

# INDEX – UNIT 3 TSFX REFERENCE MATERIALS 2020 – 2021

## SECTION 1: ALGEBRA AND MATRICES

**Surds** **Page 1**

**Algebra** **Page 2**

Polynomial Expressions	Page 2
Expanding Algebraic Expressions	Page 3
Expanding Algebraic Expressions by Rule	Page 3

**Factorising Algebraic Expressions** **Page 5**

Method	Page 5
Number Systems	Page 6
The Sum or Difference of Two Cubes	Page 7
Disguised Quadratic Expressions	Page 8
Completing the Square	Page 9
Grouping Terms	Page 10
Long Division of Polynomial Expressions	Page 11
Synthetic Division	Page 14
The Remainder Theorem	Page 17
The Factor Theorem	Page 18

**Writing Expressions in Specific Forms** **Page 19**

**Solving Algebraic Equations** **Page 20**

The Quadratic Formula	Page 21
Verifying Solutions	Page 22
Literal Equations	Page 24
Equating Coefficients	Page 25
Points of Intersection	Page 26
Simultaneous Equations	Page 27
Solving Linear Simultaneous Equations	Page 27
Finding the Solutions of Linear Simultaneous Equations by Inspection	Page 29
Finding Solutions of Literal Simultaneous Equations	Page 30
Solving 1 Linear and 1 Second Degree Equation Simultaneously	Page 32

**The Discriminant and Its Applications****Page 33**

Applications Involving X Intercepts/Roots	Page 34
Applications involving Curve Features	Page 34
Applications Involving Points of Intersection	Page 34
Applications Involving Stationary Points	Page 34

**Matrices****Page 35**

Matrix Arithmetic	Page 35
Matrix Multiplication	Page 37
The Determinant & Multiplicative Inverse (Inverse Matrix)	Page 39
Finding Inverse Matrices	Page 40
Solving Matrix Equations	Page 41
Simultaneous Linear Equations with Three Unknowns	Page 42
Geometric Representations of Solutions to Equations with 3 Unknowns	Page 43
Simultaneous Linear Equations with more than 3 Unknowns	Page 44

## **SECTION 2: RELATIONS, FUNCTIONS AND THEIR GRAPHS**

### **Relations, Functions and Their Graphs**

**Page 45**

The Horizontal Line Test	Page 45
The Vertical Line Test	Page 45
Types of Relations	Page 46
Functions and Inverses	Page 47
Function Notation and Number Systems	Page 48
The Domain	Page 49
The Range	Page 50
Notations Used to Describe Domains and Ranges	Page 50
The Largest Possible Domain	Page 52
Continuity and Discontinuity	Page 53

### **Curve Sketching**

**Page 55**

Common Curve Shapes	Page 55
Sketching Curves by Considering the Essential Features of a Graph	Page 56
X and Y Intercepts	Page 56
Stationary Points	Page 57
Asymptotes	Page 58
Asymptotic Behaviour	Page 60
Inequations	Page 61
Sketching Inequations	Page 61
Solving Inequations	Page 63

Dilations	Page 68
Reflections	Page 70
Translations	Page 72
Summary of Transformation Notations	Page 74
The Order of Transformations	Page 74
Identifying Transformations	Page 75
Transformations Involving Power Functions	Page 76
Transformations Involving Hyperbolae and Higher Order Functions	Page 78
Transformations Involving the Truncus and Higher Order Functions	Page 79
Transformations Involving the Square Root Function and Related Functions	Page 80
Transformations Involving Exponential Functions	Page 81
Transformations Involving Logarithmic Functions	Page 82
Transformations Involving Trigonometric Functions	Page 83
Matrices and Transformations	Page 84
Finding the Image of a Point	Page 85
Finding the Image of a Function or Relation	Page 87

## **SECTION 3: POLYNOMIAL AND RATIONAL FUNCTIONS**

### **Polynomial Functions**

**Page 88**

Linear Functions and Their Graphs	Page 88
Quadratic Functions and Their Graphs	Page 90
Cubic Functions and Their Graphs	Page 94
Quartic Functions and Their Graphs	Page 96
Higher Order Polynomial Functions	Page 99
Analysing Technology Neutral Questions	Page 102

### **Rational Functions**

**Page 103**

The Rectangular Hyperbola and its Graphs	Page 103
The Truncus and its Graphs	Page 106
Higher Order Negative Power Functions	Page 108

