

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE  
Mathematics: analysis and approaches  
**Math AA**

**EXERCISES [Math-AA 1.11-1.12]**  
**COMPLEX NUMBERS (CARTESIAN FORM)**  
Compiled by Christos Nikolaidis

**CARTESIAN FORM**

**O. Practice questions**

1. [Maximum mark: 13] **[without GDC]**

Complete the following table

$z$	$\operatorname{Re}(z)$	$\operatorname{Im}(z)$	$z^*$	$ z $	$z \cdot z^*$
$2 + 3i$	2	3	$2 - 3i$	$\sqrt{2^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{13}$	$(2 + 3i)(2 - 3i) = 4 + 9 = 13$
$3 + 2i$					
$i - 1$					
$3 + 4i$					
$3 - 4i$					
$-3 + 4i$					
$-3 - 4i$					
$2i$					
$-2i$					
2					
-2					
0					
$a + bi$					
$a - bi$					

2. [Maximum mark: 12] **[without GDC]**

Let  $z_1 = 10 + 5i$  and  $z_2 = 3 + 4i$

(a) Find the following results in the form  $x + yi$ .

$z_1 + z_2$	
$z_1 - z_2$	
$z_1 z_2$	
$\frac{z_1}{z_2}$	

[6]

(b) Find the following values

$ z_1 $		$ z_2 $	
$ z_1 + z_2 $		$ z_1 - z_2 $	
$\frac{ z_1 }{ z_2 }$		$\frac{ z_1 }{ z_2 }$	

[6]

[Confirm the results with your GDC]

3. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Find the following values

$i^2$		$i^3$	
$i^4$		$i^5$	
$i^8$		$i^{10}$	
$i^{100}$		$i^{101}$	
$i^{53}$		$i^{111}$	
$(2i)^3$		$(2i)^4$	

[Confirm the results with your GDC]

4. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Let  $z = 2 + 3i$ . Express the following powers of  $z$  in the form  $a + bi$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

- (i)  $z^2$                       (ii)  $z^3$                       (iii)  $z^4$

*[Confirm the results with your GDC]*

5. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

(a) Find  $(1 - i\sqrt{3})^2$  in the form  $x + yi$ , where  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ . [3]

(b) Find  $(1 - i\sqrt{3})^3$  in the form  $x + yi$ , where  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ . [3]

*[Confirm the results with your GDC]*

6. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Let  $f(z) = z^2 - 8z + 20$ .

(a) Find the discriminant  $\Delta$  of the quadratic function  $f$ . [1]

(b) Find the complex roots of the equation  $f(z) = 0$  in the form  $z = x \pm yi$  [3]

(c) Use factorisation to express  $f$  in the form  $f(z) = (z - h)^2 + k$ . [2]

*[Confirm question (b) with your GDC]*

7. [Maximum mark: 4] **[with / without GDC]**

Find the complex roots of the quadratic equations

- (i)  $z^2 + 4 = 0$ .                      (ii)  $z^2 + 3 = 0$

8. [Maximum mark: 10] **[with / without GDC]**

Let  $f(z) = 4z^2 - 8z + 13$ .

(a) Find the discriminant  $\Delta$  of the quadratic function  $f$ . [1]

(b) Find the complex roots of the equation  $f(z) = 0$ , in the form  $z = x \pm yi$ . [3]

(c) Confirm that the sum  $S$  and the product  $P$  of the roots are given by

- (i)  $S = -\frac{b}{a}$ .                      (ii)  $P = \frac{c}{a}$ . [4]

(d) By using factorisation, express  $f$  in the form  $f(z) = a(z - h)^2 + k$ . [2]

*[Confirm question (b) with your GDC]*

9. [Maximum mark: 4]

(a) Given that  $(a - 2) + 3i = 7 + (b - 1)i$ , find the value of  $a$  and of  $b$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . [2]

(b) Given that  $(c - 2) + (d - 1)i = 0$ , find the value of  $c$  and of  $d$ , where  $c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ . [2]

