



Maths Questions By Topic:

Sequences & Series

A-Level Edexcel

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1. (i) In an arithmetic series, the first term is a and the common difference is d .

Show that

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2a + (n-1)d] \quad (3)$$

(ii) James saves money over a number of weeks to buy a printer that costs £64

He saves £10 in week 1, £9.20 in week 2, £8.40 in week 3 and so on, so that the weekly amounts he saves form an arithmetic sequence.

Given that James takes n weeks to save exactly £64

(a) show that

$$n^2 - 26n + 160 = 0 \quad (2)$$

(b) Solve the equation

$$n^2 - 26n + 160 = 0 \quad (1)$$

(c) Hence state the number of weeks James takes to save enough money to buy the printer, giving a brief reason for your answer.

(1)

2. (a) Find the first 4 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of

$$\left(3 - \frac{2x}{9}\right)^8$$

giving each term in simplest form.

(4)

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{x-1}{2x}\right)\left(3 - \frac{2x}{9}\right)^8$$

(b) Find the coefficient of x^2 in the series expansion of $f(x)$, giving your answer as a simplified fraction.

(2)

5.

$$f(x) = \frac{50x^2 + 38x + 9}{(5x + 2)^2(1 - 2x)} \quad x \neq -\frac{2}{5} \quad x \neq \frac{1}{2}$$

Given that $f(x)$ can be expressed in the form

$$\frac{A}{5x + 2} + \frac{B}{(5x + 2)^2} + \frac{C}{1 - 2x}$$

where A , B and C are constants

(a) (i) find the value of B and the value of C

(ii) show that $A = 0$

(4)

(b) (i) Use binomial expansions to show that, in ascending powers of x

$$f(x) = p + qx + rx^2 + \dots$$

where p , q and r are simplified fractions to be found.

(ii) Find the range of values of x for which this expansion is valid.

(7)

6. $g(x) = (2 + ax)^8$ where a is a constant

Given that one of the terms in the binomial expansion of $g(x)$ is $3402x^5$

(a) find the value of a .

(4)

Using this value of a ,

(b) find the constant term in the expansion of

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{x^4}\right)(2 + ax)^8$$

(3)

7. (a) Find the first four terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of

$$(1 + 8x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

giving each term in simplest form.

(3)

- (b) Explain how you could use $x = \frac{1}{32}$ in the expansion to find an approximation for $\sqrt{5}$

There is no need to carry out the calculation.

(2)

9. A sequence of numbers a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$a_{n+1} = \frac{k(a_n + 2)}{a_n} \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

where k is a constant.

Given that

- the sequence is a periodic sequence of order 3
- $a_1 = 2$

(a) show that

$$k^2 + k - 2 = 0 \tag{3}$$

(b) For this sequence explain why $k \neq 1$ (1)

(c) Find the value of
$$\sum_{r=1}^{80} a_r \tag{3}$$

11. (a) Find the first three terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{4-x}}$$

giving each coefficient in its simplest form.

(4)

The expansion can be used to find an approximation to $\sqrt{2}$
Possible values of x that could be substituted into this expansion are:

- $x = -14$ because $\frac{1}{\sqrt{4-x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{18}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{6}$
- $x = 2$ because $\frac{1}{\sqrt{4-x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$
- $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ because $\frac{1}{\sqrt{4-x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{7}{2}}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{14}}$

(b) Without evaluating your expansion,

(i) state, giving a reason, which of the three values of x should not be used (1)

(ii) state, giving a reason, which of the three values of x would lead to the most accurate approximation to $\sqrt{2}$ (1)

12. A competitor is running a 20 kilometre race.

She runs each of the first 4 kilometres at a steady pace of 6 minutes per kilometre. After the first 4 kilometres, she begins to slow down.

In order to estimate her finishing time, the time that she will take to complete each subsequent kilometre is modelled to be 5% greater than the time that she took to complete the previous kilometre.

Using the model,

(a) show that her time to run the first 6 kilometres is estimated to be 36 minutes 55 seconds, (2)

(b) show that her estimated time, in minutes, to run the r th kilometre, for $5 \leq r \leq 20$, is

$$6 \times 1.05^{r-4} \tag{1}$$

(c) estimate the total time, in minutes and seconds, that she will take to complete the race. (4)

14. (a) Use binomial expansions to show that $\sqrt{\frac{1+4x}{1-x}} \approx 1 + \frac{5}{2}x - \frac{5}{8}x^2$ (6)

A student substitutes $x = \frac{1}{2}$ into both sides of the approximation shown in part (a) in an attempt to find an approximation to $\sqrt{6}$

(b) Give a reason why the student **should not** use $x = \frac{1}{2}$ (1)

(c) Substitute $x = \frac{1}{11}$ into

$$\sqrt{\frac{1+4x}{1-x}} = 1 + \frac{5}{2}x - \frac{5}{8}x^2$$

to obtain an approximation to $\sqrt{6}$. Give your answer as a fraction in its simplest form. (3)

15. (a) Find the first 3 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of

$$\left(2 - \frac{x}{16}\right)^9$$

giving each term in its simplest form.

