Edexcel
New GCE A Level Maths workbook
Factorisation, Completing the square, Solving Quadratics.

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

Examples

Example 1 Factorise $15x^2y^3 + 9x^4y$

$15x^2y^3 + 9x^4y = 3x^2y(5y^2 + 3x^2)$	The highest common factor is $3x^2y$. So take $3x^2y$ outside the brackets and then divide each term by $3x^2y$ to find the terms in the brackets

Example 2 Factorise $4x^2 - 25y^2$

$4x^2 - 25y^2 = (2x + 5y)(2x - 5y)$	This is the difference of two squares as the two terms can be written as $(2x)^2$ and $(5y)^2$

Example 3 Factorise $x^2 + 3x - 10$

$b = 3$, $ac = -10$	**1** Work out the two factors of $ac = -10$ which add to give $b = 3$ (5 and −2)
So $x^2 + 3x - 10 = x^2 + 5x - 2x - 10$	**2** Rewrite the b term ($3x$) using these two factors
$= x(x + 5) - 2(x + 5)$	**3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms
$= (x + 5)(x - 2)$	**4** $(x + 5)$ is a factor of both terms

Example 4 Factorise $6x^2 - 11x - 10$

$b = -11$, $ac = -60$ So $6x^2 - 11x - 10 = 6x^2 - 15x + 4x - 10$ $= 3x(2x - 5) + 2(2x - 5)$ $= (2x - 5)(3x + 2)$	**1** Work out the two factors of $ac = -60$ which add to give $b = -11$ $(-15$ and $4)$ **2** Rewrite the b term $(-11x)$ using these two factors **3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms **4** $(2x - 5)$ is a factor of both terms

Example 5 Simplify $\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9}$

$\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9}$	**1** Factorise the numerator and the denominator
For the numerator: $b = -4$, $ac = -21$	**2** Work out the two factors of $ac = -21$ which add to give $b = -4$ $(-7$ and $3)$
So $x^2 - 4x - 21 = x^2 - 7x + 3x - 21$ $= x(x - 7) + 3(x - 7)$ $= (x - 7)(x + 3)$	**3** Rewrite the b term $(-4x)$ using these two factors **4** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms **5** $(x - 7)$ is a factor of both terms
For the denominator: $b = 9$, $ac = 18$	**6** Work out the two factors of $ac = 18$ which add to give $b = 9$ $(6$ and $3)$
So $2x^2 + 9x + 9 = 2x^2 + 6x + 3x + 9$ $= 2x(x + 3) + 3(x + 3)$ $= (x + 3)(2x + 3)$	**7** Rewrite the b term $(9x)$ using these two factors **8** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms **9** $(x + 3)$ is a factor of both terms
So $\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9} = \dfrac{(x - 7)(x + 3)}{(x + 3)(2x + 3)}$ $= \dfrac{x - 7}{2x + 3}$	**10** $(x + 3)$ is a factor of both the numerator and denominator so cancels out as a value divided by itself is 1

Practice

1 Factorise.

a $6x^4y^3 - 10x^3y^4$ **b** $21a^3b^5 + 35a^5b^2$

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

> **Hint**
>
> Take the highest common factor outside the bracket.

2 Factorise

a $x^2 + 7x + 12$ **b** $x^2 + 5x - 14$

c $x^2 - 11x + 30$ **d** $x^2 - 5x - 24$

e $x^2 - 7x - 18$ **f** $x^2 + x - 20$

g $x^2 - 3x - 40$ **h** $x^2 + 3x - 28$

3 Factorise

a $36x^2 - 49y^2$ **b** $4x^2 - 81y^2$

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

4 Factorise

a $2x^2 + x - 3$ **b** $6x^2 + 17x + 5$

c $2x^2 + 7x + 3$ **d** $9x^2 - 15x + 4$

e $10x^2 + 21x + 9$ **f** $12x^2 - 38x + 20$

5 Simplify the algebraic fractions.

a $\dfrac{2x^2 + 4x}{x^2 - x}$ **b** $\dfrac{x^2 + 3x}{x^2 + 2x - 3}$

c $\dfrac{x^2 - 2x - 8}{x^2 - 4x}$ **d** $\dfrac{x^2 - 5x}{x^2 - 25}$

e $\dfrac{x^2 - x - 12}{x^2 - 4x}$ **f** $\dfrac{2x^2 + 14x}{2x^2 + 4x - 70}$

6 Simplify

a $\dfrac{9x^2 - 16}{3x^2 + 17x - 28}$ **b** $\dfrac{2x^2 - 7x - 15}{3x^2 - 17x + 10}$

c $\dfrac{4 - 25x^2}{10x^2 - 11x - 6}$ **d** $\dfrac{6x^2 - x - 1}{2x^2 + 7x - 4}$

Extend

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

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

Answers

1 **a** $2x^3y^3(3x - 5y)$ **b** $7a^3b^2(3b^3 + 5a^2)$
c $5x^2y^2(5 - 2x + 3y)$

2 **a** $(x + 3)(x + 4)$ **b** $(x + 7)(x - 2)$
c $(x - 5)(x - 6)$ **d** $(x - 8)(x + 3)$
e $(x - 9)(x + 2)$ **f** $(x + 5)(x - 4)$
g $(x - 8)(x + 5)$ **h** $(x + 7)(x - 4)$

3 **a** $(6x - 7y)(6x + 7y)$ **b** $(2x - 9y)(2x + 9y)$
c $2(3a - 10bc)(3a + 10bc)$

4 **a** $(x - 1)(2x + 3)$ **b** $(3x + 1)(2x + 5)$
c $(2x + 1)(x + 3)$ **d** $(3x - 1)(3x - 4)$
e $(5x + 3)(2x + 3)$ **f** $2(3x - 2)(2x - 5)$

5 **a** $\frac{2(x+2)}{x-1}$ **b** $\frac{x}{x-1}$
c $\frac{x+2}{x}$ **d** $\frac{x}{x+5}$
e $\frac{x+3}{x}$ **f** $\frac{x}{x-5}$

6 **a** $\frac{3x+4}{x+7}$ **b** $\frac{2x+3}{3x-2}$
c $\frac{2-5x}{2x-3}$ **d** $\frac{3x+1}{x+4}$

7 $(x + 5)$

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

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.