### **Finding Equations of Relations and Functions**

**Page 109**

Finding Equations of Linear Functions	Page 110
Determining Rules for Quadratic Functions	Page 111
Determining Rules for Cubic Functions	Page 112
Determining Rules for Quartic Functions	Page 113
Polynomial Models	Page 114

## **SECTION 4: EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

**Exponential Functions**

**Page 118**

Index Laws	Page 118
Simplifying Indicial Expressions	Page 120
Solving Indicial Equations	Page 121
Graphs of Exponential Functions	Page 125
Sketching Exponential Graphs	Page 126
Finding Equations Describing Exponential Functions	Page 127
Modelling with Exponential Functions	Page 128

## SECTION 5: LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

### Logarithmic Functions

Page 130

Simplifying Logarithmic Expressions	Page 130
Logarithmic Laws	Page 131
Change of Base Rule	Page 133
Solving Logarithmic Equations	Page 134
Products, Quotients and Logarithms	Page 136
Graphs of Logarithmic Functions	Page 138
Sketching Logarithmic Graphs	Page 139
Finding Equations Describing Logarithmic Functions	Page 140

## SECTION 6: TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

### Trigonometric Functions

Page 141

Measuring Angles	Page 141
The Unit Circle	Page 142
Angles at the Axes	Page 143
Exact Values in the First Quadrant	Page 144
Inverse Operations	Page 144
Symmetry Properties – Supplementary Rules	Page 145
Symmetry Properties – Complementary Rules	Page 145
Summary of Trigonometric Signs (CAST)	Page 146
Finding Exact Values in Other Quadrants	Page 147
Trigonometric Identities	Page 148
Solving Trigonometric Equations	Page 149
Solving Complex Trigonometric Equations	Page 152
General Solutions for Trigonometric Equations	Page 154
General Solutions for Cosine	Page 155
General Solutions for Tangent	Page 156
General Solutions for Sine	Page 157

### Graphs of Trigonometric Functions

Page 158

The Amplitude	Page 159
The Period	Page 160
Horizontal Translations	Page 161
Vertical Translations	Page 162
Asymptotes (Tangents)	Page 163
The Range or Maximum/Minimum Values	Page 164
Sketching Trigonometric Functions	Page 165
Determining Rules for Trigonometric Functions	Page 168



## SECTION 7: SPECIAL FUNCTIONS AND RELATIONS

### Fractional Power Functions

Page 171

Square Root Functions and Their Graphs	Page 171
Other Fractional Power Functions	Page 173

### Functional Equations

Page 174

### The Algebra of Functions

Page 175

Addition (or Subtraction) of Ordinates	Page 176
Multiplication of Ordinates	Page 177

### Composite Functions

Page 178

Common Operations	Page 179
Sketching Composite Functions	Page 180
Existence of Composite Functions	Page 181
Domains and Ranges of Composite Functions	Page 181

### Inverse Relations and Functions

Page 182

Inverse Relations	Page 182
Inverse Functions	Page 182
Identifying Inverse Pairs	Page 183
Sketching Inverse Relations	Page 183
Writing Equations Describing Inverse Functions and Relations	Page 184

## SECTION 8: LIMITS AND DERIVATIVES

### Limits

Page 187

Conditions for the Existence of a Limit	Page 187
Evaluating Limits Graphically	Page 188
Evaluating Limits Algebraically	Page 190
Limit Theorems	Page 191

### Differentiation

Page 192

Derivatives from First Principles	Page 192
Differentiating by Rule	Page 194
Derivatives of Algebraic Functions (The Power Rule)	Page 194
Summary of Differentiation Techniques	Page 195
Finding Derivatives – Method	Page 196
Important Derivatives	Page 198
The Chain Rule	Page 199
The Product Rule	Page 204
The Quotient Rule	Page 205

## SOLVING TRIGONOMETRIC EQUATIONS

- Step 1:** Write all expressions in terms of one trigonometric function.
- Step 2:** Transpose the given equation so that the trigonometric expression (and the angle) is on one side of the equation, and the constants are located on the other side of the equation.
- Step 3:** Use the sign in front of the constant on the right-hand side to determine the quadrants in which the solutions are to lie. (Use **CAST**)
- Step 4:** Calculate the first quadrant solution. If the exact value cannot be determined:

*Press Inverse Sin, Cos or Tan of the number on the right-hand side of the equation (but ignore the sign).*

**For example:**  $\text{Sin}^{-1}$ (number on RHS of equation but ignore the sign)

*(Ensure that the calculator is in Radian Mode).*

- Step 5:** Solve for the variable (usually  $x$  or  $\theta$ ). Let the angle equal the rule describing angles in the quadrants in which the solutions are to lie.