(4)

$$f(x) = (a + bx)\left(2 - \frac{x}{16}\right)^9, \text{ where } a \text{ and } b \text{ are constants}$$

Given that the first two terms, in ascending powers of x , in the series expansion of $f(x)$ are 128 and $36x$,

(b) find the value of a ,

(2)

(c) find the value of b .

(2)

17. (a) Show that the binomial expansion of

$$(4 + 5x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^2 is

$$2 + \frac{5}{4}x + kx^2$$

giving the value of the constant k as a simplified fraction.

(4)

(b) (i) Use the expansion from part (a), with $x = \frac{1}{10}$, to find an approximate value for $\sqrt{2}$

Give your answer in the form $\frac{p}{q}$ where p and q are integers.

(ii) Explain why substituting $x = \frac{1}{10}$ into this binomial expansion leads to a valid approximation.

(4)

18. A sequence of numbers a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$a_1 = 3$$
$$a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n - 3}{a_n - 2}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

(a) Find $\sum_{r=1}^{100} a_r$

(3)

(b) Hence find $\sum_{r=1}^{100} a_r + \sum_{r=1}^{99} a_r$

(1)

19. There were 2100 tonnes of wheat harvested on a farm during 2017.

The mass of wheat harvested during each subsequent year is expected to increase by 1.2% per year.

- (a) Find the total mass of wheat expected to be harvested from 2017 to 2030 inclusive, giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (2)

Each year it costs

- £5.15 per tonne to harvest the first 2000 tonnes of wheat
- £6.45 per tonne to harvest wheat in excess of 2000 tonnes

- (b) Use this information to find the expected cost of harvesting the wheat from 2017 to 2030 inclusive. Give your answer to the nearest £1000 (3)

24. Show that

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n \cos(180n)^{\circ} = \frac{9}{28}$$

(3)

Question 26 continued

Lined area for writing the answer to Question 26.

(Total for Question 26 is 8 marks)

Question 27 continued

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30. (a) Use the binomial expansion, in ascending powers of x , to show that

$$\sqrt{4-x} = 2 - \frac{1}{4}x + kx^2 + \dots$$

where k is a rational constant to be found.

(4)

A student attempts to substitute $x = 1$ into both sides of this equation to find an approximate value for $\sqrt{3}$.

(b) State, giving a reason, if the expansion is valid for this value of x .

(1)

31. In a geometric series the common ratio is r and sum to n terms is S_n

Given

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{8}{7} \times S_6$$

show that $r = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$, where k is an integer to be found.

(4)

(Total for Question 31 is 4 marks)

32. Each year, Andy pays into a savings scheme. In year one he pays in £600. His payments increase by £120 each year so that he pays £720 in year two, £840 in year three and so on, so that his payments form an arithmetic sequence.

(a) Find out how much Andy pays into the savings scheme in year ten. **(2)**

Kim starts paying money into a different savings scheme at the same time as Andy. In year one she pays in £130. Her payments increase each year so that she pays £210 in year two, £290 in year three and so on, so that her payments form a different arithmetic sequence.

At the end of year N , Andy has paid, in total, twice as much money into his savings scheme as Kim has paid, in total, into her savings scheme.

(b) Find the value of N . **(5)**

33. A sequence a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$a_1 = 4$$

$$a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n}{a_n + 1}, \quad n \geq 1, n \in \mathbb{N}$$

(a) Find the values of a_2, a_3 and a_4

Write your answers as simplified fractions.

(3)

Given that

$$a_n = \frac{4}{pn + q}, \text{ where } p \text{ and } q \text{ are constants}$$

(b) state the value of p and the value of q .

(2)

(c) Hence calculate the value of N such that $a_N = \frac{4}{321}$

(2)

34. A sequence a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$a_1 = 1$$
$$a_{n+1} = \frac{k(a_n + 1)}{a_n}, \quad n \geq 1$$

where k is a positive constant.

(a) Write down expressions for a_2 and a_3 in terms of k , giving your answers in their simplest form.