Examples

Example 1 Complete the square for the quadratic expression $x^2 + 6x - 2$

$x^2 + 6x - 2$ $= (x + 3)^2 - 9 - 2$ $= (x + 3)^2 - 11$	**1** Write $x^2 + bx + c$ in the form $\left(x+\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 + c$ **2** Simplify

Example 2 Write $2x^2 - 5x + 1$ in the form $p(x + q)^2 + r$

$2x^2 - 5x + 1$	**1** Before completing the square write $ax^2 + bx + c$ in the form $a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x\right) + c$
$= 2\left(x^2 - \frac{5}{2}x\right) + 1$ $= 2\left[\left(x - \frac{5}{4}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^2\right] + 1$	**2** Now complete the square by writing $x^2 - \frac{5}{2}x$ in the form $\left(x+\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$
$= 2\left(x - \frac{5}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{25}{8} + 1$	**3** Expand the square brackets – don't forget to multiply $\left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^2$ by the factor of 2
$= 2\left(x - \frac{5}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{17}{8}$	**4** Simplify

Practice

1 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** $x^2 + 3x – 2$

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** $2x^2 + 6x – 8$

3 Complete the square.

a $2x^2 + 3x + 6$ **b** $3x^2 – 2x$

c $5x^2 + 3x$ **d** $3x^2 + 5x + 3$

Extend

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

Answers

1 **a** $(x+2)^2-1$ **b** $(x-5)^2-28$

c $(x-4)^2-16$ **d** $(x+3)^2-9$

e $(x-1)^2+6$ **f** $\left(x+\frac{3}{2}\right)^2-\frac{17}{4}$

2 **a** $2(x-2)^2-24$ **b** $4(x-1)^2-20$

c $3(x+2)^2-21$ **d** $2\left(x+\frac{3}{2}\right)^2-\frac{25}{2}$

3 **a** $2\left(x+\frac{3}{4}\right)^2+\frac{39}{8}$ **b** $3\left(x-\frac{1}{3}\right)^2-\frac{1}{3}$

c $5\left(x+\frac{3}{10}\right)^2-\frac{9}{20}$ **d** $3\left(x+\frac{5}{6}\right)^2+\frac{11}{12}$

4 $(5x+3)^2+3$

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).

Examples

Example 1 Solve $5x^2 = 15x$

$5x^2 = 15x$ $5x^2 - 15x = 0$	**1** Rearrange the equation so that all of the terms are on one side of the equation and it is equal to zero. Do not divide both sides by x as this would lose the solution $x = 0$.
$5x(x - 3) = 0$	**2** Factorise the quadratic equation. $5x$ is a common factor.
So $5x = 0$ or $(x - 3) = 0$	**3** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero.
Therefore $x = 0$ or $x = 3$	**4** Solve these two equations.

Example 2 Solve $x^2 + 7x + 12 = 0$

$x^2 + 7x + 12 = 0$ $b = 7$, $ac = 12$	**1** Factorise the quadratic equation. Work out the two factors of $ac = 12$ which add to give you $b = 7$. (4 and 3)
$x^2 + 4x + 3x + 12 = 0$	**2** Rewrite the b term ($7x$) using these two factors.
$x(x + 4) + 3(x + 4) = 0$	**3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms.
$(x + 4)(x + 3) = 0$	**4** $(x + 4)$ is a factor of both terms.
So $(x + 4) = 0$ or $(x + 3) = 0$	**5** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero.
Therefore $x = -4$ or $x = -3$	**6** Solve these two equations.

Example 3 Solve $9x^2 - 16 = 0$

$9x^2 - 16 = 0$ $(3x + 4)(3x - 4) = 0$ So $(3x + 4) = 0$ or $(3x - 4) = 0$ $x = -\frac{4}{3}$ or $x = \frac{4}{3}$	**1** Factorise the quadratic equation. This is the difference of two squares as the two terms are $(3x)^2$ and $(4)^2$. **2** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero. **3** Solve these two equations.

Example 4 Solve $2x^2 - 5x - 12 = 0$

$b = -5$, $ac = -24$ So $2x^2 - 8x + 3x - 12 = 0$ $2x(x - 4) + 3(x - 4) = 0$ $(x - 4)(2x + 3) = 0$ So $(x - 4) = 0$ or $(2x + 3) = 0$ $x = 4$ or $x = -\frac{3}{2}$	**1** Factorise the quadratic equation. Work out the two factors of $ac = -24$ which add to give you $b = -5$. (-8 and 3) **2** Rewrite the b term ($-5x$) using these two factors. **3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms. **4** $(x - 4)$ is a factor of both terms. **5** When two values multiply to make zero, at least one of the values must be zero. **6** Solve these two equations.

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

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 $p(x + q)^2 + r = 0$.

