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11 | 1b | Simplify  $\frac{n^2 - 25}{n - 5}$ .

State Mean:  $\frac{n^2 - 25}{n - 5} = \frac{(n - 5)(n + 5)}{n - 5}$  = n + 5

## **Board of Studies: Notes from the Marking Centre**

The most common errors included incorrect factorisation, for example,

$$\frac{n^2 - 25}{n - 5} = \frac{(n - 5)^2}{(n - 5)} = n - 5 \text{ and incorrect cancelling, such as } \frac{n^2 - 25}{n - 5} = n - 5.$$

Source: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc\_exams/

<sup>\*</sup> These solutions have been provided by *projectmaths* and are not supplied or endorsed by the Board of Studies