(3)

Given that $\sum_{r=1}^3 a_r = 10$

(b) find an exact value for k .

(3)

35. A company, which is making 140 bicycles each week, plans to increase its production. The number of bicycles produced is to be increased by d each week, starting from 140 in week 1, to $140 + d$ in week 2, to $140 + 2d$ in week 3 and so on, until the company is producing 206 in week 12.

(a) Find the value of d . (2)

After week 12 the company plans to continue making 206 bicycles each week.

(b) Find the total number of bicycles that would be made in the first 52 weeks starting from and including week 1. (5)

36. A sequence a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$a_1 = 4,$$

$$a_{n+1} = 5 - ka_n, \quad n \geq 1$$

where k is a constant.

(a) Write down expressions for a_2 and a_3 in terms of k .

(2)

Find

(b) $\sum_{r=1}^3 (1 + a_r)$ in terms of k , giving your answer in its simplest form,

(3)

(c) $\sum_{r=1}^{100} (a_{r+1} + ka_r)$

(1)

(Total 6 marks)

37. On John's 10th birthday he received the first of an annual birthday gift of money from his uncle. This first gift was £60 and on each subsequent birthday the gift was £15 more than the year before. The amounts of these gifts form an arithmetic sequence.

(a) Show that, immediately after his 12th birthday, the total of these gifts was £225 (1)

(b) Find the amount that John received from his uncle as a birthday gift on his 18th birthday. (2)

(c) Find the total of these birthday gifts that John had received from his uncle up to and including his 21st birthday. (3)

When John had received n of these birthday gifts, the total money that he had received from these gifts was £3375

(d) Show that $n^2 + 7n = 25 \times 18$ (3)

(e) Find the value of n , when he had received £3375 in total, and so determine John's age at this time. (2)

38. (i) A sequence U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots is defined by

$$U_{n+2} = 2U_{n+1} - U_n, \quad n \geq 1$$

$$U_1 = 4 \text{ and } U_2 = 4$$

Find the value of

(a) U_3 (1)

(b) $\sum_{n=1}^{20} U_n$ (2)

(ii) Another sequence V_1, V_2, V_3, \dots is defined by

$$V_{n+2} = 2V_{n+1} - V_n, \quad n \geq 1$$

$$V_1 = k \text{ and } V_2 = 2k, \text{ where } k \text{ is a constant}$$

(a) Find V_3 and V_4 in terms of k . (2)

Given that $\sum_{n=1}^5 V_n = 165$,

(b) find the value of k . (3)

Question 38 continued

(Total 8 marks)

39. Jess started work 20 years ago. In year 1 her annual salary was £17000. Her annual salary increased by £1500 each year, so that her annual salary in year 2 was £18500, in year 3 it was £20000 and so on, forming an arithmetic sequence. This continued until she reached her maximum annual salary of £32000 in year k . Her annual salary then remained at £32000.

(a) Find the value of the constant k .

(2)

(b) Calculate the total amount that Jess has earned in the 20 years.

(5)

(Total 7 marks)

41. In the year 2000 a shop sold 150 computers. Each year the shop sold 10 more computers than the year before, so that the shop sold 160 computers in 2001, 170 computers in 2002, and so on forming an arithmetic sequence.

(a) Show that the shop sold 220 computers in 2007. **(2)**

(b) Calculate the total number of computers the shop sold from 2000 to 2013 inclusive. **(3)**

In the year 2000, the selling price of each computer was £900. The selling price fell by £20 each year, so that in 2001 the selling price was £880, in 2002 the selling price was £860, and so on forming an arithmetic sequence.

(c) In a particular year, the selling price of each computer in £s was equal to three times the number of computers the shop sold in that year. By forming and solving an equation, find the year in which this occurred. **(4)**

43. Xin has been given a 14 day training schedule by her coach.

Xin will run for A minutes on day 1, where A is a constant.

She will then increase her running time by $(d + 1)$ minutes each day, where d is a constant.

(a) Show that on day 14, Xin will run for

$$(A + 13d + 13) \text{ minutes.} \quad (2)$$

Yi has also been given a 14 day training schedule by her coach.

Yi will run for $(A - 13)$ minutes on day 1.

She will then increase her running time by $(2d - 1)$ minutes each day.

Given that Yi and Xin will run for the same length of time on day 14,

(b) find the value of d . (3)

Given that Xin runs for a total time of 784 minutes over the 14 days,

(c) find the value of A . (3)

44. A sequence a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= 4 \\ a_{n+1} &= k(a_n + 2), \quad \text{for } n \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

where k is a constant.