**Note:** First Quadrant Angle =  $FQA$

Let angle =  $FQA$  if solution lies in 1<sup>st</sup> Quadrant.

Let angle =  $\pi - FQA$  if solution lies in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quadrant.

Let angle =  $\pi + FQA$  if solution lies in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quadrant.

Let angle =  $2\pi - FQA$  if solution lies in 4<sup>th</sup> Quadrant.

- Step 6:** Evaluate all possible solutions by observing the given domain. This is accomplished by adding or subtracting the **PERIOD** to each of the solutions, until the angles fall outside the given domain.

**For sine and cosine functions:**  $Period = \frac{2\pi}{|The\ number\ in\ front\ of\ the\ variable|}$

**For tangent functions:**  $Period = \frac{\pi}{|The\ number\ in\ front\ of\ the\ variable|}$

**Always look closely at the brackets in the given domain and consider whether the upper and lower limits can be included in your solutions.**

**DO NOT discard any solution until the final step.**

- Step 7:** Eliminate solutions that do not lie across specified domain.

**Note:** Students may also solve trigonometric equations by rearranging the domain.

**Example:**

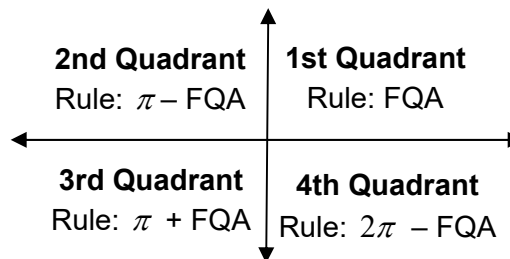
Solve  $\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \sin 2\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = -1$  for  $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$ .

**Solution**

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \sin 2\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = -1$$

$$\sin 2\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}$$



Solutions are required in the quadrants where sine is negative i.e. Quadrants 3 and 4.

Quadrant 3 Rule:  $\pi + \text{First Quadrant Angle} = \pi + \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{4\pi}{3}$

$$\therefore 2\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{4\pi}{3}$$

$$\therefore \left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{2\pi}{3}$$

$$x = \frac{2\pi}{3} + \frac{\pi}{3}$$

$$x = \pi$$

Quadrant 4 Rule:  $2\pi - \text{First Quadrant Angle} = 2\pi - \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{5\pi}{3}$

$$\therefore 2\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{5\pi}{3}$$

$$\therefore \left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{5\pi}{6}$$

$$x = \frac{5\pi}{6} + \frac{2\pi}{6}$$

$$x = \frac{7\pi}{6}$$

Add and subtract the period to each solution:  $T = \pi$

$$x = -\pi, -\frac{5\pi}{6}, 0, \frac{\pi}{6}, \pi$$



## WATCHOUTS

- Remember to add/subtract the period to each one of your solutions – making sure that you do not exceed domain. To avoid mistakes – write each term to the same denominator.
- Never ever eliminate an answer until the final step (so as to assure that all solutions are obtained).
- Look closely at brackets around the domain and assess whether the first and last solution can be included.
- Given a physical/real life situation, pay close attention to the domain. Consider the real life limitations on your solutions. For example - lengths cannot be negative.
- If number on right hand side ends up being 0 or  $\pm 1$ , use the unit circle to find number of solutions per period. For all other numbers – you will get two solutions per period.
- You cannot find the inverse sine or cosine of a number greater than 1 or less than  $-1$ .

i.e.  $\sin \theta =$  number that lies between  $-1$  and  $+1$  inclusive.

$\cos \theta =$  number that lies between  $-1$  and  $+1$  inclusive.

$\tan \theta =$  any real number

- You cannot solve two trigonometric expressions that have different angles algebraically (use technology) unless you can find one expression in terms of the other using complementary rules.
- You cannot convert an equation containing a sin and cos to tan unless they share the same angle.
- What does  $\sin 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 0.5$  find???

**Answer:** The points of intersection of  $y = \sin 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$  and  $y = 0.5$ .

- What does  $\sin 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) - 0.5 = 0$  find???

**Answer:** The X intercepts on the graph of  $y = \sin 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) - 0.5$ .

- Given an inequation – solve the equation without the inequality and then reason from the graph.
- When solving questions to a given number of decimal places – make sure the calculator is in RADIAN mode.

