

A-Level Unit Test: Algebra and Functions

Index Laws & Surds



1. a) Write down the value of $64^{\frac{1}{6}}$ (1)
b) Simplify fully $(64x^6)^{-\frac{2}{6}}$ (3)

2. Express 16^{2x+4} in the form 4^y , stating y in terms of x (2)

3. Given that $y = 3^x$,
a) Express 9^x in terms of y (1)
b) Hence or otherwise, solve $(9^x) - 3^x + 1 = 0$ (4)

4. Solve, $64^{4x-5} = 16^{6x-10}$ (3)

5. a) Simplify $\sqrt{50} + \sqrt{32} - \sqrt{128}$, giving your answer in the form $a\sqrt{2}$ where a is an integer. (2)
b) Hence or otherwise, simplify, $\frac{12\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{50} + \sqrt{32} - \sqrt{128}}$, giving your answer in the form $b\sqrt{c}$, where b and c are integers and $b \neq 1$ (3)

6. a) Write $\sqrt{80}$ in the form $c\sqrt{5}$, where c is a positive constant.
A rectangle R has a length of $(1 + \sqrt{5})$ cm and an area of $\sqrt{80}$ cm² (1)
b) Calculate the width of R in cm. Express your answer in the form $p + q\sqrt{5}$, where p and q are integers to be found. (3)

7. Show that $\frac{2}{\sqrt{12} - \sqrt{8}}$ can be written in the form $\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}$, where a and b are integers (5)

Total marks: 28

Mark Scheme

1a.

$64^{\frac{1}{6}} = \sqrt[6]{64} = 2$	M1
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1b.

$(64x^6)^{-\frac{2}{6}} = (64)^{-\frac{2}{6}}(x^6)^{-\frac{2}{6}}$	M1
$= \frac{1}{4}x^{-2}$	M1 M1

2.

$16^{2x+4} = 4^{2(2x+4)}$	M1
$= 4^{4x+4}$	
Therefore, $y = 4x + 4$	M1

3a.

$9^x = 3^{2x} = 3^x \times 3^x$ $= y \times y$ $= y^2$	M1
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3b.

$9y^2 - 240y - 81 = 0$ $(3y - 81)(3y + 1) = 0$	M1
$3y - 81 = 0, y = 27$ $3y + 1 = 0, y = -\frac{1}{3}$	M1
$3^x = 27, x = 3$	M1
$3^x = -\frac{1}{3}, \text{ no solution}$	M1

4.

$64^{4x+2} = 16^{6x-10}$ $4^{4(4x+2)} = 4^{2(6x-10)}$	M1
$4^{16x+8} = 4^{12x-20}$	M1
$16x + 8 = 12x - 20$ $4x = -28$ $x = -7$	M1

5.

$\sqrt{50} + \sqrt{32} - \sqrt{128}$ $= \sqrt{25}\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{16}\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{64}\sqrt{2}$ $= 5\sqrt{2} + 4\sqrt{2} - 8\sqrt{2}$ $= \sqrt{2}$	M1 M1
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5b.

$\frac{12\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{50} + \sqrt{32} - \sqrt{128}} = \frac{12\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{2}}$	M1
$\frac{12\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{2}} \times \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{12\sqrt{12}}{2}$	M1
$= 6\sqrt{12}$ $= 6\sqrt{4}\sqrt{3}$ $= 12\sqrt{3}$	M1

6a.

$\sqrt{80} = \sqrt{16} \times \sqrt{5} = 4\sqrt{5}$ $c = 5$	M1
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6b.

$\text{Width} = \frac{\sqrt{80}}{1+\sqrt{5}} \times \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{1-\sqrt{5}}$	M1
$= \frac{\sqrt{80} - \sqrt{400}}{1-5} =$	M1
$= \frac{4\sqrt{5} - 20}{-4} = 5 - \sqrt{5}$ $p = 5, q = -1$	M1

7.