(a) Find an expression for a_2 in terms of k .

(1)

Given that $\sum_{i=1}^3 a_i = 2$,

(b) find the two possible values of k .

(6)

(Total 7 marks)

45. A company, which is making 200 mobile phones each week, plans to increase its production.

The number of mobile phones produced is to be increased by 20 each week from 200 in week 1 to 220 in week 2, to 240 in week 3 and so on, until it is producing 600 in week N .

(a) Find the value of N . (2)

The company then plans to continue to make 600 mobile phones each week.

(b) Find the total number of mobile phones that will be made in the first 52 weeks starting from and including week 1. (5)

(Total 7 marks)

46. A sequence $x_1, x_2, x_3 \dots$ is defined by

$$x_1 = 1$$

$$x_{n+1} = (x_n)^2 - kx_n, \quad n \geq 1$$

where k is a constant, $k \neq 0$

(a) Find an expression for x_2 in terms of k .

(1)

(b) Show that $x_3 = 1 - 3k + 2k^2$

(2)

Given also that $x_3 = 1$,

(c) calculate the value of k .

(3)

(d) Hence find the value of $\sum_{n=1}^{100} x_n$

(3)

48. A sequence u_1, u_2, u_3, \dots satisfies

$$u_{n+1} = 2u_n - 1, \quad n \geq 1$$

Given that $u_2 = 9$,

(a) find the value of u_3 and the value of u_4 , (2)

(b) evaluate $\sum_{r=1}^4 u_r$. (3)

(Total 5 marks)

49. Lewis played a game of space invaders. He scored points for each spaceship that he captured.

Lewis scored 140 points for capturing his first spaceship.

He scored 160 points for capturing his second spaceship, 180 points for capturing his third spaceship, and so on.

The number of points scored for capturing each successive spaceship formed an arithmetic sequence.

(a) Find the number of points that Lewis scored for capturing his 20th spaceship. **(2)**

(b) Find the total number of points Lewis scored for capturing his first 20 spaceships. **(3)**

Sian played an adventure game. She scored points for each dragon that she captured. The number of points that Sian scored for capturing each successive dragon formed an arithmetic sequence.

Sian captured n dragons and the total number of points that she scored for capturing all n dragons was 8500.

Given that Sian scored 300 points for capturing her first dragon and then 700 points for capturing her n th dragon,

(c) find the value of n . **(3)**

50. A sequence of numbers $a_1, a_2, a_3 \dots$ is defined by

$$a_1 = 3$$
$$a_{n+1} = 2a_n - c \quad (n \geq 1)$$

where c is a constant.

(a) Write down an expression, in terms of c , for a_2 **(1)**

(b) Show that $a_3 = 12 - 3c$ **(2)**

Given that $\sum_{i=1}^4 a_i \geq 23$

(c) find the range of values of c . **(4)**

(Total 7 marks)

51. A boy saves some money over a period of 60 weeks. He saves 10p in week 1, 15p in week 2, 20p in week 3 and so on until week 60. His weekly savings form an arithmetic sequence.

- (a) Find how much he saves in week 15 **(2)**

- (b) Calculate the total amount he saves over the 60 week period. **(3)**

The boy's sister also saves some money each week over a period of m weeks. She saves 10p in week 1, 20p in week 2, 30p in week 3 and so on so that her weekly savings form an arithmetic sequence. She saves a total of £63 in the m weeks.

(c) Show that

$$m(m + 1) = 35 \times 36 \tag{4}$$

(d) Hence write down the value of m . **(1)**

52. A sequence x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 1 \\ x_{n+1} &= ax_n + 5, \quad n \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

where a is a constant.

(a) Write down an expression for x_2 in terms of a . **(1)**

(b) Show that $x_3 = a^2 + 5a + 5$ **(2)**

Given that $x_3 = 41$

(c) find the possible values of a . **(3)**

(Total 6 marks)

53. A company offers two salary schemes for a 10-year period, Year 1 to Year 10 inclusive.

Scheme 1: Salary in Year 1 is $£P$.
Salary increases by $£(2T)$ each year, forming an arithmetic sequence.

Scheme 2: Salary in Year 1 is $£(P + 1800)$.
Salary increases by $£T$ each year, forming an arithmetic sequence.

(a) Show that the **total** earned under Salary Scheme 1 for the 10-year period is

$$£(10P + 90T) \quad (2)$$

For the 10-year period, the **total** earned is the same for both salary schemes.