Examples

Example 5 Solve $x^2 + 6x + 4 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$x^2 + 6x + 4 = 0$	**1** Write $x^2 + bx + c = 0$ in the form $\left(x+\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 + c = 0$
$(x + 3)^2 - 9 + 4 = 0$	**2** Simplify.
$(x + 3)^2 - 5 = 0$ $(x + 3)^2 = 5$	**3** Rearrange the equation to work out x. First, add 5 to both sides.
$x + 3 = \pm\sqrt{5}$	**4** Square root both sides. Remember that the square root of a value gives two answers.
$x = \pm\sqrt{5} - 3$	**5** Subtract 3 from both sides to solve the equation.
So $x = -\sqrt{5} - 3$ or $x = \sqrt{5} - 3$	**6** Write down both solutions.

Example 6 Solve $2x^2 - 7x + 4 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$2x^2 - 7x + 4 = 0$	
$2\left(x^2 - \frac{7}{2}x\right) + 4 = 0$	**1** Before completing the square write $ax^2 + bx + c$ in the form $a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x\right) + c$
$2\left[\left(x - \frac{7}{4}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^2\right] + 4 = 0$	**2** Now complete the square by writing $x^2 - \frac{7}{2}x$ in the form $\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2$
$2\left(x - \frac{7}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{49}{8} + 4 = 0$	**3** Expand the square brackets.

$2\left(x-\frac{7}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{17}{8} = 0$	**4** Simplify. *(continued on next page)*
$2\left(x-\frac{7}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{17}{8}$	**5** Rearrange the equation to work out x. First, add $\frac{17}{8}$ to both sides.
$\left(x-\frac{7}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{17}{16}$	**6** Divide both sides by 2.
$x-\frac{7}{4} = \pm\frac{\sqrt{17}}{4}$	**7** Square root both sides. Remember that the square root of a value gives two answers.
$x = \pm\frac{\sqrt{17}}{4} + \frac{7}{4}$	**8** Add $\frac{7}{4}$ to both sides.
So $x = \frac{7}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{17}}{4}$ or $x = \frac{7}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{17}}{4}$	**9** Write down both the solutions.

Practice

3 Solve by completing the square.

a $x^2 - 4x - 3 = 0$ **b** $x^2 - 10x + 4 = 0$

c $x^2 + 8x - 5 = 0$ **d** $x^2 - 2x - 6 = 0$

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

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*.

Examples

Example 7 Solve $x^2 + 6x + 4 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$a = 1, b = 6, c = 4$ $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	**1** Identify *a*, *b* and *c* and write down the formula. Remember that $-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$ is all over 2*a*, not just part of it.
$x = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{6^2 - 4(1)(4)}}{2(1)}$	**2** Substitute $a = 1$, $b = 6$, $c = 4$ into the formula.
$x = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{20}}{2}$	**3** Simplify. The denominator is 2, but this is only because $a = 1$. The denominator will not always be 2.
$x = \frac{-6 \pm 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$	**4** Simplify $\sqrt{20}$. $\sqrt{20} = \sqrt{4 \times 5} = \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{5} = 2\sqrt{5}$
$x = -3 \pm \sqrt{5}$	**5** Simplify by dividing numerator and denominator by 2.
So $x = -3 - \sqrt{5}$ or $x = \sqrt{5} - 3$	**6** Write down both the solutions.

Example 8 Solve $3x^2 - 7x - 2 = 0$. Give your solutions in surd form.

$a = 3, b = -7, c = -2$ $x = \dfrac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	**1** Identify a, b and c, making sure you get the signs right and write down the formula. Remember that $-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$ is all over $2a$, not just part of it.
$x = \dfrac{-(-7) \pm \sqrt{(-7)^2 - 4(3)(-2)}}{2(3)}$	**2** Substitute $a = 3$, $b = -7$, $c = -2$ into the formula.
$x = \dfrac{7 \pm \sqrt{73}}{6}$	**3** Simplify. The denominator is 6 when $a = 3$. A common mistake is to always write a denominator of 2.
So $x = \dfrac{7 - \sqrt{73}}{6}$ or $x = \dfrac{7 + \sqrt{73}}{6}$	**4** Write down both the solutions.

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 $\dfrac{a \pm \sqrt{b}}{c}$, 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 $x(3x - 1) = 10$

Answers

1 **a** $x = 0$ or $x = -\frac{2}{3}$

b $x = 0$ or $x = \frac{3}{4}$

c $x = -5$ or $x = -2$

d $x = 2$ or $x = 3$

e $x = -1$ or $x = 4$

f $x = -5$ or $x = 2$

g $x = 4$ or $x = 6$

h $x = -6$ or $x = 6$

i $x = -7$ or $x = 4$

j $x = 3$

k $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ or $x = 4$

l $x = -\frac{2}{3}$ or $x = 5$

2 **a** $x = -2$ or $x = 5$

b $x = -1$ or $x = 3$

c $x = -8$ or $x = 3$

d $x = -6$ or $x = 7$

e $x = -5$ or $x = 5$

f $x = -4$ or $x = 7$

g $x = -3$ or $x = 2\frac{1}{2}$

h $x = -\frac{1}{3}$ or $x = 2$

3 **a** $x = 2 + \sqrt{7}$ or $x = 2 - \sqrt{7}$

b $x = 5 + \sqrt{21}$ or $x = 5 - \sqrt{21}$

c $x = -4 + \sqrt{21}$ or $x = -4 - \sqrt{21}$

d $x = 1 + \sqrt{7}$ or $x = 1 - \sqrt{7}$

e $x = -2 + \sqrt{6.5}$ or $x = -2 - \sqrt{6.5}$

f $x = \frac{-3+\sqrt{89}}{10}$ or $x = \frac{-3-\sqrt{89}}{10}$

4 **a** $x = 1 + \sqrt{14}$ or $x = 1 - \sqrt{14}$

b $x = \frac{-3+\sqrt{23}}{2}$ or $x = \frac{-3-\sqrt{23}}{2}$

c $x = \frac{5+\sqrt{13}}{2}$ or $x = \frac{5-\sqrt{13}}{2}$

5 **a** $x = -1 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$ or $x = -1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$

b $x = 1 + \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}$ or $x = 1 - \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}$