$\left\{ \frac{2}{\sqrt{12} - \sqrt{8}} \right\} = \frac{2}{(\sqrt{12} - \sqrt{8})} \times \frac{(\sqrt{12} + \sqrt{8})}{(\sqrt{12} + \sqrt{8})}$	M1
$= \frac{\{2(\sqrt{12} + \sqrt{8})\}}{12 - 8}$	M1
$= \frac{2(2\sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{2})}{12 - 8}$	M1 M1
$= \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}$	M1

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Index Laws & Surds



1. Find the set of value of x for which

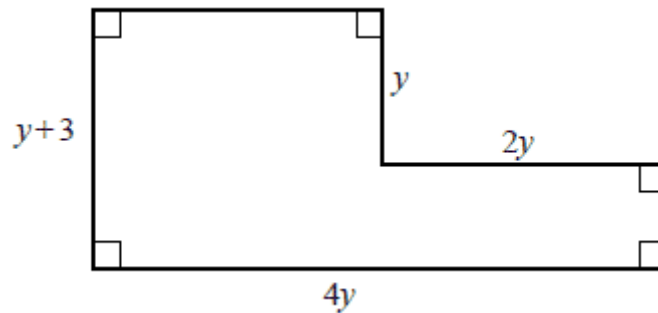
a) $3x - 7 < 3 - x$ (2)

b) $x^2 - 9x \leq 36$ (4)

c) Both, $3x - 7 < 3 - x$ and $x^2 - 9x \leq 36$ (1)

2a) A rectangular tile has length $4x$ cm and width $(x + 3)$ cm. The area of the rectangle is less than 112 cm². By writing down and solving an inequality, determine the set of possible values of x . (6)

b) A second rectangular tile of length $4y$ cm and width $(y + 3)$ has a rectangle of length $2y$ cm and width y cm removed from one corner as shown in the diagram.



Given that the perimeter of this tile is between 20 cm and 54 cm, determine the set of possible values of y . (5)

3. The equation $(k + 3)x^2 + 6x + k = 5$, where k is a constant, has two distinct real solutions for x .

a) Show that k satisfies, $k^2 - 2k - 24 < 0$ (4)

b) Hence find the set of possible values of k (3)

4. The equation $x^2 + kx + 8 = k$ has no real solutions for x . Find the set of possible values for k . (6)

5a. Express $2x^2 - 20x + 49$ in the form $p(x - q)^2 + r$ (4)

5b. State the co-ordinates of the vertex of the curve $y = 2x^2 - 20x + 49$ (2)

6. Given that $3x^2 + px + 16 = q(x - 2)^2 + r$ for all values of x , find the values of the constants p , q and r . (4)

7. $f(x) = x^2 + (k + 3)x + k$ where k is a real constant.

a) Find the discriminant of $f(x)$ in terms of k (2)

b) Show that the discriminant of $f(x)$ can be expressed in the form $(k + a)^2 + b$, where a and b are integers to be found. (2)

c) Show that, for all values of k , the equation $f(x) = 0$ has real roots. (2)

8. The straight line with equation $y = 3x - 7$ does not cross or touch the curve with equation $y = 2px^2 - 6px + 4p$, where p is a constant.

a) Show that $4p^2 - 20p + 9 < 0$. (4)

b) Hence, find the set of possible values of p . (4)

Total marks: 53



Mark Scheme

1a.

$3x - 7 < 3 - x$	M1
$4x < 10$	M1
$x < \frac{5}{2}$	M1

1b.

$x^2 - 9x \leq 36$	M1
$x^2 - 9x - 36 \leq 0$	M1
$(x - 12)(x - 3)$ $x = 12, x = 3$	M1
$3 \leq x \leq 12$	M1

1c.

$3 \leq x < \frac{5}{2}$	M1
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2a.

$4x(x + 3) < 112$	M1 M1
$4x^2 + 12x - 112 < 0$ $x^2 + 3x + 28 < 0$	M1
$(x + 7)(x - 4) < 0$	M1
$x = -7, x = -4$	M1
$-7 < x < -4$	M1

2b.

Perimeter = $y + 3 + 2y + y + 2y + 3 + 4y = 10y + 6$	M1
$20 < 10y + 6 < 54$	M1
$20 < 10y + 6$ $y < \frac{7}{5}$	M1
$10y + 6 < 54$ $y < \frac{24}{5}$	M1
$\frac{7}{5} < y < \frac{24}{5}$	M1

3a.