(b) Find the value of T . (4)

For this value of T , the salary in Year 10 under Salary Scheme 2 is £29 850

(c) Find the value of P . (3)

54. A sequence a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$a_1 = k,$$

$$a_{n+1} = 5a_n + 3, \quad n \geq 1,$$

where k is a positive integer.

(a) Write down an expression for a_2 in terms of k .

(1)

(b) Show that $a_3 = 25k + 18$.

(2)

(c) (i) Find $\sum_{r=1}^4 a_r$ in terms of k , in its simplest form.

(ii) Show that $\sum_{r=1}^4 a_r$ is divisible by 6.

(4)

(Total 7 marks)

55. (a) Calculate the sum of all the even numbers from 2 to 100 inclusive,

$$2 + 4 + 6 + \dots + 100$$

(3)

(b) In the arithmetic series

$$k + 2k + 3k + \dots + 100$$

k is a positive integer and k is a factor of 100.

(i) Find, in terms of k , an expression for the number of terms in this series.

(ii) Show that the sum of this series is

$$50 + \frac{5000}{k}$$

(4)

(c) Find, in terms of k , the 50th term of the arithmetic sequence

$$(2k + 1), (4k + 4), (6k + 7), \dots,$$

giving your answer in its simplest form.

(2)

56. A sequence a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is defined by

$$a_1 = 2$$

$$a_{n+1} = 3a_n - c$$

where c is a constant.

(a) Find an expression for a_2 in terms of c .

(1)

Given that $\sum_{i=1}^3 a_i = 0$

(b) find the value of c .

(4)

(Total 5 marks)

57. An arithmetic sequence has first term a and common difference d . The sum of the first 10 terms of the sequence is 162.

(a) Show that $10a + 45d = 162$ **(2)**

Given also that the sixth term of the sequence is 17,

(b) write down a second equation in a and d , **(1)**

(c) find the value of a and the value of d . **(4)**

(Total 7 marks)

59. A farmer has a pay scheme to keep fruit pickers working throughout the 30 day season. He pays $\pounds a$ for their first day, $\pounds(a + d)$ for their second day, $\pounds(a + 2d)$ for their third day, and so on, thus increasing the daily payment by $\pounds d$ for each extra day they work.

A picker who works for all 30 days will earn $\pounds 40.75$ on the final day.

(a) Use this information to form an equation in a and d . (2)

A picker who works for all 30 days will earn a total of $\pounds 1005$

(b) Show that $15(a + 40.75) = 1005$ (2)

(c) Hence find the value of a and the value of d . (4)

(Total 8 marks)

60. Jill gave money to a charity over a 20-year period, from Year 1 to Year 20 inclusive. She gave £150 in Year 1, £160 in Year 2, £170 in Year 3, and so on, so that the amounts of money she gave each year formed an arithmetic sequence.

(a) Find the amount of money she gave in Year 10. (2)

(b) Calculate the total amount of money she gave over the 20-year period. (3)

Kevin also gave money to the charity over the same 20-year period.

He gave £A in Year 1 and the amounts of money he gave each year increased, forming an arithmetic sequence with common difference £30.

The total amount of money that Kevin gave over the 20-year period was **twice** the total amount of money that Jill gave.

(c) Calculate the value of A. (4)

64. A sequence x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots is defined by

$$x_1 = 1,$$

$$x_{n+1} = ax_n - 3, \quad n \geq 1,$$

where a is a constant.

(a) Find an expression for x_2 in terms of a . (1)

(b) Show that $x_3 = a^2 - 3a - 3$. (2)

Given that $x_3 = 7$,

(c) find the possible values of a . (3)

(Total 6 marks)

65. Sue is training for a marathon. Her training includes a run every Saturday starting with a run of 5 km on the first Saturday. Each Saturday she increases the length of her run from the previous Saturday by 2 km.

(a) Show that on the 4th Saturday of training she runs 11 km. (1)

(b) Find an expression, in terms of n , for the length of her training run on the n th Saturday. (2)

(c) Show that the total distance she runs on Saturdays in n weeks of training is $n(n + 4)$ km. (3)

On the n th Saturday Sue runs 43 km.

(d) Find the value of n . (2)

(e) Find the total distance, in km, Sue runs on Saturdays in n weeks of training. (2)

66. A sequence is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 1, \\ x_{n+1} &= x_n(p + x_n), \end{aligned}$$

where p is a constant ($p \neq 0$).

