

## 2. The Binomial Theorem

(1992-CE-A MATH 2 #02) (5 marks)

2. In the expansion of  $(1 + 3x)^2(1 + x)^n$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer, the coefficient of  $x$  is 10 .

(a) Find the value of  $n$  .

(b) Find the coefficient of  $x^2$  .

(1994-CE-A MATH 2 #03) (5 marks)

3. (a) Expand  $(1 - 2x)^3$  and  $\left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^5$  .

(b) Find, in the expansion of  $(1 - 2x)^3\left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^5$ ,

(1) the constant term, and

(2) the coefficient of  $x$  .

(1995-CE-A MATH 2 #04) (6 marks)

4. Given  $\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^5 - \left(x^2 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^5 = ax^7 + bx + \frac{c}{x^5}$ , find the values of  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  .

Hence evaluate  $\left(2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^5 - \left(2 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^5$  .

(1997-CE-A MATH 2 #08) (7 marks)

8. Expand  $(1 + x)^n(1 - 2x)^4$  in ascending powers of  $x$  up to the term  $x^2$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer.

If the coefficient of  $x^2$  is 54, find the coefficient of  $x$  .

(1998-CE-A MATH 2 #01) (4 marks)

1. Find the coefficient of  $x^2$  in the expansion of  $\left(x - \frac{2}{x}\right)^6$  .

(1999-CE-A MATH 2 #07) (6 marks)

7. (a) Expand  $(1 + 2x)^n$  in ascending powers of  $x$  up to the term  $x^3$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer.

(b) In the expansion of  $\left(x - \frac{3}{x}\right)^2(1 + 2x)^n$ , the constant term is 210 . Find the value of  $n$  .

(2000-CE-A MATH 2 #02) (5 marks)

2. Expand  $(1 + 2x)^7(2 - x)^2$  in ascending powers of  $x$  up to the term  $x^2$  .

(2001-CE-A MATH #04) (4 marks)

4. Find the constant term in the expansion of  $\left(2x^3 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^8$ .

(2002-CE-A MATH #01) (4 marks)

1. If  $n$  is a positive integer and the coefficient of  $x^2$  in the expansion of  $(1+x)^n + (1+2x)^n$  is 75, find the value(s) of  $n$ .

(2003-CE-A MATH #12) (6 marks)

12. Determine whether the expansion of  $\left(2x^2 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^9$  consists of

- (a) a constant term,
- (b) an  $x^2$  term.

In each part, find the term if it exists.

(2004-CE-A MATH #02) (4 marks)

2. (a) Expand  $(1+2x)^6$  in ascending powers of  $x$  up to the term  $x^3$ .
- (b) Find the constant term in the expansion of  $\left(1 - \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)(1+2x)^6$ .

(2005-CE-A MATH #02) (4 marks)

2. (a) Expand  $(1+y)^5$ .
- (b) Using (a), or otherwise, expand  $(1+x+2x^2)^5$  in ascending powers of  $x$  up to the term  $x^2$ .

(2008-CE-A MATH #02) (4 marks)

2. (a) Expand  $\left(2x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^3$ .
- (b) Find the coefficient of  $x$  in the expansion of  $(3x^2 - x - 5)\left(2x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^3$ .

(2009-CE-A MATH #11) (6 marks)

11. In the expansion of the binomial  $\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^{20}$ , find
- (a) the coefficient of  $x^{16}$ ,
  - (b) the constant term.

Past Papers Questions

(2010-CE-A MATH #05) (5 marks)

5. The sum of the coefficients of  $x$  and  $x^2$  in the expansion of  $(1 + 4x)^n$  is 180, where  $n$  is a positive integer. Find the value of  $n$  and the coefficient of  $x^3$ .

(PP-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01) (4 marks)

1. Find the coefficient of  $x^5$  in the expansion of  $(2 - x)^9$ .

(2012-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02) (5 marks)

2. It is given that

$$(1 + ax)^n = 1 + 6x + 16x^2 + \text{terms involving higher powers of } x,$$

where  $n$  is a positive integer and  $a$  is a constant. Find the values of  $a$  and  $n$ .