**10.** [Maximum mark: 9] **[without GDC]**

Let  $z = x + yi$ . Find the values of  $x$  and  $y$  if  $(2 + 5i)z = 1 + 17i$

(a) by using division (an equation of the form  $az = b$ , implies  $z = b/a$ ) [4]

(b) by substituting  $z = x + yi$  in the equation and solving the simultaneous equations. [5]

**11.** [Maximum mark: 10] **[without GDC]**

Solve the equations

(a)  $(2 + 5i)z + 9 = 3z + 19i$  [5]

(b)  $(2 + 5i)z + 8 = 3\bar{z} + 20i$  [5]

**A. Exam style questions (SHORT)**

**12.** [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Let the complex number  $z$  be given by  $z = 1 + \frac{i}{i - \sqrt{3}}$ .

Express  $z$  in the form  $a + bi$ , giving the **exact** values of the real constants  $a, b$ .

*[Confirm question (b) with your GDC]*

**13.** [Maximum mark: 5] **[without GDC]**

Express  $\frac{1}{(1 - i\sqrt{3})^3}$  in the form  $\frac{a}{b}$  where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*[Confirm question (b) with your GDC]*

**14.** [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Let  $z = \frac{2}{1 - i} + 1 - 4i$ . Express  $z^2$  in the form  $x + yi$  where  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*[Confirm question (b) with your GDC]*

**15.** [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Consider the equation  $2(p + iq) = q - ip - 2(1 - i)$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are both real numbers. Find  $p$  and  $q$ .

**16.** [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Given that  $(a + i)(2 - bi) = (7 - i)$ , find the value of  $a$  and of  $b$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**17.** [Maximum mark: 4] **[with / without GDC]**

Find the values of  $a$  and  $b$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real, given that  $(a + bi)(2 - i) = 5 - i$

18. [Maximum mark: 4] **[with / without GDC]**

Let  $z = x + yi$ . Find the values of  $x$  and  $y$  if  $(1-i)z = 1-3i$ .

19. [Maximum mark: 5] **[without GDC]**

The complex number  $z$  satisfies  $i(z+2) = 1-2z$ , where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ . Write  $z$  in the form  $z = a + bi$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers.

20. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

The two complex numbers  $z_1 = \frac{a}{1+i}$  and  $z_2 = \frac{b}{1-2i}$  where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , are such that  $z_1 + z_2 = 3$ . Calculate the value of  $a$  and of  $b$ .

21. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Solve the following equation for  $z$ , where  $z$  is a complex number.

$$\frac{z}{3+4i} + \frac{z-1}{5i} = \frac{5}{3-4i}$$

Give your answer in the form  $a + bi$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

22. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Given that  $|z| = 2\sqrt{5}$ , find the complex number  $z$  that satisfies the equation

$$\frac{25}{z} - \frac{15}{z^*} = 1 - 8i.$$

23. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with / without GDC]**

Let  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  be complex numbers. Solve the simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned} 2z_1 + 3z_2 &= 7 \\ z_1 + iz_2 &= 4 + 4i \end{aligned}$$

Give your answers in the form  $z = a + bi$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- 24\*. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

Consider  $w = \frac{z}{z^2 + 1}$  where  $z = x + yi$ ,  $y \neq 0$  and  $z^2 + 1 \neq 0$ .

Given that  $\text{Im } w = 0$ , show that  $|z| = 1$ .

- 25\*. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

If  $z = x + yi$  is a complex number and  $|z+16| = 4|z+1|$ , find the value of  $|z|$ .

## POLYNOMIALS

### O. Practice questions

**26.** [Maximum mark: 10] **[with GDC]**

For a cubic polynomial  $f(z) = a_3z^3 + a_2z^2 + a_1z + a_0$ , we know that the **sum**  $S$  and the **product**  $P$  of the roots are given by  $S = -\frac{a_2}{a_3}$  and  $P = -\frac{a_0}{a_3}$ .