(a) Find x_2 in terms of p . **(1)**

(b) Show that $x_3 = 1 + 3p + 2p^2$. **(2)**

Given that $x_3 = 1$,

(c) find the value of p , **(3)**

(d) write down the value of x_{2008} . **(2)**

67. The first term of an arithmetic sequence is 30 and the common difference is -1.5

(a) Find the value of the 25th term. (2)

The r th term of the sequence is 0.

(b) Find the value of r . (2)

The sum of the first n terms of the sequence is S_n .

(c) Find the largest positive value of S_n . (3)

Question 67 continued

Lined area for writing answers.

(Total 7 marks)

69. A geometric series with common ratio $r = -0.9$ has sum to infinity 10 000

For this series,

(a) find the first term, **(2)**

(b) find the fifth term, **(2)**

(c) find the sum of the first twelve terms, giving this answer to the nearest integer. **(3)**

Question 69 continued

Handwritten notes:

$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{10} = \frac{1}{1024}$
 $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{10} = \frac{1}{1024} = \frac{1}{2^{10}}$
 $\frac{1}{2^{10}} = \frac{1}{2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2}$
 $\frac{1}{2^{10}} = \frac{1}{2^2 \times 2^2 \times 2^2 \times 2^2 \times 2^2}$
 $\frac{1}{2^{10}} = \frac{1}{4 \times 4 \times 4 \times 4 \times 4}$
 $\frac{1}{2^{10}} = \frac{1}{4^5}$

(Total 7 marks)

71. The first three terms of a geometric sequence are

$$7k - 5, 5k - 7, 2k + 10$$

where k is a constant.

(a) Show that $11k^2 - 130k + 99 = 0$

(4)

Given that k is not an integer,

(b) show that $k = \frac{9}{11}$

(2)

For this value of k ,

(c) (i) evaluate the fourth term of the sequence, giving your answer as an exact fraction,

(ii) evaluate the sum of the first ten terms of the sequence.

(6)

75. (i) All the terms of a geometric series are positive. The sum of the first two terms is 34 and the sum to infinity is 162

Find

(a) the common ratio, (4)

(b) the first term. (2)

(ii) A different geometric series has a first term of 42 and a common ratio of $\frac{6}{7}$.

Find the smallest value of n for which the sum of the first n terms of the series exceeds 290 (4)

Question 75 continued

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

(Total 10 marks)

76. (a) Find the first 3 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of

$$(2 - 3x)^6$$

giving each term in its simplest form.

(4)

(b) Hence, or otherwise, find the first 3 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the expansion of

$$\left(1 + \frac{x}{2}\right)(2 - 3x)^6$$

(3)

77. The first term of a geometric series is 20 and the common ratio is $\frac{7}{8}$

The sum to infinity of the series is S_∞

(a) Find the value of S_∞

(2)

The sum to N terms of the series is S_N

(b) Find, to 1 decimal place, the value of S_{12}

(2)

(c) Find the smallest value of N , for which

$$S_\infty - S_N < 0.5$$

(4)

78. Find the first 4 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of

$$\left(1 + \frac{3x}{2}\right)^8$$

giving each term in its simplest form.

(4)

(Total 4 marks)

79. A geometric series has first term a , where $a \neq 0$, and common ratio r .
The sum to infinity of this series is 6 times the first term of the series.

- (a) Show that $r = \frac{5}{6}$ (2)

Given that the fourth term of this series is 62.5

- (b) find the value of a , (2)

- (c) find the difference between the sum to infinity and the sum of the first 30 terms,
giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (4)

80. The first three terms of a geometric series are

18, 12 and p

respectively, where p is a constant.

Find

(a) the value of the common ratio of the series, (1)

(b) the value of p , (1)

(c) the sum of the first 15 terms of the series, giving your answer to 3 decimal places. (2)

(Total 4 marks)

81. (a) Use the binomial theorem to find all the terms of the expansion of

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

Give each term in its simplest form.

(4)

(b) Write down the expansion of

$$(2 - 3x)^4$$

in ascending powers of x , giving each term in its simplest form.

(1)

(Total 5 marks)

82. Find the first 4 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of

$$\left(2 - \frac{1}{2}x\right)^8$$

giving each term in its simplest form.

(4)

(Total 4 marks)

87. A geometric series is $a + ar + ar^2 + \dots$

(a) Prove that the sum of the first n terms of this series is given by

$$S_n = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r} \quad (4)$$

The third and fifth terms of a geometric series are 5.4 and 1.944 respectively and all the terms in the series are positive.