$(k + 3)x^2 + 6x + k = 5$ $(k + 3)x^2 + 6x + k - 5 = 0$ $(k + 3)x^2 + 6x + (k - 5) = 0$	M1
Equation has two distinct real solutions, $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ $a = k + 3, b = 6, c = k - 5$	M1
$6^2 - 4(k + 3)(k - 5) > 0$ $36 - 4(k^2 - 2k - 15) > 0$ $36 - 4k^2 + 8k + 60 > 0$	M1
$-4k^2 + 8k + 96 > 0$ $-k^2 + 2k + 24 > 0$ $k^2 - 2k - 24 < 0$	M1



3b.

$k^2 - 2k - 24 < 0$	M1
$(k - 6)(k + 4) = 0$	M1
$k = 6, k = -4$	
$-4 < k < 6$	M1

4.

$x^2 + kx + 8 - k = 0$ $x^2 + kx + (8 - k) = 0$	M1
Equation has no real real solutions, $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ $a = 1, b = k, c = 8 - k$	M1
$k^2 - (4)(1)(8 - k) < 0$ $k^2 - 4k - 32 < 0$	M1 M1
$(k - 8)(k + 4) = 0$ $k = 8, k = -4$	M1
$-4 < k < 8$	M1

5a.

$2x^2 - 20x + 49 = 2(x^2 - 10x) + 49$	M1
$= 2[(x - 5)^2 - 25] + 49$	M1
$= 2(x - 5)^2 - 50 + 49$	M1
$= 2(x - 5)^2 - 1$	M1

5b.

From part a) $2(x - 5)^2 - 1$ Vertex: (5, -1)	M1 M1
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6.

$3x^2 + px + 16 = q(x - 2)^2 + r$ $= q(x - 2)(x - 2) + r$ $= q(x^2 - 4x + 4) + r$	M1
$= qx^2 - 4qx + (4q + r)$	M1
Comparing coefficients: $x^2: q = 3$	M1
$x: p = -4q, p = -12$ constants: $q + r = 16, r = 13$	M1

7a.

$a = 1, b = k + 3, c = k$ $b^2 - 4ac = (k + 3)^2 - (4)(1)(k)$	M1
$= k^2 + 6k + 9 - 4k$ $= k^2 + 2k + 9$	M1

7b.

$k^2 + 2k + 9 = (k + 1)^2 - 1 + 9$	M1
$= (k + 1)^2 + 8$ $a = 1, b = 8$	M1

7c.

$(k + 1)^2$ will always give a positive value	M1
$(k + 1)^2 + 8$ positive term plus a positive term will always be ≥ 0 , therefore the function has two real roots.	M1



8a.

$2px^2 - 6px + 4p = 3x - 7$ $2px^2 - 6px + 4p - 3x + 7 = 0$ $2px^2 - (6p - 3)x + (4p + 7) = 0$	M1
Curve and line do not cross, therefore, $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ $a = 2p, b = 6p - 3, c = 4p + 7$ $(6p - 3)^2 - 4(2p)(4p + 7) < 0$	M1
$(6p - 3)(6p - 3) - 8p(4p + 7) < 0$ $36p^2 - 36p + 9 - 32p^2 - 56p < 0$	M1
$4p^2 - 20p + 9 < 0$	M1

8b.

$4p^2 - 20p + 9 < 0$	M1
$(2p - 9)(2p - 1) = 0$	M1
$2p - 9 = 0, p = \frac{9}{2}$ $2p - 1 = 0, p = \frac{1}{2}$	M1
$\frac{1}{2} < p < \frac{9}{2}$	M1



A-Level Unit Test: Algebra and Functions

Simultaneous Equations



1. Solve the simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned}x + y &= 2 \\ 4y^2 - x^2 &= 11\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

2. Solve the simultaneous equations:

$$\begin{aligned}y + 4x + 1 &= 0 \\ y^2 + 5x^2 + 2x &= 0\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

3. Find the co-ordinates of the points where the circle C with equation $x^2 + y^2 - 2x = 19$ meets the line L with equation $y = 3x - 1$.

(5)

4. Find the pair of values (x, y) which satisfy the simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 + 2xy + y^2 &= 9 \\ x - 3y &= 1\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

5a. Sketch the curve $y = 12 - x - x^2$ giving the co-ordinates of all intercepts with the axes.

(5)

b. Solve the inequality $12 - x - x^2 > 0$

(2)

c. Find the co-ordinates of the points of intersection of the curve $y = 12 - x - x^2$ and the line $3x + y = 4$.

