

Q1(1):

$$4x - 6 < 2x < 5x + 3$$

$$\iff \begin{cases} 4x - 6 < 2x \\ 2x < 5x + 3 \end{cases}$$

$$\iff \begin{cases} 2x < 6 \\ 3x > -3 \end{cases}$$

$$\iff \begin{cases} x < 3 \\ x > -1 \end{cases}$$

$$\iff \boxed{-1 < x < 3}$$

Q1(2):

As $f(x)$ is divisible by $x - 2$, by the factor theorem, we have $f(2) = 0$, i.e.

$$8 + 4a + 2b + 2 = 0, \text{ i.e. } 2a + b = -5 \dots (1).$$

As the remainder is -3 when $f(x)$ is divided by $x + 1$, by the remainder theorem,

$$\text{we have } f(-1) = -3, \text{ i.e. } -1 + a - b + 2 = -3, \text{ i.e. } a - b = -4 \dots (2).$$

Combining the two equations, by $(1) + (2)$, we have $3a = -9$, i.e. $a = \boxed{-3}$.

Substitute $a = -2$ into (2) , we have $b = -3 + 4 = \boxed{1}$.

Q1(3):

When the graph of $y = x^2 + ax + 1$ touches the x-axis, the equation $x^2 + ax + 1 = 0$

has only 1 solution. i.e.

$$\Delta = a^2 - 4(1)(1) = 0$$

$$a = \boxed{\pm 2}$$

Q1(4):

$$(\log_2 3)(\log_3 4) + 3^{\log_3 5}$$

$$= (\log_2 3)(2 \log_3 2) + 5$$

$$= 2 \log_3 (2^{\log_2 3}) + 5$$

$$= 2 \log_3 3 + 5$$

$$= 2(1) + 5$$

$$= \boxed{7}$$

Q1(5):

$$\text{As } \frac{\sin A + \cos A}{\sin A - \cos A}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{\sin A + \cos A}{\cos A}}{\frac{\sin A - \cos A}{\cos A}} \quad (\text{as } \cos A \neq 0)$$

$$= \frac{\tan A + 1}{\tan A - 1},$$

$$\text{when } \tan A = \sqrt{2}, \text{ we have } \frac{\sin A + \cos A}{\sin A - \cos A} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{2} + 1}{\sqrt{2} - 1}}.$$

(Note: Rationalisation is not necessary. After rationalisation, the answer is

$$\boxed{3 + 2\sqrt{2}}.)$$

Q2:

(1): As C passes through the two fixed points, no matter what the value of k is, we may put certain value of k and find the common solutions of different equations (the solutions are exactly the required coordinates).

Putting $k = 0$, we have $x^2 + y^2 + y - 1 = 0 \dots (1)$

Putting $k = -1$, we have $x^2 + y^2 - x = 0 \dots (2)$

By (1) - (2), we have $x + y - 1 = 0$, i.e. $x = 1 - y \dots (3)$

Substitue (3) into (1), we have

$$(1 - y)^2 + y^2 + y - 1 = 0$$

$$2y^2 - y = 0$$

$$y(2y - 1) = 0$$

$$y = 0 \text{ or } y = \frac{1}{2}$$

When $y = 0$, by (3), we have $x = 1$

When $y = \frac{1}{2}$, we have $x = \frac{1}{2}$

Therefore, the coordinates of the fixed points are $\boxed{(1, 0)}$ and $\boxed{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$.

(2): By completing the square, we can rewrite C as

$$(x + \frac{k}{2})^2 + (y + \frac{1+k}{2})^2 = (1+k) + (\frac{k}{2})^2 + (\frac{1+k}{2})^2.$$

$$\text{R.H.S.} = (\text{radius of } C)^2 = \frac{1}{2}(k^2 + 3k) + \frac{5}{4}.$$

By completing the square again, we have

$$(\text{radius of } C)^2 = \frac{1}{2}(k + \frac{3}{2})^2 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot (\frac{3}{2})^2 + \frac{5}{4} = \frac{1}{2}(k + \frac{3}{2})^2 + \frac{1}{8}. \text{ As } \frac{1}{2}(k + \frac{3}{2})^2 \geq 0,$$

we have $(\text{radius of } C)^2 \geq \frac{1}{8}$ and hence radius of $C \geq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}$. The minimum radius

of C is therefore $\boxed{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}}$.

(Note: Rationalisation is not necessary. After rationalisation, the answer will be $\boxed{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}}$.)

Q3:

(1) By using the slope-intercept form of a straight line, the equation of BA is $y = \frac{7-0}{0-\frac{7}{2}}x+7$, i.e. $y = -2x+7$. As it is tangent to the parabola $y = -x^2+ax+b$, the equation $-x^2+ax+b = -2x+7$, i.e. $x^2 - (a+2)x + (7-b) = 0$ has only one solution. Then, we have $\Delta = (a+2)^2 - 4(7-b) = 0$(1).

Similarly, by using the slope-intercept form of a straight line, the equation of BC is $y = \frac{7-0}{0+\frac{7}{6}}x+7$, i.e. $y = 6x+7$. As it is tangent to the parabola $y = -x^2+ax+b$, the equation $-x^2+ax+b = 6x+7$, i.e. $x^2 + (6-a)x + (7-b) = 0$ has only one solution. Then, we have $\Delta = (6-a)^2 - 4(7-b) = 0$(2).

By (1) – (2), we have

$$(a+2)^2 - (6-a)^2 = 0$$

$$(a+2+6-a)(a+2-6+a) = 0$$

$$a = \boxed{2}$$

Then, substituting $a = 2$ into (1), we have $4^2 - 4(7-b) = 0$, i.e. $b = \boxed{3}$.

(2) By solving the equation of intersection of BA and the parabola found in part (1), $x^2 - (a+2)x + (7-b) = 0$, i.e. $x^2 - 4x + 4 = 0$, we have $x = 2$, i.e. the x-coordinate of the point of tangent of BA to the parabola is 2.

Note that the area of the region bounded by BA and the parabola=(The area under BA)-(The area under the parabola), from $x = 0$ to $x = 2$. Therefore, the area

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_0^2 (-2x + 7)dx - \int_0^2 (-x^2 + 2x + 3)dx \\
 &= \int_0^2 (x^2 - 4x + 4)dx \\
 &= \left. \frac{1}{3}x^3 - 2x^2 + 4x \right|_0^2 \\
 &= \frac{8}{3} - 8 + 8 \\
 &= \boxed{\frac{8}{3}}
 \end{aligned}$$