For this series find,

(b) the common ratio, **(2)**

(c) the first term, **(2)**

(d) the sum to infinity. **(3)**

Question 87 continued

(Total 11 marks)

88. A geometric series has first term $a = 360$ and common ratio $r = \frac{7}{8}$

Giving your answers to 3 significant figures where appropriate, find

(a) the 20th term of the series, (2)

(b) the sum of the first 20 terms of the series, (2)

(c) the sum to infinity of the series. (2)

(Total 6 marks)

89. (a) Find the first 4 terms of the binomial expansion, in ascending powers of x , of

$$\left(1 + \frac{x}{4}\right)^8$$

giving each term in its simplest form.

(4)

(b) Use your expansion to estimate the value of $(1.025)^8$, giving your answer to 4 decimal places.

(3)

(Total 7 marks)

92. The second and fifth terms of a geometric series are 750 and -6 respectively.

Find

(a) the common ratio of the series,

(3)

(b) the first term of the series,

(2)

(c) the sum to infinity of the series.

(2)

(Total 7 marks)

94.(a) Find the first 4 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of $(1+ax)^7$, where a is a constant. Give each term in its simplest form.

(4)

Given that the coefficient of x^2 in this expansion is 525,

(b) find the possible values of a .

(2)

(Total 6 marks)

95. A car was purchased for £18 000 on 1st January.
On 1st January each following year, the value of the car is 80% of its value on 1st January in the previous year.

(a) Show that the value of the car exactly 3 years after it was purchased is £9216. (1)

The value of the car falls below £1000 for the first time n years after it was purchased.

(b) Find the value of n . (3)

An insurance company has a scheme to cover the maintenance of the car.
The cost is £200 for the first year, and for every following year the cost increases by 12% so that for the 3rd year the cost of the scheme is £250.88

(c) Find the cost of the scheme for the 5th year, giving your answer to the nearest penny. (2)

(d) Find the total cost of the insurance scheme for the first 15 years. (3)

97. The third term of a geometric sequence is 324 and the sixth term is 96

(a) Show that the common ratio of the sequence is $\frac{2}{3}$ (2)

(b) Find the first term of the sequence. (2)

(c) Find the sum of the first 15 terms of the sequence. (3)

(d) Find the sum to infinity of the sequence. (2)

Question 97 continued

Lined area for student response.

(Total 9 marks)

100. (a) Find the first 4 terms, in ascending powers of x , of the binomial expansion of $(1 + ax)^{10}$, where a is a non-zero constant. Give each term in its simplest form. **(4)**

Given that, in this expansion, the coefficient of x^3 is double the coefficient of x^2 ,

(b) find the value of a . **(2)**

(Total 6 marks)

102. The fourth term of a geometric series is 10 and the seventh term of the series is 80.

For this series, find

- (a) the common ratio, (2)

- (b) the first term, (2)

- (c) the sum of the first 20 terms, giving your answer to the nearest whole number. (2)

(Total 6 marks)

107. (a) Find the binomial expansion of

$$(4 + 5x)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad |x| < \frac{4}{5}$$

in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^2 .
Give each coefficient in its simplest form.

(5)

(b) Find the exact value of $(4 + 5x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ when $x = \frac{1}{10}$

Give your answer in the form $k\sqrt{2}$, where k is a constant to be determined.

(1)

(c) Substitute $x = \frac{1}{10}$ into your binomial expansion from part (a) and hence find an
approximate value for $\sqrt{2}$

Give your answer in the form $\frac{p}{q}$ where p and q are integers.

(2)

(Total 8 marks)

109. (a) Find the binomial expansion of

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{9 - 10x}}, \quad |x| < \frac{9}{10}$$

in ascending powers of x up to and including the term in x^2 .
Give each coefficient as a simplified fraction.

(5)

(b) Hence, or otherwise, find the expansion of

$$\frac{3 + x}{\sqrt{9 - 10x}}, \quad |x| < \frac{9}{10}$$

in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^2 .
Give each coefficient as a simplified fraction.

(3)

(Total 8 marks)

110. (a) Use the binomial expansion to show that

$$\sqrt{\left(\frac{1+x}{1-x}\right)} \approx 1 + x + \frac{1}{2}x^2, \quad |x| < 1 \quad (6)$$

(b) Substitute $x = \frac{1}{26}$ into

$$\sqrt{\left(\frac{1+x}{1-x}\right)} = 1 + x + \frac{1}{2}x^2$$

to obtain an approximation to $\sqrt{3}$

Give your answer in the form $\frac{a}{b}$ where a and b are integers.

(3)

(Total 9 marks)

111. (a) Find the binomial expansion of

$$\sqrt[3]{(8 - 9x)}, \quad |x| < \frac{8}{9}$$

in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^3 . Give each coefficient as a simplified fraction.