Let  $f(z) = z^3 - 3z^2 + 7z - 5$

- Find the **real root** and the two **complex roots** of  $f(z)$  (using GDC). [2]
- Confirm the formulas above for the sum  $S$  and the product  $P$  of the roots. [4]
- Write down the three linear factors of  $f(z)$  (with complex coefficients). [2]
- Hence**, express  $f(z)$  in the form  $(z - a)(z^2 + bz + c)$  where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ . [2]

**27.** [Maximum mark: 10] **[with GDC]**

For the polynomial  $f(z) = a_4z^4 + a_3z^3 + a_2z^2 + a_1z + a_0$ , we know that the **sum**  $S$  and the **product**  $P$  of the roots are given by  $S = -\frac{a_3}{a_4}$  and  $P = \frac{a_0}{a_4}$ .

Let  $f(z) = 2z^4 - 10z^3 + 26z^2 - 38z + 20$

- Find the two **reals roots** and the two **complex roots** of  $f(z)$  (using GDC). [2]
- Confirm the formulas above for the sum  $S$  and the product  $P$  of the roots. [4]
- Write down the four linear factors of  $f(z)$  (with complex coefficients). [2]
- Express  $f(z)$  in the form  $a(z - p)(x - q)(z^2 + bz + c)$  where  $a, p, q, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$  [2]

**28.** [Maximum mark: 8] **[with / without GDC]**

Consider the polynomial  $f(z) = 2z^4 + az^3 + 26z^2 + bz + 20$ .

Given that 1 and 2 are roots of the polynomial

- find the values of  $a$  and  $b$ . [4]
- find the other two roots of  $f(z)$ . [4]

**29.** [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Consider the polynomial  $f(z) = 2z^4 - 10z^3 + 26z^2 - 38z + 20$

Given that  $z = 1 - 2i$  is a root find the other 3 roots of  $f(z)$ .

**30.** [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Find the polynomial  $f(z)$  of degree 4, given that

- 3 of the zeros of the polynomial are  $1 - 2i$ ,  $1$ ,  $2$
- $f(z)$  leave a remainder 96 when it is divided by  $z + 1$ .

**A. Exam style questions (SHORT)**

31. [Maximum mark: 5] **[without GDC]**

$(z + 2i)$  is a factor of  $2z^3 - 3z^2 + 8z - 12$ . Find the other two factors.

32. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Let  $P(z) = z^3 + az^2 + bz + c$ , where  $a, b$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ . Two of the roots of  $P(z) = 0$  are  $-2$  and  $(-3 + 2i)$ . Find the value of  $a$ , of  $b$  and of  $c$ .

33. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

The polynomial  $P(z) = z^3 + mz^2 + nz - 8$  is divisible by  $(z + 1 + i)$ , where  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $m, n \in \mathbb{R}$ . Find the value of  $m$  and of  $n$ .

**METHOD A:** Use  $P(-1 - i) = 0$  [not the ideal way; just for practice!]

**METHOD B:** Find first the three roots of  $P(z)$ , and use factorization [Much quicker!]

**B. Exam style questions (LONG)**

34. [Maximum mark: 10] **[without GDC]**

(a) Evaluate  $(1 + i)^2$ , where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ . [2]

(b) Prove, by mathematical induction, that  $(1 + i)^{4n} = (-4)^n$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . [6]

(c) Hence or otherwise, find  $(1 + i)^{32}$ . [2]

35. [Maximum mark: 13] **[without GDC]**

Let  $z = a + bi$  and  $w = c + di$ ,

(a) Express  $zw$  in the form  $x + yi$  [2]

(b) Show that  $|zw|^2 = (ac)^2 + (bd)^2 + (ac)^2 + (bd)^2$  [2]

(c) Show that  $\overline{z + w} = \overline{z} + \overline{w}$  [2]

(d) Show that  $\overline{zw} = \overline{z} \overline{w}$  [3]

(e) Show that  $|zw| = |z||w|$  [4]

36. [Maximum mark: 12] **[without GDC]**

It is given that  $\overline{zw} = \overline{z} \overline{w}$  and  $|zw| = |z||w|$  for any complex numbers  $z$  and  $w$ .

Show, by using mathematical induction, that for any  $n \geq 2$  it holds

(a)  $\overline{z^n} = \overline{z}^n$  [6]

(b)  $|z^n| = |z|^n$  [6]