**Barron’s Let’s Review Regents – Algebra II**

# Chapter 1: Polynomial Expressions and Equations

## Polynomial Arithmetic

**Multiplying a Polynomial by a Constant**

**Adding Polynomials**

1. Combine the two terms.
2. Combine the two terms.
3. Combine the two constant terms.

**Subtracting Polynomials**

The minus sign can be thought of as multiplying by a negative one. Distribute the multiplication through the second polynomial.

**Multiplying Polynomials**

**FOIL**

1. **F**irst terms in each expression.
2. **O**uter terms in each expression.
3. **I**nner terms in each expression.
4. **L**ast terms in each expression.

**Multiplication Patterns**

**Perfect Squares**

The coefficient of the -term will be twice the constant term.

**Difference of Perfect Squares**

**Dividing Polynomials**

Answer:

### Check Your Understanding of Section 1.1

1. Multiple-Choice
2. What is   
   **(1)**
3. What is ?  
   **(2)**
4. What is ?  
   **(4)**
5. What is ?  
   **(1)**
6. What is ?  
   **(4)**
7. What is ?  
   **(4)**
8. What is ?  
   **(1)**
9. What is ?  
   **(2)**
10. What is ?  
    **(1)**
11. What is ?  
    **(4)**
12. What is ?  
    **(3)**
13. *Show how you arrived at your answers*.
14. Simplify .
15. Zahra calculated   
     as  
     and got   
     What mistake did Zahra make?  
      
    **Zahra made the mistake of not distributing the minus sign in the second expression.**  
    **It should have been:**
16. If , what is the value of *a*?  
      
    **)** (  
     (ck)
17. If , what is the value of *a*?
18. Simplify .

## 1.2 Polynomial Factoring

*Factoring* an integer means finding two other integers (other than 1) whose product is equal to the original integer. The integer 15 has two factors: 3 and 5.

When a polynomial is factored, the factors can provide useful information about the polynomial that was not apparent in the non-factored form.

Just like some numbers can’t be factored (for example, 7, and other prime numbers), some polynomials cannot be factored either. When a polynomial can be factored, there are several different methods of obtaining the factorization, depending on the polynomial.

**Greatest Common Factor Factoring**

*Greatest common factor* factoring is the first type of factoring you should always try. If all the terms of a polynomial have a common factor, that common factor can be “factored out.” Often, the only common factor is 1, in which case this type of factoring is not useful.

**Factoring a Quadratic Trinomial into the Product of Two Binomials**

What is the opposite of FOIL? The opposite is factoring a quadratic trinomial like into the product of two binomials.

If the trinomial is of the form , find two numbers that have a sum of b and a product of c.

Perfect Square Trinomial Factoring

The trinomials , and   
, are three examples of perfect square trinomials. These can be factored into , , and , respectively.

The way to recognize a perfect square trinomial of the form is to compare *c* to .

If , the trinomial is a perfect square and can be factored as

**Difference of Perfect Squares Factoring**

A quadratic expression like is known as the difference between two perfect squares since each of the terms is a perfect square and there is a subtraction sign between the two terms.

**Factoring Cubic Expressions by Grouping**

Polynomial expressions that have one of the variables raised to the third power are called cubic polynomials. Generally, they are very difficult to factor. Sometimes a technique called factor by grouping can be used to factor certain cubic polynomials.

Factor by grouping when you have a four-term cubic expression and you factor a common factor from the first two terms and another common factor from the last two terms. Then you cross your fingers and hope there will be a new common factor that you can then factor out.

For example, the polynomial can be factored this way.

An can be factored out of the first two terms, and a 4 can be factored out of the last two terms.

At this point, notice that both of the terms have a factor of . This can be factored out to become  
.

**Factoring More Complicated Expressions**

Polynomials that have exponents greater than 3 can sometimes be factored by rewriting the polynomials in an equivalent form that can be factored with other methods.

The expression has an exponent of 6. Since 6 is an even number, can be expressed as . Since 16 is a perfect square, the original expression can be written as , which can then be factored with the difference of perfect squares pattern: .

**Algebra Identities**

When two algebraic expressions can be simplified to the same expression, it is called an identity. Proving that something is an identity requires simplifying one or both sides of the equation until the two sides are identical. Until an identity is proved, there will be a small question mark over the equal sign like ≟. After the identity is established, the question mark over the equals sign is replaced with a .

**Number Theory Proofs**

Sometimes a theorem about numbers can be proved by turning the theorem into an identity to be verified.