(6)

(b) Use your expansion to estimate an approximate value for $\sqrt[3]{7100}$, giving your answer to 4 decimal places. State the value of x , which you use in your expansion, and show all your working.

(3)

(Total 9 marks)

114. $f(x) = \frac{6}{\sqrt{9 - 4x}}, \quad |x| < \frac{9}{4}$

- (a) Find the binomial expansion of $f(x)$ in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^3 . Give each coefficient in its simplest form. **(6)**

Use your answer to part (a) to find the binomial expansion in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^3 , of

(b) $g(x) = \frac{6}{\sqrt{9 + 4x}}, \quad |x| < \frac{9}{4}$ **(1)**

(c) $h(x) = \frac{6}{\sqrt{9 - 8x}}, \quad |x| < \frac{9}{8}$ **(2)**

115. (a) Expand

$$\frac{1}{(2-5x)^2}, \quad |x| < \frac{2}{5}$$

in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^2 , giving each term as a simplified fraction.

(5)

Given that the binomial expansion of $\frac{2+kx}{(2-5x)^2}$, $|x| < \frac{2}{5}$, is

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{4}x + Ax^2 + \dots$$

(b) find the value of the constant k ,

(2)

(c) find the value of the constant A .

(2)

117. (a) Use the binomial theorem to expand

$$(2-3x)^{-2}, \quad |x| < \frac{2}{3},$$

in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^3 . Give each coefficient as a simplified fraction.

(5)

$$f(x) = \frac{a+bx}{(2-3x)^2}, \quad |x| < \frac{2}{3}, \quad \text{where } a \text{ and } b \text{ are constants.}$$

In the binomial expansion of $f(x)$, in ascending powers of x , the coefficient of x is 0 and the coefficient of x^2 is $\frac{9}{16}$. Find

(b) the value of a and the value of b ,

(5)

(c) the coefficient of x^3 , giving your answer as a simplified fraction.

(3)

118.
$$\frac{2x^2 + 5x - 10}{(x-1)(x+2)} \equiv A + \frac{B}{x-1} + \frac{C}{x+2}$$

(a) Find the values of the constants A , B and C . **(4)**

(b) Hence, or otherwise, expand $\frac{2x^2 + 5x - 10}{(x-1)(x+2)}$ in ascending powers of x , as far as the term in x^2 . Give each coefficient as a simplified fraction. **(7)**

(Total 11 marks)

119. (a) Find the binomial expansion of

$$\sqrt{1-8x}, \quad |x| < \frac{1}{8},$$

in ascending powers of x up to and including the term in x^3 , simplifying each term.

(4)

(b) Show that, when $x = \frac{1}{100}$, the exact value of $\sqrt{1-8x}$ is $\frac{\sqrt{23}}{5}$.

(2)

(c) Substitute $x = \frac{1}{100}$ into the binomial expansion in part (a) and hence obtain an approximation to $\sqrt{23}$. Give your answer to 5 decimal places.

(3)

(Total 9 marks)

121.

$$f(x) = \frac{27x^2 + 32x + 16}{(3x + 2)^2(1 - x)}, \quad |x| < \frac{2}{3}$$

Given that $f(x)$ can be expressed in the form

$$f(x) = \frac{A}{(3x + 2)} + \frac{B}{(3x + 2)^2} + \frac{C}{(1 - x)},$$

- (a) find the values of B and C and show that $A = 0$. (4)
- (b) Hence, or otherwise, find the series expansion of $f(x)$, in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^2 . Simplify each term. (6)
- (c) Find the percentage error made in using the series expansion in part (b) to estimate the value of $f(0.2)$. Give your answer to 2 significant figures. (4)

122. (a) Expand $\frac{1}{\sqrt{4-3x}}$, where $|x| < \frac{4}{3}$, in ascending powers of x up to and including the term in x^2 . Simplify each term.

(5)

(b) Hence, or otherwise, find the first 3 terms in the expansion of $\frac{x+8}{\sqrt{4-3x}}$ as a series in ascending powers of x .

(4)

(Total 9 marks)

123. (a) Use the binomial theorem to expand

$$(8 - 3x)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \quad |x| < \frac{8}{3},$$

in ascending powers of x , up to and including the term in x^3 , giving each term as a simplified fraction.

(5)

(b) Use your expansion, with a suitable value of x , to obtain an approximation to $\sqrt[3]{(7.7)}$. Give your answer to 7 decimal places.

(2)

(Total 7 marks)