6 $x = \frac{7+\sqrt{41}}{2}$ or $x = \frac{7-\sqrt{41}}{2}$

7 $x = \frac{-3+\sqrt{89}}{20}$ or $x = \frac{-3-\sqrt{89}}{20}$

8 **a** $x = \frac{7+\sqrt{17}}{8}$ or $x = \frac{7-\sqrt{17}}{8}$

b $x = -1 + \sqrt{10}$ or $x = -1 - \sqrt{10}$

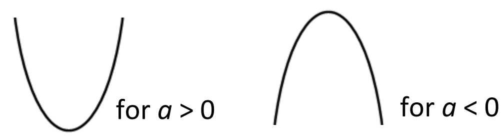
c $x = -1\frac{2}{3}$ or $x = 2$

Sketching quadratic graphs

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

Key points

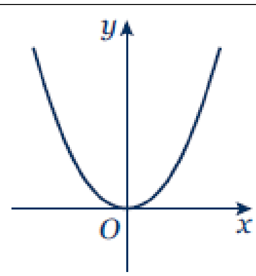
- The graph of the quadratic function $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, where $a \neq 0$, is a curve called a parabola.
- Parabolas have a line of symmetry and a shape as shown.



- To sketch the graph of a function, find the points where the graph intersects the axes.
- To find where the curve intersects the y-axis substitute $x = 0$ into the function.
- To find where the curve intersects the x-axis substitute $y = 0$ into the function.
- At the turning points of a graph the gradient of the curve is 0 and any tangents to the curve at these points are horizontal.
- To find the coordinates of the maximum or minimum point (turning points) of a quadratic curve (parabola) you can use the completed square form of the function.

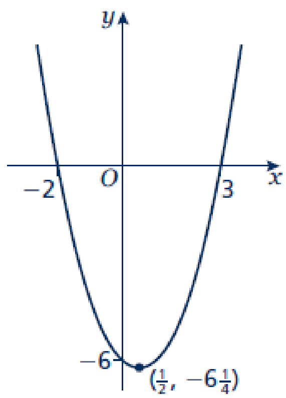
Examples

Example 1 Sketch the graph of $y = x^2$.

	The graph of $y = x^2$ is a parabola. When $x = 0$, $y = 0$. $a = 1$ which is greater than zero, so the graph has the shape: 

Example 2 Sketch the graph of $y = x^2 - x - 6$.

When $x = 0$, $y = 0^2 - 0 - 6 = -6$ So the graph intersects the y-axis at $(0, -6)$	**1** Find where the graph intersects the y-axis by substituting $x = 0$.
When $y = 0$, $x^2 - x - 6 = 0$	**2** Find where the graph intersects the x-axis by substituting $y = 0$.
$(x + 2)(x - 3) = 0$	**3** Solve the equation by factorising.
$x = -2$ or $x = 3$	**4** Solve $(x + 2) = 0$ and $(x - 3) = 0$.
So,	

the graph intersects the x-axis at $(-2, 0)$ and $(3, 0)$	**5** $a = 1$ which is greater than zero, so the graph has the shape:  *(continued on next page)*
$x^2 - x - 6 = \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{4} - 6$ $= \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{25}{4}$	**6** To find the turning point, complete the square.
When $\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = 0$, $x = \frac{1}{2}$ and $y = -\frac{25}{4}$, so the turning point is at the point $\left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{25}{4}\right)$	**7** The turning point is the minimum value for this expression and occurs when the term in the bracket is equal to zero.
	

Practice

1 Sketch the graph of $y = -x^2$.

2 Sketch each graph, labelling where the curve crosses the axes.

a $y = (x + 2)(x - 1)$ **b** $y = x(x - 3)$ **c** $y = (x + 1)(x + 5)$

3 Sketch each graph, labelling where the curve crosses the axes.

a $y = x^2 - x - 6$ **b** $y = x^2 - 5x + 4$ **c** $y = x^2 - 4$

d $y = x^2 + 4x$ **e** $y = 9 - x^2$ **f** $y = x^2 + 2x - 3$

4 Sketch the graph of $y = 2x^2 + 5x - 3$, labelling where the curve crosses the axes.

Extend

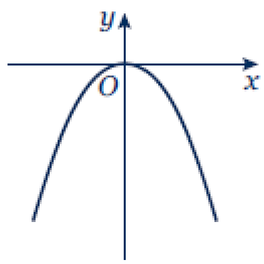
5 Sketch each graph. Label where the curve crosses the axes and write down the coordinates of the turning point.

a $y = x^2 - 5x + 6$ **b** $y = -x^2 + 7x - 12$ **c** $y = -x^2 + 4x$

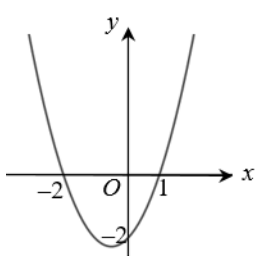
6 Sketch the graph of $y = x^2 + 2x + 1$. Label where the curve crosses the axes and write down the equation of the line of symmetry.