(5)

Total marks: 38

Mark Scheme

1.

$x + y = 2 \rightarrow y = 2 - x$	M1
$4(2 - x)^2 - x^2 = 11$ $4(2 - x)(2 - x) - x^2 = 11$ $4(4 + x^2 - 4x) - x^2 = 11$	M1
$16 + 4x^2 - 16x - x^2 - 11 = 0$ $3x^2 - 16x + 5 = 0$	M1
$(3x - 1)(x - 5) = 0$ $3x - 1 = 0$ $x - 5 = 0$	M1
$3x - 1 = 0, x = \frac{1}{3}$ $x - 5 = 0, x = 5$	M1
$x = \frac{1}{3}, y = 2 - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{3}$ $x = 5, y = 2 - 5 = -3$ Solutions: $x = \frac{1}{3}, y = \frac{5}{3}$ $x = 5, y = -3$	M1 M1

2.

$y + 4x + 1 = 0 \rightarrow y = -4x - 1$	M1
$(-4x - 1)^2 + 5x^2 + 2x = 0$ $(-4x - 1)(-4x - 1) + 5x^2 + 2x = 0$	M1
$16x^2 + 1 + 8x + 5x^2 + 2x = 0$ $21x^2 + 10x + 1 = 0$	M1
$(7x + 1)(3x + 1) = 0$	M1
$7x + 1 = 0, x = -\frac{1}{7}$ $3x + 1 = 0, x = -\frac{1}{3}$	M1
$x = -\frac{1}{7}, y = -4(-\frac{1}{7}) - 1 = -\frac{3}{7}$ $x = -\frac{1}{3}, y = -4(-\frac{1}{3}) - 1 = \frac{1}{3}$ Solutions: $x = -\frac{1}{7}, y = -\frac{3}{7}$ $x = -\frac{1}{3}, y = \frac{1}{3}$	M1 M1

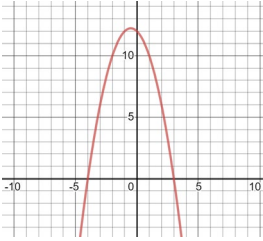
3.

$x^2 + (3x - 1)^2 - 2x = 19$ $x^2 + (3x - 1)(3x - 1) - 2x - 19 = 0$	M1
$x^2 + 9x^2 - 6x + 1 - 2x - 19 = 0$ $10x^2 - 8x - 18 = 0$ $5x^2 - 4x - 9 = 0$	M1
$(5x - 9)(x + 1) = 0$ $5x - 9 = 0, x = \frac{9}{5}$ $x + 1 = 0, x = -1$	M1
$x = \frac{9}{5}, y = 3(\frac{9}{5}) - 1 = \frac{22}{5}$ $x = -1, y = 3(-1) - 1 = -4$ Solution: $x = \frac{9}{5}, y = \frac{22}{5}$ $x = -1, y = -4$	M1 M1

4.

$x - 3y = 1 \rightarrow x = 1 + 3y$ $(1 + 3y)^2 + 2y(1 + 3y) + y^2 - 9 = 0$	M1
$(1 + 3y)(1 + 3y) + 2y + 6y^2 + y^2 - 9 = 0$ $1 + 9y^2 + 6y + 2y + 6y^2 + y^2 - 9 = 0$	M1
$16y^2 + 8y - 8 = 0$ $2y^2 + y - 1 = 0$	M1
$(2y - 1)(y + 1) = 0$	M1
$2y - 1 = 0, y = \frac{1}{2}$ $y + 1 = 0, y = -1$	M1
$y = \frac{1}{2}, x = 1 + 3(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{5}{2}$ $y = -1, x = 1 + 3(-1) = -2$ Solutions: $(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and $(-2, -1)$	M1 M1

5a.

$y = 12 - x - x^2$ when $x = 0, y = 12$ when $y = 0, 12 - x - x^2 = 0 \rightarrow x^2 + x - 12 = 0$	M1
$(x + 4)(x - 3) = 0$ $x = -4$ $x = 3$	M1 M1
	M1 Shape M1 Crossing at $x = -4$ and 3 $y = 12$

5b.

From the graph, $12 - x - x^2 > 0$ $-4 < x < 3$	M1 M1
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5c.

