

1. Q — For each generating function below, give a closed form for the  $n^{th}$  term of its associated sequence.

A — Selected answers:

a)

$$(1+x)^{10} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{10}{n} x^n \quad (\text{Newton's Binomial Theorem})$$

Therefore coefficient of the  $n^{th}$  term:

$$a_n = \binom{10}{n}$$

b)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{1-x^4} &= \frac{1}{(1-x)(1+x)(1+x^2)} \\ &= \frac{A}{(1-x)} + \frac{B}{(1+x)} + \frac{Cx+D}{(1+x^2)} \\ &= \frac{A(1+x)(1+x^2) + B(1-x)(1+x^2) + (Cx+D)(1-x^2)}{1-x^4} \quad (\text{for all } x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{for } x=1, 4A=1 \therefore A = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\text{for } x=-1, 4B=1 \therefore B = \frac{1}{4}$$

substituting:

$$\begin{aligned} (1+x)(1+x^2) + (1-x)(1+x^2) + 4(Cx+D)(1-x^2) &= 4 \\ x^3(-4C) + x^2(2-4D) + x(4C) + 4D &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore C=0, D=\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{1-x^4} = \frac{1}{4(1-x)} + \frac{1}{4(1+x)} + \frac{1}{2(1+x^2)}$$

We know that

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots \quad (1)$$

Substituting  $-x$  for  $x$ ,

$$\frac{1}{1+x} = 1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + \dots \quad (2)$$

Differentiating (2) w.r.t  $x$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{1+x}\right) &= \frac{-1}{(1+x)^2} \\ &= -1 + 2x - 3x^2 + \dots \\ \therefore \frac{1}{(1+x)^2} &= 1 - 2x + 3x^2 - \dots\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{1-x^4} &= \frac{1}{4}(1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots) + \frac{1}{4}(1-x+x^2-x^3+\dots) + \frac{1}{2}(1-2x+3x^2-\dots) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(2+2x^2+2x^4+\dots) + \frac{1}{2}(1-2x+3x^2-\dots) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(1+x^2+x^4+\dots) + \frac{1}{2}(1-2x+3x^2-\dots) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(2-2x+4x^2-4x^3+6x^4-\dots) \\ &= 1-x+2x^2-2x^3+3x^4-\dots \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n\left(n+\frac{1+(-1)^n}{2}\right)x^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n\frac{2n+1+(-1)^n}{2}x^n\end{aligned}$$

Therefore coefficient of the  $n^{th}$  term:

$$\boxed{a_n = (-1)^n \frac{2n+1+(-1)^n}{2}}$$

e)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1+x^2-x^4}{1-x} &= \frac{1}{1-x} + \frac{x^2}{1-x} - \frac{x^4}{1-x} \\ &= (1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots) + x^2(1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots) - x^4(1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{n+2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{n+4}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore coefficient of the  $n^{th}$  term:

$$\boxed{a_n = ?}$$