Answers

1



2 **a**



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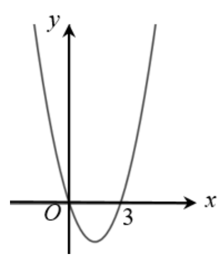

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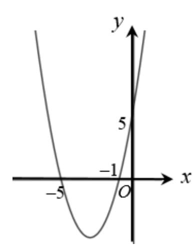
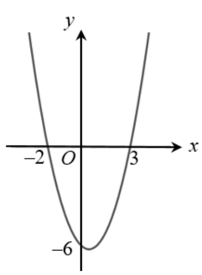


3 **a**



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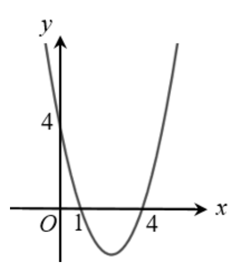

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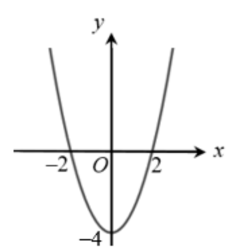
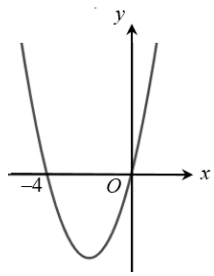
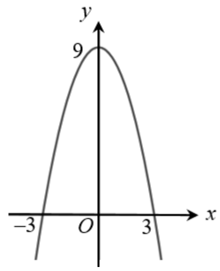


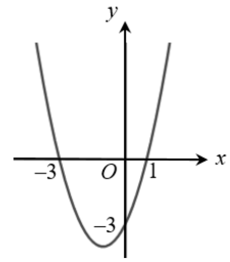
d

e

f







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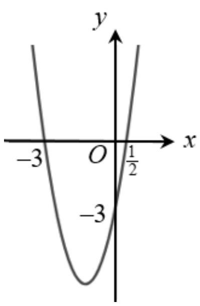
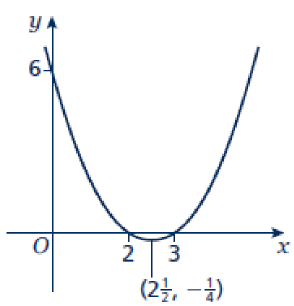


5 **a**



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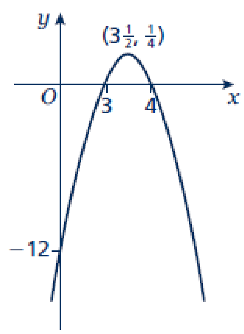

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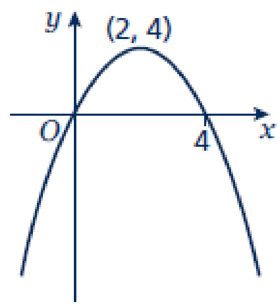

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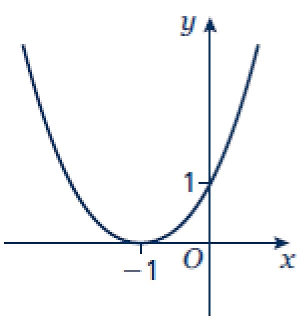


Line of symmetry at $x = -1$.

Q1.

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

where p and q are integers.

(a) Find the value of p and the value of q.

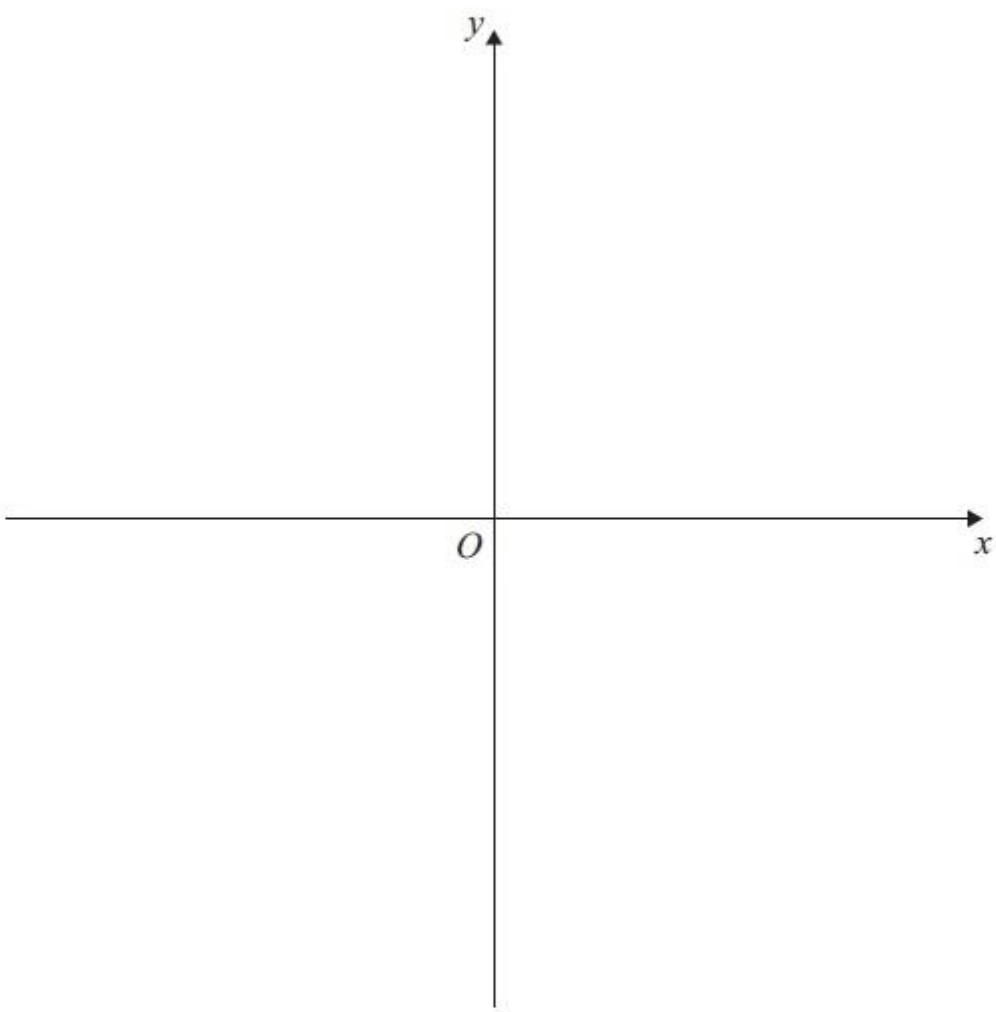
(3)

(b) Calculate the discriminant of $4x - 5 - x^2$

(2)

(c) On the axes below, sketch the curve with equation $y = 4x - 5 - x^2$ showing clearly the coordinates of any points where the curve crosses the coordinate axes.