$3x + y = 4 \rightarrow y = 4 - 3x$ $y = 12 - x - x^2 = 4 - 3x$ $12 - x - x^2 - 4 + 3x = 0$	M1
$x^2 + x - 3x - 12 + 4 = 0$ $x^2 - 2x - 8 = 0$	M1
$(x - 4)(x + 2) = 0$ $x = 4$ $x = -2$	M1
$x = 4, y = 4 - 3(4) = -8$ $x = -2, y = 4 - 3(-2) = 10$ Solutions: $(4, -8)$ and $(-2, 10)$	M1 M1

A-Level Unit Test: Algebra and Functions

Graph Functions and Transformations



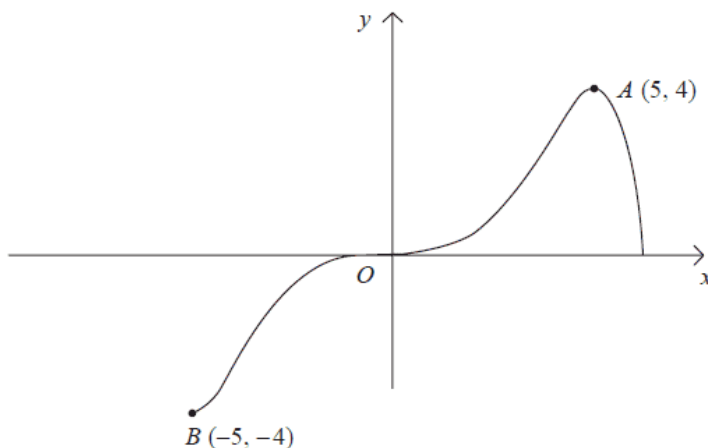
1. Figure 1 shows a sketch of the curve with equation $y = f(x)$. The curve passes through the origin O and the points $(5, 4)$ and $B(-5, -4)$. In separate diagrams, sketch the graph with equation.

a) $y = f(x) + 3$ (3)

b) $y = f(x - 9)$ (3)

On each sketch, show the co-ordinates of the points corresponding to A and B.

c) The graph has a transformation of $y = 2f(x + 1)$. State the new coordinates of A and B. (2)



2. $f(x) = (x + 3)(x - 1)^2$

a) Sketch the curve $y = f(x)$, showing the points of intersection with the coordinate axis. (3)

b) Find the equation of $y = f(x + 2)$ in the form $y = (x + a)(x + b)^2$ (2)

3. Sketch the graph of $y = \frac{1}{x} + 2$, showing the points of intersection with the co-ordinate axis and stating the equations of any asymptotes. (3)

4. $f(x) = x^3 + 4x^2 - 5x$

a) Sketch the curve $y = f(x)$, showing the points of intersection with the co-ordinate axis.

b) Showing the coordinates of the points of intersection with the coordinate axis, sketch on separate diagrams the curves:

i. $y = f(2x)$ (2)

ii. $y = 3f(x)$ (2)

5a. Sketch on the same diagram the curve of $y = x^2 + 5x$ and $y = -\frac{1}{x}$ (4)

b. State, giving a reason, the number of real solutions to the equation $x^2 + 5x + \frac{1}{x} = 0$ (2)

6. Figure 2 shows a sketch of the curve with equation $y = f(x)$ where,

$$f(x) = \frac{x}{x-2}, x \neq 2$$

The curve passes through the origin and has two asymptotes, with equations $y = 1$ and $x = 2$, as shown in Figure 1.

a) Sketch the curve with equation $y = f(x - 1)$ and state the equations of the asymptotes of this curve. (4)

b) Find the coordinates of the points where the curve with equation $y = f(x - 1)$ crosses the coordinate axes. (4)