(2013-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02) (4 marks)

2. Suppose the coefficients of  $x$  and  $x^2$  in the expansion of  $(1 + ax)^n$  are  $-20$  and  $180$  respectively. Find the values of  $a$  and  $n$ .

(2014-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01) (4 marks)

1. In the expansion of  $(1 - 4x)^2(1 + x)^n$ , the coefficient of  $x$  is 1.

(a) Find the value of  $n$ .

(b) Find the coefficient of  $x^2$ .

(2016-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01) (5 marks)

1. Expand  $(5 + x)^4$ . Hence, find the constant term in the expansion of  $(5 + x)^4 \left(1 - \frac{2}{x}\right)^3$ .

(2017-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02) (5 marks)

2. Let  $(1 + ax)^8 = \sum_{k=0}^8 \lambda_k x^k$  and  $(b + x)^9 = \sum_{k=0}^9 \mu_k x^k$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants. It is given that  $\lambda_2 : \mu_7 = 7 : 4$  and  $\lambda_1 + \mu_8 + 6 = 0$ . Find  $a$ .

(2018-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02) (5 marks)

2. Expand  $(x + 3)^5$ . Hence, find the coefficient of  $x^3$  in the expansion of  $(x + 3)^5 \left(x - \frac{4}{x}\right)^2$ .

(2020-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01) (4 marks)

1. (a) Expand  $(1 - x)^4$ .

(b) Find the constant  $k$  such that the coefficient of  $x^2$  in the expansion of  $(1 + kx)^9(1 - x)^4$  is  $-3$ .

(2021-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #03) (6 marks)

1. The coefficient of  $x^2$  in the expansion of  $(1 - 4x)^n$  is 240, where  $n$  is a positive integer. Find

(a)  $n$ ,

(b) the coefficient of  $x^4$  in the expansion of  $(1 - 4x)^n \left(1 + \frac{2}{x}\right)^5$ .

**ANSWERS**

(1992-CE-A MATH 2 #02)

2. (a)  $n = 4$   
 (b) 39

(1994-CE-A MATH 2 #03)

3. (a)  $(1 - 2x)^3 = 1 - 6x + 12x^2 - 8x^3$   
 $\left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^5 = 1 + \frac{5}{x} + \frac{10}{x^2} + \frac{10}{x^3} + \frac{5}{x^4} + \frac{1}{x^5}$   
 (b) (1) 11  
 (2) -26

(1995-CE-A MATH 2 #04)

4.  $a = 10$ ,  $b = 20$ ,  $c = 2$   
 $\left(2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^5 - \left(2 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^5 = \frac{401\sqrt{2}}{4}$

(1997-CE-A MATH 2 #08)

8.  $(1 + x)^n(1 - 2x)^4$   
 $= 1 + (n - 8)x + \left[\frac{n(n - 1)}{2} - 8n + 24\right]x^2 + \dots$   
 Coefficient of  $x = 12$

(1998-CE-A MATH 2 #01)

1. 60

(1999-CE-A MATH 2 #07)

7. (a)  $(1 + 2x)^n$   
 $= 1 + 2nx + 2n(n - 1)x^2 + \frac{4}{3}n(n - 1)(n - 2)x^3 + \dots$   
 (b)  $n = 4$

(2000-CE-A MATH 2 #02)

2.  $4 + 52x + 281x^2 + \dots$

(2001-CE-A MATH #04)

4. 112

(2002-CE-A MATH #01)

1.  $n = 6$

(2003-CE-A MATH #12)

12. (a) 672  
 (b) There is no  $x^2$  term

(2004-CE-A MATH #02)

2. (a)  $(1 + 2x)^6$   
 $= 1 + 12x + 60x^2 + 160x^3 + \dots$   
 (b) 49

(2005-CE-A MATH #02)

2. (a)  $(1 + y)^5$   
 $= 1 + 5y + 10y^2 + 10y^3 + 5y^4 + y^5$   
 (b)  $(1 + x + 2x^2)^5$   
 $= 1 + 5x + 20x^2 + \dots$

(2008-CE-A MATH #02)

2. (a)  $\left(2x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 = 8x^3 + 12x + \frac{6}{x} + \frac{1}{x^3}$   
 (b) -42

(2009-CE-A MATH #11)

