{3-2i}{3-2i} = \frac{36-24i-15i-10}{13}$	<b>M1</b>
$z_2 = 2 - 3i$	<b>M1</b>



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**Topic: Complex Conjugation**

Chapter Reference: Core Pure 1, Chapter 1

**9**  
**minutes**

1. The complex number  $3 - 4i$  is denoted by  $z$ .

Giving your answers in the form  $x + iy$ , find  $2z + 5z^*$ .

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2. Solve the following equations, giving each root in the form  $a + bi$ :

a.  $x^2 + 25 = 0$

(2)

b.  $x^2 - 2x + 17 = 0$

(2)

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3. If  $z = 2 + 3i$  and  $w = 4 - i$ , express  $z^*w$  in the form  $x + iy$ , clearly showing how you obtained your answer. (3)

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## Solutions

1.

$z^* = 3 + 4i$	
$2(3 - 4i) + 5(3 + 4i)$ $6 - 8i + 15 + 20i$	<b>M1</b>
$21 + 12i$	<b>M1</b>

2.

a) $x^2 = -25$ $x = \sqrt{-25} = \sqrt{25 \times -1} = \pm\sqrt{25}\sqrt{-1}$	<b>M1</b>
$x = \pm 5i$ $= 5i, -5i$	<b>M1</b>
b) $(x - 1)^2 - 1 + 17 = 0$ $(x - 1)^2 = -16$ $x - 1 = \sqrt{-16}$	<b>M1</b>
$x = 1 \pm 4i$ $x = 1 + 4i, 1 - 4i$	<b>M1</b>

3.

$z^* = 2 - 3i$	<b>M1</b>
$(2 - 3i)(4 - i)$ $8 - 2i - 12i + 3i^2$ $8 - 2i - 12i - 3$	<b>M1</b>
$5 - 14i$	<b>M1</b>





## Solutions

1.

a) $16 + 30i$	<b>M1</b>
b) $(x - (16 - 30i))(x - (16 + 30i))$	<b>M1</b>
$x^2 - (16 + 30i)x - (16 - 30i)x + (16 - 30i)(16 + 30i)$ $x^2 - 32x + 256 + 900$ $x^2 - 32x + 1156$	<b>M1</b>
$a = -32$	<b>M1</b>
$b = 1156$	<b>M1</b>

2.

$1 - 3i$ is a root	<b>M1</b>
$(z - (1 - 3i))(z - (1 + 3i))(z + \alpha)$ $(z^2 - 2z + 10)(z + \alpha) = z^3 + 6z + 20$ $10\alpha = 20$ $\alpha = 2$	<b>M1</b>
$-2$ is a root	<b>M1</b>



# Further Maths A-Level Starter Activity



## Topic: Roots of Equations with Complex Numbers

Chapter Reference: Core Pure 1, Chapter 1

**9**  
**minutes**

1.  $x^3 - 27 = 0$

Show that two of the roots of the above equation satisfy the quadratic equation  $x^2 + 3x + 9 = 0$ , by using factorisation.

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2.  $f(z) = z^4 - 12z^3 + 31z^2 + 108z - 360$

Write  $f(z)$  in the form  $(z^2 - 9)(z^2 + bz + c)$ , where  $b$  and  $c$  are real constants to be found

(2)

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3.  $f(x) = (x^2 + 4)(x^2 + 8x + 25)$

Find the four roots of  $f(x) = 0$ .

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## Solutions

1.

$x^3 - 27 = (x - 3)(x^2 + 3x + 9)$	<b>M1</b>
$x = 3$ is one root Two roots satisfy $x^2 + 3x + 9$	<b>M1</b>

2.

$z^4 - 12z^3 + 31z^2 + 108z - 360$ $= (z^2 - 9)(z^2 + bz + c)$ $= z^4 - bz^3 + (-9 + c)z^2 + 9bz - 9c$	<b>M1</b>
$b = -12$ $-9c = -360$ $c = 40$	<b>M1</b>

3.

$x^2 + 4 = 0$ $x = \pm\sqrt{-4}$	<b>M1</b>
$x = 4i, -4i$	<b>M1</b>
$x = \frac{-8 \pm \sqrt{64 - 4(1)(25)}}{2(1)}$ $= \frac{-8 \pm \sqrt{64 - 100}}{2}$ $= \frac{-8 \pm \sqrt{-36}}{2}$ $= -4 \pm \frac{6i}{2}$	<b>M1</b>
$x = -4 + 3i$	<b>M1</b>
$x = -4 - 3i$	<b>M1</b>