(3)



Q2.

(a) Show that $x^2 + 6x + 11$ can be written as

$$(x+p)^2 + q$$

where p and q are integers to be found.

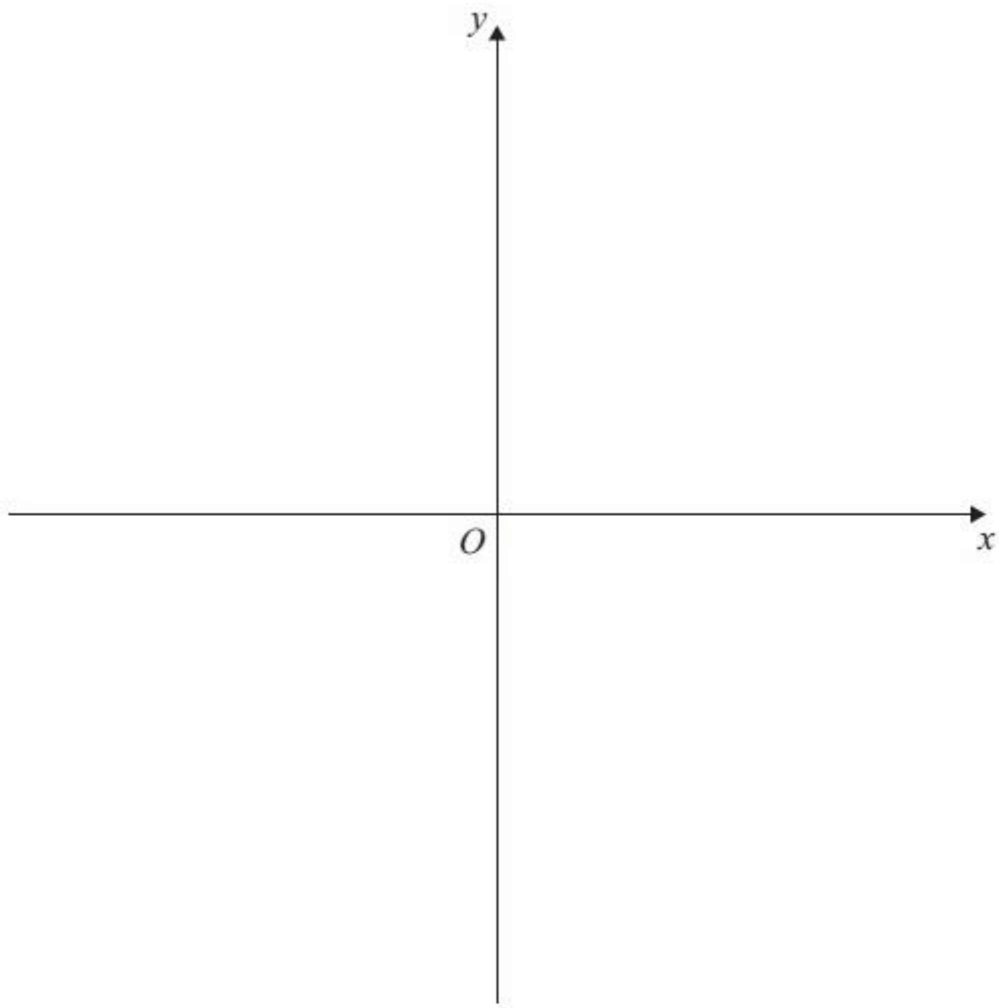
(2)

(b) In the space below, sketch the curve with equation $y = x^2 + 6x + 11$, showing clearly any intersections with the coordinate axes.

(2)

(c) Find the value of the discriminant of $x^2 + 6x + 11$

(2)



Q3.

$$f(x) = x^2 - 8x + 19$$

(a) Express f(x) in the form $(x + a)^2 + b$, where a and b are constants.

(2)