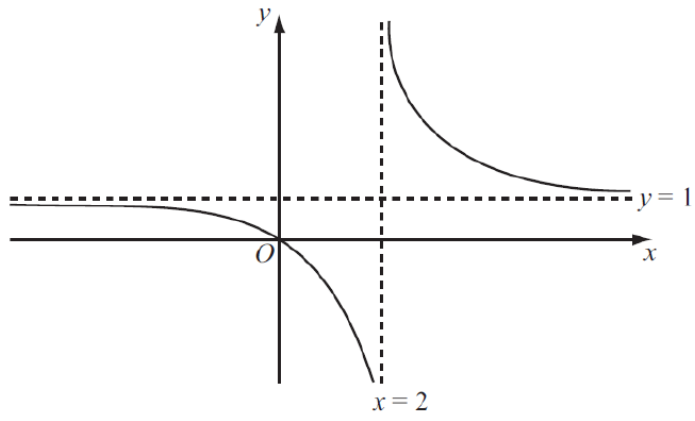


Figure 2

Total marks: 34

Mark Scheme

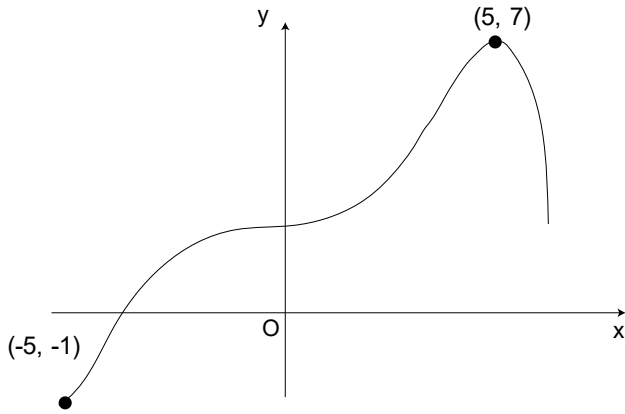
1a.

$y = f(x) + 3 \rightarrow$ graphs moves up by 3 units

Shape **M1**

A: (5, 7) **M1**

B: (-5, -1) **M1**



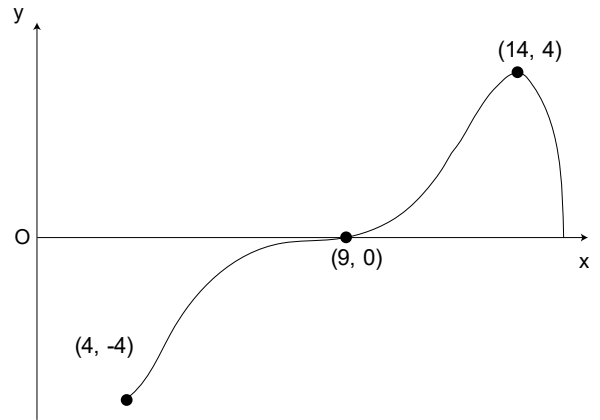
1b.

$y = f(x - 9) \rightarrow$ graphs 9 units to the right

Shape **M1**

A: (14, 4) **M1**

B: (4, -4) **M1**



1c.

$y = 2f(x + 1) \rightarrow$ x coordinates 1 unit left, y coordinates doubled.

A: (4, 8)

B: (-6, -8)

M1 M1

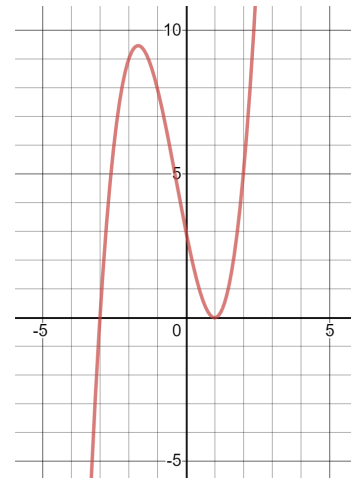
2a.

$$f(x) = (x + 3)(x - 1)^2$$

Points of intersection on x axis: (-3, 0) and (1, 0) **M1**

Point of intersection on y axis: (0, 3) **M1**

Shape: **M1**



2b.

$y = f(x + 2) \rightarrow$ graph moves 2 units to the left

New equation: $f(x) = (x + 5)(x + 1)^2$

M1 M1

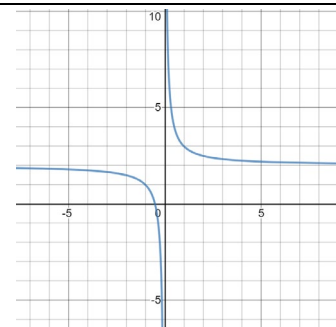
3.

$y = \frac{1}{x} + 2 \rightarrow y = \frac{1}{x}$ graph shifted upwards by two units.