11. (a) 125 970  
 (b) There is no constant term

(2010-CE-A MATH #05)

5.  $n = 5$ , the coefficient of  $x^3 = 640$

(PP-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01)

1. -2016

(2012-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02)

2.  $n = 9$ ,  $a = \frac{2}{3}$

(2013-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02)

2.  $n = 10$ ,  $a = -2$

(2014-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01)

1. (a)  $n = 9$   
 (b) -20

**Past Papers Questions**

(2016-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01)

1.  $(5 + x)^4 = 625 + 500x + 150x^2 + 20x^3 + x^4$   
Constant term =  $-735$

(2017-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02)

2.  $a = -3$  or  $\frac{-3}{7}$

(2018-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #02)

2.  $(x + 3)^5$   
 $= x^5 + 15x^4 + 90x^3 + 270x^2 + 405x + 243$   
Coefficient of  $x^3 = -299$

(2020-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #01)

1. (a)  $1 - 4x + 6x^2 - 4x^3 + x^4$   
(b)  $\frac{1}{2}$

(2021-DSE-MATH-EP(M2) #03)

3. (a) 6  
(b) 106 240

**OUT-OF-SYLLABUS**

(1991-CE-A MATH 2 #01) (5 marks)

1. Given that  $(1 + x + ax^2)^8 = 1 + 8x + k_1x^2 + k_2x^3 + \dots$  terms involving higher powers of  $x$ .

(a) Express  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  in terms of  $a$ .

(b) If  $k_1 = 4$ , find the value of  $a$ .

Hence find the value of  $k_2$ .

(1993-CE-A MATH 2 #03) (6 marks)

3. Given  $(1 + 4x + x^2)^n = 1 + ax + bx^2 + \dots$  other terms involving higher powers of  $x$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer.

(a) Express  $a$  and  $b$  in terms of  $n$ .

(b) If  $a = 20$ , find  $n$  and  $b$ .

(1996-CE-A MATH 2 #02) (6 marks)

2. It is given that  $(1 + x + ax^2)^6 = 1 + 6x + k_1x^2 + k_2x^3 + \dots$  terms involving higher powers of  $x$ .

(a) Express  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  in terms of  $a$ .

(b) If  $6$ ,  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  form an arithmetic sequence, find the value of  $a$ .

(2006-CE-A MATH #03) (5 marks)

3. It is given that

$(1 - 2x + 3x^2)^n = 1 - 10x + kx^2 + \dots$  terms involving higher powers of  $x$ ,  
where  $n$  is a positive integer and  $k$  is a constant. Find the values of  $n$  and  $k$ .

(2007-CE-A MATH #12) (6 marks)

12. If the coefficient of  $x^2$  in the expansion of  $(1 - 2x + x^2)^n$  is  $66$ , find the value of  $n$  and the coefficient of  $x^3$ .

(2011-CE-A MATH #01) (5 marks)

1. It is given that  $(1 + x + kx^2)^3 = 1 + ax + bx^2 + \dots$  terms involving higher powers of  $x$ .

(a) Express  $b$  in terms of  $k$ .

(b) If  $1$ ,  $a$ ,  $b$  form a geometric sequence, find the value of  $k$ .

(1991-CE-A MATH 2 #01) (5 marks)

1. (a)  $k_1 = 8a + 28$ ,  $k_2 = 56a + 56$

(b)  $a = -3$ ,  $k_2 = -112$

**Past Papers Questions**

(1993-CE-A MATH 2 #03) (6 marks)

3. (a)  $a = 4n$  ,  $b = 8n^2 - 7n$   
(b)  $n = 5$  ,  $b = 165$

(1996-CE-A MATH 2 #02) (6 marks)

2. (a)  $k_1 = 6a + 15$  ,  $k_2 = 30a + 20$   
(b)  $a = \frac{2}{9}$

(2006-CE-A MATH #03) (5 marks)

3.  $n = 5$  ,  $k = 55$

(2007-CE-A MATH #12) (6 marks)

12.  $n = 6$  , The coefficient of  $x^3 = -220$

(2011-CE-A MATH #01) (5 marks)

1. (a)  $b = 3(k + 1)$   
(b)  $k = 2$