## SOLVING COMPLEX TRIGONOMETRIC EQUATIONS

Students are required to be able to manipulate expressions in terms of two or more different trigonometric functions, as well as solve questions involving both trigonometric functions and other expressions such as logarithmic, exponential and polynomial functions.

**To solve expressions written in terms of two or more trigonometric functions, apply one of the following techniques.**

**If the angles are the same:**

- Simplify equations by removing common factors.

$$\text{eg. } \cos^2 \theta - \sin \theta \cos \theta = \cos \theta (\cos \theta - \sin \theta)$$

- If the expression is presented in its factorised form (or can be factorised) and is equal to zero, apply the **null factor law** to obtain solutions.

$$\text{eg. } \cos \theta (\cos \theta - \sin \theta) = 0$$

$$\therefore \cos \theta = 0 \text{ and } \cos \theta - \sin \theta = 0$$

- Given both a sine and cosine function – write each function on either side of the equality sign. Convert the expression to a tangent function by dividing both sides by cos or sin.

$$\text{eg. } \sin 4x + \cos 4x = 0$$

$$\therefore \sin 4x = -\cos 4x$$

$$\therefore \frac{\sin 4x}{\cos 4x} = -\frac{\cos 4x}{\cos 4x}$$

$$\therefore \tan 4x = -1$$

- Given two or more terms involving the same trigonometric function (but each with different powers) apply quadratic factors (“Let A =” method).

$$\text{eg. } 3 \sin^6(5x) - 2 \sin^3(5x) - 1 \quad \therefore \text{Let } A = \sin^3(5x)$$

$$\therefore 3(\sin^3(5x))^2 - 2 \sin^3(5x) - 1 \quad \therefore 3A^2 - 2A - 1$$

These techniques can only be successfully applied at this level of mathematics if the angles of each of the trigonometric expressions are identical.

**If the angles are different:**

- Use complementary or supplementary rules to write one angle in terms of the other or to write mixtures of trigonometric functions with different angles to the same trigonometric expression with different angles. These expressions can then be solved

by **EQUATING** angles. eg.  $\sin(3x) = \cos\left(x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

$$\therefore \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - 3x\right) = \cos\left(x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - 3x\right) = \left(x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$\therefore 4x = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{\pi}{16} + nT$$

- Otherwise, use the **SOLVE** or **INTERSECT** function on your calculator to find solutions.

**To solve questions involving both trigonometric functions and other expressions such as logarithmic, exponential and polynomial functions:**

Use the **SOLVE** or **INTERSECT** function on your calculator to find solutions.

**For example:** Solve  $2\sin\left(x - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 3e^{6x-1}$ .

## SOLVING TRIGONOMETRIC EQUATIONS

### QUESTION 12

Solve  $2 \sin 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \sqrt{3}$ ,  $x \in [0, 2\pi]$  across the given domain.

#### Solution

Transpose the given equation so that the trigonometric expression (and the angle) is on one side of the equation, and the constants are located on the other side of the equation:

$$\sin 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

Calculate the first quadrant solution:

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ Quadrant Angle} = \text{Sin}^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}$$

Use the sign in front of the constant on the right hand side to determine the quadrants in which the solutions are to lie:

Solutions are to lie in the quadrants where sine is positive i.e. the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quadrants:

S✓	A✓
T	C

Solve for the variable (usually  $x$ ). Let the actual angle in the given equation equal the quadrant rules in which the solutions are to lie.

$$\text{Let } 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}$$

$$\text{Let } 2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \pi - \frac{\pi}{3}$$

$$2\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{2\pi}{3}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{2\pi}{6}$$

$$x = -\frac{\pi}{6}, 0$$

Evaluate all possible solutions by observing the given domain. Add and subtract the PERIOD to each of the solutions, until the angles fall outside the given domain:

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{2} = \pi = \frac{6\pi}{6}$$

$$\left\{x : x = 0, \frac{5\pi}{6}, \pi, \frac{11\pi}{6}, 2\pi\right\}$$









**QUESTION 16**

A solution of the equation  $\sin(3x) = k \cos(3x)$  is  $\frac{3\pi}{4}$ . The value of  $k$  is:

- A -2
- B -1
- C 0
- D 1
- E 2

**Solution**

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**QUESTION 17**

The equation  $a \cos(x+b) = c$ , where  $a, b, c$  are positive constants, will not have any solutions in the interval  $[0, 2\pi)$  provided that:

- A  $c = a$
- B  $b < \frac{\pi}{2}$
- C  $c > 1$
- D  $a < c$
- E  $b > a$

**Solution**

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