1.

The domain is all values that a is allowed to be.
Since I can't divide by zero (division by zero isn't allowed,
I need to find all values of a that would cause division by zero.
The domain will then be all other a-values.
 When is this denominator equal to zero?

$a^2 - 4 = 0$

$a = \pm 2$ then the domain of p is $\{a \mid a \neq 2 \text{ or } -2\}$