Asymptotes: $y = 2$ **M1**

Axis cuts: $(-\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ **M1**

Shape **M1**



4a.

$$f(x) = x^3 + 4x^2 - 5x$$

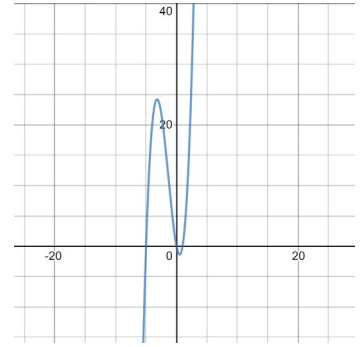
$$f(x) = 0, x^3 + 4x^2 - 5x = 0$$

$$x(x + 5)(x - 1) \text{ M1}$$

Roots = 0, -5 and 1 **M1**

When $x = 0, y = 0$ **M1**

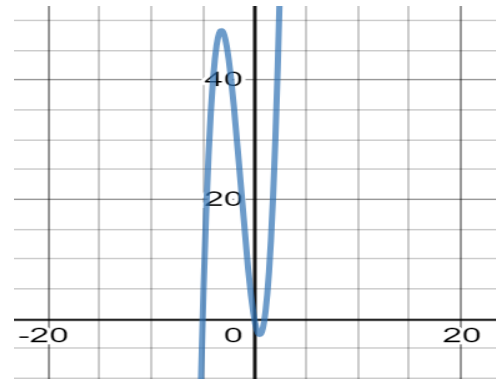
Shape **M1**



4bi.

$y = f(2x)$ graph is stretched by a scale factor of 2.

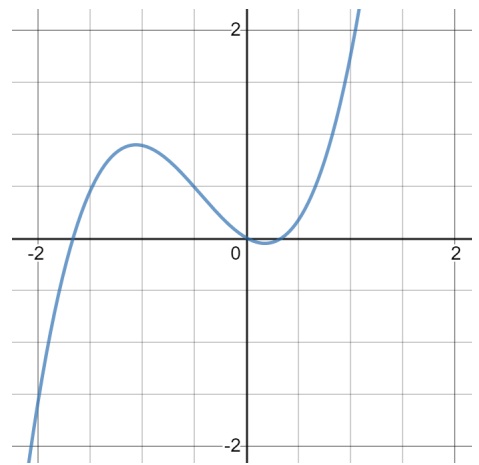
Roots remain the same: 0, -5, 1



4bii.

$y = 3f(x) \rightarrow$ graph is shrunk by a scale factor of $\frac{1}{3}$. x - coordinates are multiplied by a third.

Roots: $(-\frac{5}{3}, 0)$ $(0, 0)$ $(\frac{1}{3}, 0)$



5a.

$$y = x^2 + 5x = x(x + 5)$$

Roots at $(0, 0)$ and $(-5, 0)$ **M1**

Y intercept at $(0, 0)$ **M1**

Shape **M1**

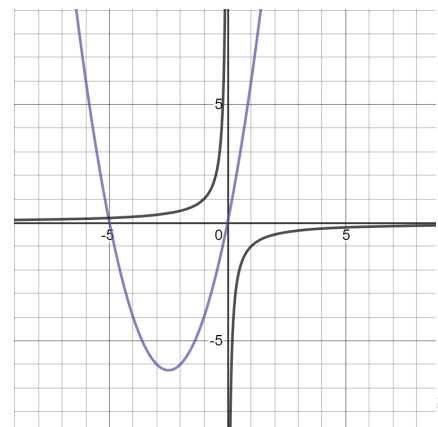
$$y = -\frac{1}{x}$$

No roots **M1**

No intercept **M1**

(Asymptotes at $x = 0, y = 0$)

Shape **M1**



5b.

There is one real solution	M1
As the graphs cross once	M1

6a.

$y = f(x - 1) \rightarrow$ graph shifts 1 unit to the right **M1**
 Asymptotes: $x = 3, y = 1$ **M1 M1**
 Shape **M1**

6b.

$f(x - 1) = \frac{x - 1}{x - 1 - 2} = \frac{x - 1}{x - 3}$	M1 M1
When $x = 0, y = \frac{1}{3}$ When $y = 0, \frac{x - 1}{x - 3} = 0, x = 1$ Co-ordinates cutting the axes: $(0, \frac{1}{3})$ and $(1, 0)$	M1 M1