

Group solutions involving polynomials and functions

1. a. $(x+6)(x-3) = x^2 + 3x - 18$

b. $(x-2)^2 = (x-2)(x-2)$
 $= x^2 - 4x + 4$

c. $x(-x+5) = -x^2 + 5x$

2. a. $f(x) = (x+6)(x-3)$

$$f(2) = (2+6)(2-3)$$
$$= (8)(-1)$$
$$= -8$$

b. $g(x) = (x-2)^2$

$$g(2) = (2-2)^2$$
$$= 0^2$$
$$= 0$$

c. $h(x) = x(-x+5)$

$$h(2) = 2(-2+5)$$
$$= 2(3)$$
$$= 6$$

3. a. $f(x) = x^2 + 3x - 18$

$$f(2) = 2^2 + 3(2) - 18$$
$$= 4 + 6 - 18$$
$$= -8$$

b. $g(x) = x^2 - 4x + 4$

$$g(2) = 2^2 - 4(2) + 4$$
$$= 4 - 8 + 4$$
$$= 0$$

c. $h(x) = -x^2 + 5x$

$$h(2) = -2^2 + 5(2)$$
$$= -4 + 10$$
$$= 6$$

4. a. The formulas used in part (a) were
- $(x+6)(x-3)$
- and
- $x^2 + 3x - 18$
- . In question 1 we showed that these formulas are equivalent, so it was inevitable that they would return the same value at 2 while working problems 2 and 3.

The formulas used in part (b) were $(x-2)^2$ and $x^2 - 4x + 4$. In question 1 we showed that these formulas are equivalent, so it was inevitable that they would return the same value at 2 while working problems 2 and 3.

The formulas used in part (c) were $x(-x+5)$ and $-x^2 + 5x$. In question 1 we showed that these formulas are equivalent, so it was inevitable that they would return the same value at 2 while working problems 2 and 3.

- b. Since the formulas
- $x(-x+5)$
- and
- $-x^2 + 5x$
- , they have to return the same value when
- x
- is replaced by 2. Likewise, they have to return the same value when
- x
- is replaced by, say, 5.

When $x=5$, the formula $x(-x+5)$ clearly has a value of 0, so the formula $-x^2 + 5x$ must also have a value of 0. The only way that $-5^2 + 5^2$ has a value of 0 is if $-5^2 = -25$; ergo, it has to be the case that -5^2 does indeed equal -25 .

Similarly, when working problem 3 (c) the value -2^2 has to be -4 or else the formulas $x(-x+5)$ and $-x^2 + 5x$ would not both evaluate to 6 when $x=2$.

5. a. $w(-4) = 3 - 8(-4)$
 $= 3 + 32$
 $= 35$

b. $w(x) = -4$
 $3 - 8x = -4$
 $-8x = -7$
 $x = \frac{7}{8}$
 The solution is $\frac{7}{8}$.

Check

$$\begin{aligned} w\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) &= 3 - \cancel{8}\left(\frac{\cancel{7}}{\cancel{8}}\right) \\ &= 3 - 7 \\ &= -4 \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

c. $w(0) = 3 - 8(0)$
 $= 3$

d. $w(x) = 0$
 $3 - 8x = 0$
 $-8x = -3$
 $x = \frac{3}{8}$
 The solution is $\frac{3}{8}$.

Check

$$\begin{aligned} w\left(\frac{3}{8}\right) &= 3 - \cancel{8}\left(\frac{\cancel{3}}{\cancel{8}}\right) \\ &= 3 - 3 \\ &= 0 \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

6. a. $k(5) = 1$

b. $x = 8$ because $k(8) = 5$. The solution is 8.

7. a. $(w-6)(w^2+3w-1) = w^3+3w^2-w-6w^2-18w+6$
 $= w^3-3w^2-19w+6$

b. $(x^2+1)(2x^3+4x^2-3x-2) = 2x^5+4x^4-3x^3-2x^2+2x^3+4x^2-3x-2$
 $= 2x^5+4x^4-x^3+2x^2-3x-2$

c. $(x^2-4x-2)(2x^2-4x+4) = 2x^4-4x^3+4x^2-8x^3+16x^2-16x-4x^2+8x-8$
 $= 2x^4-12x^3+16x^2-8x-8$

d. $(y-2)(y^2+2y+4) = y^3+2y^2+4y-2y^2-4y-8$
 $= y^3-8$

e. $(x+6)^2-(x+5) = (x+6)(x+6)-(x+5)$
 $= x^2+12x+36-x-5$
 $= x^2+11x+31$

f. $x(x-4)-(x-2)(x+3) = x^2-4x-(x^2+x-6)$
 $= x^2-4x-x^2-x+6$
 $= -5x+6$