

# Maths Assignment - 1081

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Question 1</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	a) . . . . .	2
1.2	b) . . . . .	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Question 2</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	a) . . . . .	5
2.2	b) . . . . .	6
2.3	c) . . . . .	7
2.4	d) . . . . .	8
2.5	e) . . . . .	9
<b>3</b>	<b>Question 3</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	a) . . . . .	10
3.2	b) . . . . .	11
3.3	c) . . . . .	12

# 1 Question 1

## 1.1 a)

**Prove that in modulo 9, it is not possible for a perfect square to be congruent to 2, 3, 5, 6 or 8.**

**Proposition:** For any integer  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we say that  $n^2 \equiv 0, 1, 4, 7 \pmod{9}$ .

**Proof:** This can be deduced by finding the squares of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 respectively.

$$0^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{9},$$

$$1^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{9},$$

$$2^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{9},$$

$$3^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{9},$$

$$4^2 \equiv 7 \pmod{9}.$$

Through finding the modulo of 9, we find the similar rule applied to 5 through 8 (since  $9^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ ).

$$5^2 \equiv (-4)^2 \equiv 7 \pmod{9},$$

$$6^2 \equiv (-3)^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{9},$$

$$7^2 \equiv (-2)^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{9},$$

$$8^2 \equiv (-1)^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}.$$

Here, we see that the modulo of perfect squares always end with the digits 0, 1, 4 and 7. Thus, it can be proved that in modulo 9, it is not possible for a perfect square to be congruent to 2, 3, 5, 6, or 8.

## 1.2 b)

**Hence (and not otherwise) prove that there do not exist three consecutive integer values of  $n$  for which  $41n + 39$  is a perfect square.**

Consider a number  $n - 1$ ,  $n$  and  $n + 1$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then, we see that the numbers are:

$$41(n - 1) + 39, 41(n) + 39, 41(n + 1) + 39.$$

**Proposition** For  $41(n - 1) + 39$ ,  $41(n) + 39$  and  $41(n + 1) + 39$  to be perfect squares, they should not be congruent to 2, 3, 5, 6 or 8 in modulo 9 (this is proved in q1 (a)).

**Proof** Consider  $41n + 39$  as a perfect square.

$$41n + 39 \text{ as a perfect square} \Rightarrow 41n + 39 = k^2, \text{ where } k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Here, we can use the proof from q1 (a) to deduce that  $k^2 \pmod 9$  would give 0, 1, 4 or 7 as the remainder since it is a perfect square.

However, when we check the number  $41(n - 1) + 39$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow 41n - 41 + 39, \\ &\Rightarrow (41n + 39) - 41, \\ &\Rightarrow k^2 - 41. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we can consider the modulo of 9 for  $k^2 + 41$ :

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow (k^2 - 41)(\pmod 9), \\ &\Rightarrow (k^2(\pmod 9) - 41(\pmod 9))(\pmod 9). (\text{modular subtraction}) \end{aligned}$$

Here, we know that  $41 \equiv 5(\pmod 9)$ , and  $k^2$  gives a remainder of either 0, 1, 4, 7. Consider each of the cases individually:

1)  $k^2 \equiv 0(\pmod 9)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow (k^2(\pmod 9) - 41(\pmod 9))(\pmod 9). \\ &\Rightarrow (0 - 5)(\pmod 9), \\ &\Rightarrow -5(\pmod 9), \\ &\Rightarrow -5. \end{aligned}$$

Since the  $(k^2 - 41) \equiv -5(\pmod 9)$ , this means that it is not a perfect square (as proven in q1 a)).

2)  $k^2 \equiv 1(\pmod 9)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow (k^2(\pmod 9) - 41(\pmod 9))(\pmod 9). \\ &\Rightarrow (1 - 5)(\pmod 9), \\ &\Rightarrow -4(\pmod 9), \\ &\Rightarrow -4. \end{aligned}$$

Since the  $(k^2 - 41) \equiv -4(\pmod 9)$ , this means that it is not a perfect square (as proven in q1 a)).