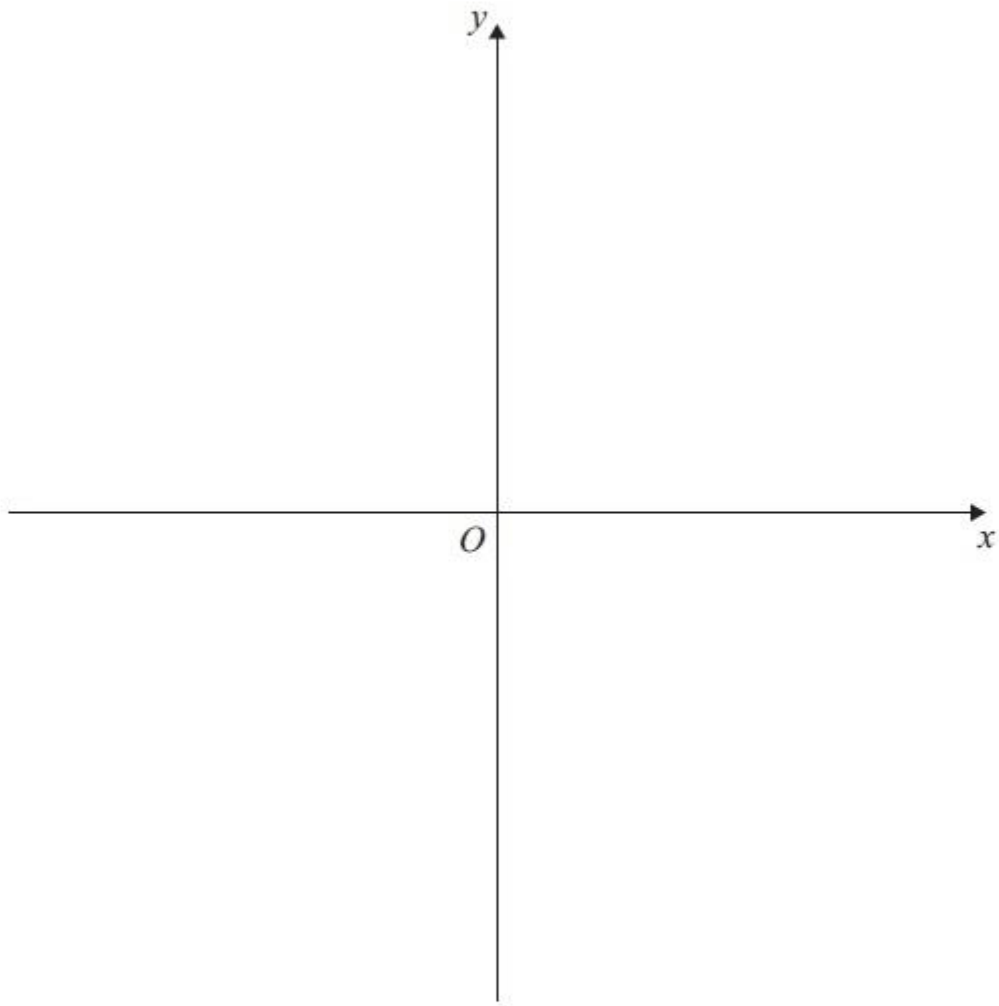
The curve C with equation $y = f(x)$ crosses the y-axis at the point P and has a minimum point at the point Q.

(b) Sketch the graph of C showing the coordinates of point P and the coordinates of point Q.

(3)

(c) Find the distance PQ, writing your answer as a simplified surd.

(3)



Q4.

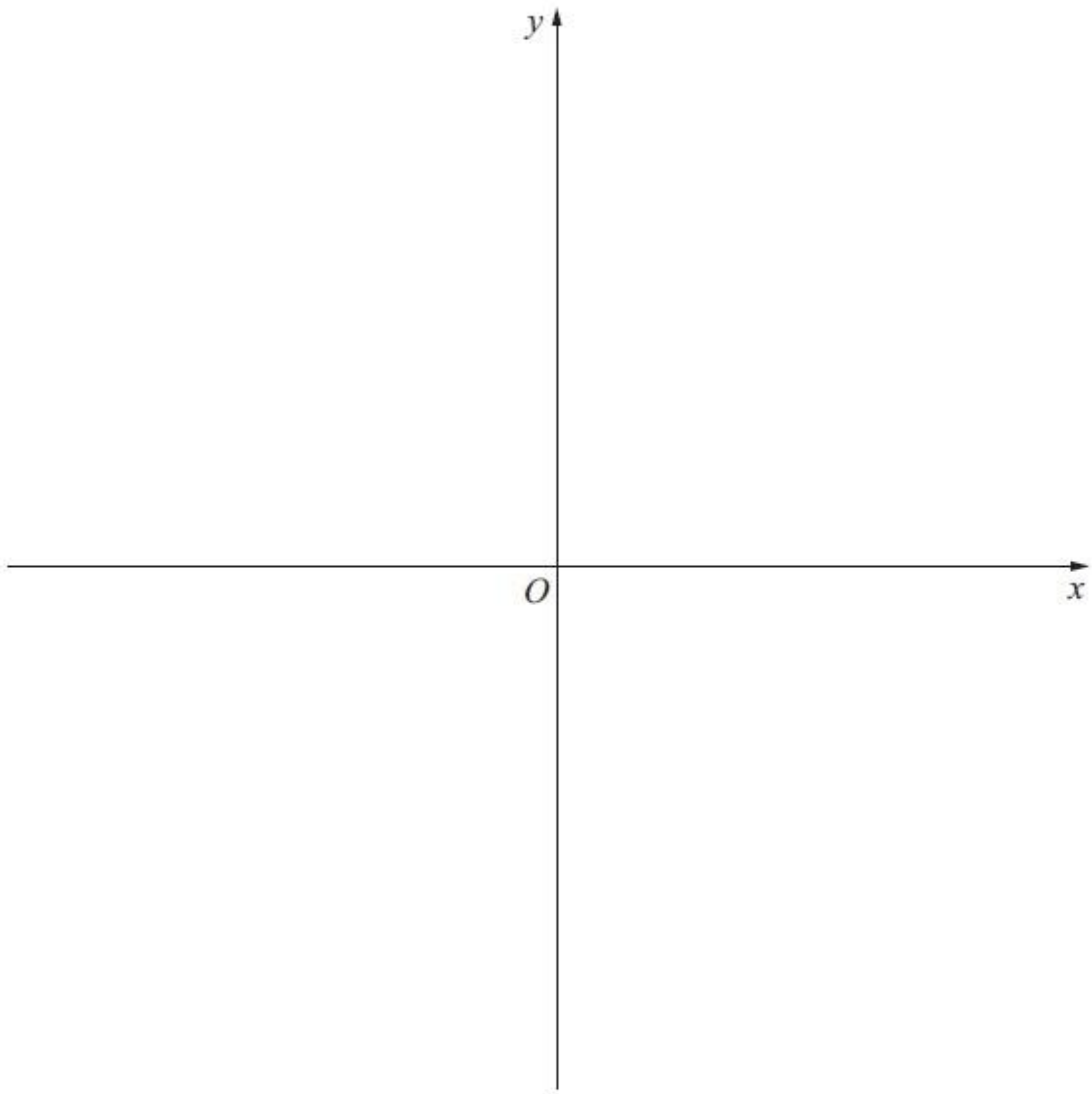
$$4x^2 + 8x + 3 = a(x + b)^2 + c$$

(a) Find the values of the constants a, b and c.

