



THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
2016 ACADEMIC YEAR  
MA110 - Mathematical methods

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**TIME ALLOWED: 3 hours**

- (1) You must write your **NAME, PROGRAM, COMPUTER NUMBER AND GROUP** on the cover of your answer sheet.
- (2) There are five questions in this paper. Attempt all Questions.
- (3) Show all necessary working and **number the pages** in your answer sheet
- (4) Calculators are **NOT** allowed in this paper

✓ 1. (a) (i) Express  $2.0\overline{72}$  as a fraction  $\frac{a}{b}$  in its simplest form where  $a$  and  $b$  are integers and  $b \neq 0$ .

\* (ii) Express  $\frac{1-\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{3}+1}$  in the form  $a+b\sqrt{3}$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are rational numbers.

\* (b) (i) Sketch the graph of  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x+3 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x^2 & \text{if } 0 \leq x < 2 \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$

\* ✓ (ii) Let  $f(x) = \frac{x}{x+2}$  and  $g(x) = 2x-1$ . Verify that  $(f \circ g)^{-1} = g^{-1} \circ f^{-1}$ .

\* ✓ (c) Given that  $\sqrt{7}$  is an irrational number, prove that  $2+\sqrt{7}$  is also an irrational number.

\* (d) State and prove one of de-Morgan's laws.

\* 2. (a) Given that  $A, B$  and  $C$  are sets, simplify the following if possible  

$$[(A \cap B)' \cap (A' \cup B)]'$$

✓ (b) Express  $f(x) = 2x^2 - 3x - 4$  in the form  $f(x) = a(x+p)^2 + q$  where  $a, p$  and  $q$  are constants indicating the axis of symmetry and the coordinates of its maximum or the minimum point.

(c) Define an operation  $*$  on the set of real numbers by  $a * b = a + b - 2\sqrt{ab}$

i. Is  $*$  a binary operation on the set of real numbers? Give reason for your answer.

ii. Evaluate  $(1 * -1) * 2$  and  $1 * (-1 * 2)$  and state whether  $*$  is associative.

\* (d) (i) If  $\sqrt{z} = \frac{3}{1+2i} + 4 - 3i$ , find  $z$  in the form  $x+iy$  where  $x, y$  are real numbers.

(2) (ii) Determine whether the function  $f(x) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+4}}$  is one-to-one. If it is, find the inverse graph both the function and its inverse

✓ 3. (a) Using synthetic division find the quotient and the remainder when

$f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 + x - 2$  is divided by  $x - (1 + i)$ .

✓ (b) Let  $R$ , the set of real numbers be the universal set. If  $A = [-7, 8) \cup [11, \alpha)$  and  $B = [0, 20]$ , find the following sets and display them on the number line:

(i)  $A'$ . (ii)  $A \cap B$ .

✓ (c) Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be the roots of the quadratic equation  $4x^2 + 3x - 2 = 0$

✓ (i) Find the sum  $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{\beta^2}$  ✓ (ii) Find a quadratic equation whose roots are  $\alpha^2$  and  $\beta^2$

✓ (d) Sketch the graph of the function  $k(x) = |2x - 1| - |x + 2|$

✓ 4 (a) Solve each of the following inequality/equation.

(i)  $|x - 1| > 1 - x^2$

(ii)  $2x^{2/5} - 11x^{1/5} + 12 = 0$

✓ (b) Given the rational function  $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 2}{x - 1}$ . Sketch its graph indicating its domain and range, all the asymptotes and intercepts.

✓ (c) Determine the domain of the following functions:

✓ i)  $f(x) = x^3 + \sqrt{x^2 - 2x - 24}$

✓ (ii)  $f(x) = \sqrt{\frac{x+1}{x-1}}$

✓ (d) Let  $z = x + iy$  be a non zero complex number. Given that  $z + \frac{1}{z} = k$ , where  $k$  is a real number, prove that  $|z| = 1$

5. (a) Solve the inequality  $\left| \frac{x+1}{x^2+2x+1} \right| \leq \frac{1}{2}$

✓ (b) Sketch the graph of the function  $f(x) = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{x}{2}}$  and find its domain and range.

✓ (c) (i) Solve the polynomial equation below

$$x^3 - 10x - 12 = 0.$$

✓ (ii) Rationalize the denominator  $\frac{5\sqrt[3]{z^2}}{4\sqrt[4]{x}}$  and express the final answer in simplest radical form.

✓ (d) (i) If the equation  $x^2 - (p - 2)x + 1 = p(x - 2)$  is satisfied by only one value of  $x$ , What are the possible values of  $p$ .

✓ (ii) Simplify  $\frac{2^n - 6^n}{1 - 3^n}$