3)  $k^2 \equiv 4(\pmod 9)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
&\Rightarrow (k^2(\bmod 9) - 41(\bmod 9))(\bmod 9). \\
&\Rightarrow (4 - 5)(\bmod 9), \\
&\Rightarrow -1(\bmod 9), \\
&\Rightarrow -1.
\end{aligned}$$

Since the  $(k^2 - 41) \equiv 0(\bmod 9)$ , this means that it is not a perfect square (as proven in q1 a)).  
4)  $k^2 \equiv 7(\bmod 9)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
&\Rightarrow (k^2(\bmod 9) - 41(\bmod 9))(\bmod 9). \\
&\Rightarrow (7 - 5)(\bmod 9), \\
&\Rightarrow 2(\bmod 9), \\
&\Rightarrow 2.
\end{aligned}$$

Since the  $(k^2 - 41) \equiv 2(\bmod 9)$ , this means that it is not a perfect square (as proven in q1 a)).  
We see that for each case,  $41(n - 1) + 39$  can never be a perfect square if  $41n + 39$  is a perfect square.

Therefore, we can say that there do not exist three consecutive integer values of  $n$  for which  $41n + 39$  is a perfect square.

## 2 Question 2

A certain relation  $\star$  is defined on the set  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  by:

$x \star y$  if and only if every factor of  $x$  is a factor of  $y$ .

For each of the questions below, be sure to provide a proof supporting your answer.

2.1 a)

Is  $\star$  reflexive?

**Theorem:** If  $\star$  is to be reflexive, then  $x \sim x$ .

[not done yet]

## 2.2 b)

Is  $\star$  symmetric?

**Theorem:** If  $\star$  is symmetric, then  $x \sim y \leftrightarrow y \sim x$ .

[not done yet]

## 2.3 c)

Is  $\star$  anti-symmetric?

**Theorem:** If a set  $A \leq B, B \leq A \rightarrow A = B$ .

[not done yet]

## 2.4 d)

**Is  $\star$  transitive?**

If a set  $A \leq B, B \leq C \rightarrow A \leq C$ .

[not done yet]



2.5 e)

Is  $\star$  an equivalence relation, a partial order, both or neither?

[not done yet]

### 3 Question 3

Consider the two functions  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  for non-empty sets  $X, Y, Z$ . Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false, and prove each claim.

#### 3.1 a)

If  $g \circ f$  is injective, then  $g$  is injective.

#### Counterexample

Consider sets  $X = \{1\}, Y = \{2, 3\}, Z = \{4\}$ .

Function  $g \circ f$  implies that  $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$  (since  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ ). Therefore,  $g(f(1)) = 4$ . This makes it an injective function as it is one to one.

However, for the function  $g$ ,  $g(2) = g(3) = 4$ , making the function non-injective.

Therefore, by a counterexample, we can conclude that the statement is false.

### 3.2 b)

**If  $g \circ f$  is injective, then  $f$  is injective.**

**Proof:** Suppose  $f$  is not injective. Since  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , we take two numbers  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $x_1, x_2$  are in the set  $X$  and  $f(x_1)$  and  $f(x_2)$  are in set  $Y$ , giving:

$$f(x_1) = f(x_2) \text{ when } x_1 \neq x_2,$$

Similarly, since  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ , this would imply that:

$$(g \circ f)(x_1) = (g \circ f)(x_2) \text{ when } f(x_1) \neq f(x_2) \text{ ie,}$$

$$g(f(x_1)) = g(f(x_2)) \text{ when } f(x_1) \neq f(x_2).$$

Since  $f(x_1), f(x_2) \in Y$  and  $g(f(x_1)) = g(f(x_2)) \in Z$ , we can consider that this proves the statement " if  $f$  is not injective, then  $g \circ f$  is not injective".

Therefore, by contrapositive, we can conclude that if  $g \circ f$  is injective then  $f$  is injective.

### 3.3 c)

**If  $g \circ f$  is injective and  $f$  is surjective, then  $g$  is injective**

**Proof** Consider two variables  $y_1, y_2 \in Y$ . such that  $g(y_1) = g(y_2)$ . [ $y_1, y_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ ]

Since  $f$  is known to be surjective, we can consider two other variables  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  [ $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ ].

Then, if we map  $f$  to  $g$ , using this surjective nature of  $f$ , we can presume  $f(x_1) = y_1, f(x_2) = y_2$ .  
With this, the proof follows:

$$\Rightarrow g(f(x_1)) = g(f(x_2)),$$

$$\Rightarrow g \circ f(x_1) = g \circ f(x_2),$$

where  $x_1 = x_2$  because  $g \circ f$  is injective (given in question).

Then,

$$\Rightarrow f(x_1) = f(x_2),$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 = y_2.$$

Thus,  $g(y_1) = g(y_2) \Rightarrow y_1 = y_2$ , which means  $g$  is injective.

Therefore, we can conclude that if  $g \circ f$  is injective and  $f$  is surjective, then  $g$  is injective.