(3)

(b) On the axes below, sketch the curve with equation $y = 4x^2 + 8x + 3$, showing clearly the coordinates of any points where the curve crosses the coordinate axes.

(4)



Q5. Given that

$$f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 18, \quad x \geq 0,$$

(*a*) express f(x) in the form $(x - a)^2 + b$, where a and b are integers. **(3)**

The curve C with equation $y = f(x)$, $x \geq 0$, meets the y-axis at P and has a minimum point at Q.

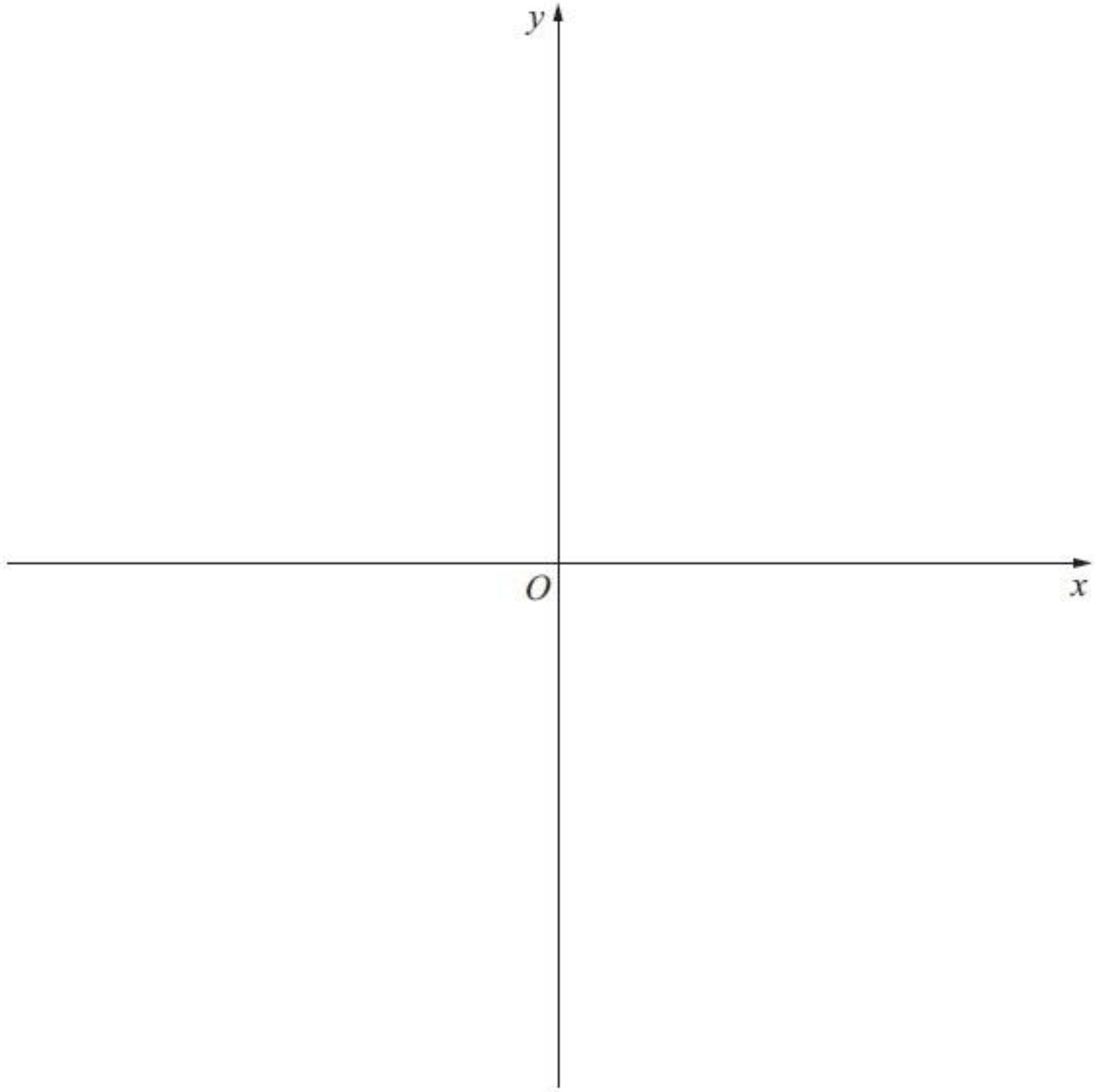
(*b*) Sketch the graph of C, showing the coordinates of P and Q.

(4)

The line $y = 41$ meets C at the point R.

(*c*) Find the x-coordinate of R, giving your answer in the form $p + q\sqrt{2}$, where p and q are integers.

(5)



Q6. $$x^2 - 8x - 29 \equiv (x + a)^2 + b,$$

where a and b are constants.

(a) Find the value of a and the value of b.

(3)

(b) Hence, or otherwise, show that the roots of

$$x^2 - 8x - 29 = 0$$

are $c \pm d\sqrt{5}$, where c and d are integers to be found.

(3)