Roots of Polynomial Equations 2

Q1.

1 The cubic equation $7x^3 + 3x^2 + 5x + 1 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ.

(a) Find a cubic equation whose roots are $\alpha^{-1}, \beta^{-1}, \gamma^{-1}$. [3]

(b) Find the value of $\alpha^{-2} + \beta^{-2} + \gamma^{-2}$. [2]

(c) Find the value of $\alpha^{-3} + \beta^{-3} + \gamma^{-3}$. [2]

Q2.

3 The cubic equation $x^3 + cx + 1 = 0$, where c is a constant, has roots α, β, γ.

(a) Find a cubic equation whose roots are $\alpha^3, \beta^3, \gamma^3$. [3]

(b) Show that $\alpha^6 + \beta^6 + \gamma^6 = 3 - 2c^3$. [3]

(c) Find the real value of c for which the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha^3 & \beta^3 \\ \alpha^3 & 1 & \gamma^3 \\ \beta^3 & \gamma^3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ is singular. [5]

Q3.

1 The cubic equation $x^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$, where b, c and d are constants, has roots α, β, γ. It is given that $\alpha\beta\gamma = -1$.

(a) State the value of d. [1]

(b) Find a cubic equation, with coefficients in terms of b and c, whose roots are $\alpha+1, \beta+1, \gamma+1$. [3]

(c) Given also that $\gamma + 1 = -\alpha - 1$, deduce that $(c - 2b + 3)(b - 3) = b - c$. [4]

Q4.

3 The equation $x^4 - 2x^3 - 1 = 0$ has roots $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$.

(a) Find a quartic equation whose roots are $\alpha^3, \beta^3, \gamma^3, \delta^3$ and state the value of $\alpha^3 + \beta^3 + \gamma^3 + \delta^3$. [4]

(b) Find the value of $\frac{1}{\alpha^3} + \frac{1}{\beta^3} + \frac{1}{\gamma^3} + \frac{1}{\delta^3}$. [3]

(c) Find the value of $\alpha^4 + \beta^4 + \gamma^4 + \delta^4$. [2]

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Q5.

2 The cubic equation $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ. Let $S_n = \alpha^n + \beta^n + \gamma^n$.

(a) State the value of S_1 and find the value of S_2. [3]

(b) **(i)** Express S_{n+3} in terms of S_{n+2} and S_n. [1]

(ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of S_4. [2]

(c) Use the substitution $y = S_1 - x$, where S_1 is the numerical value found in part **(a)**, to find and simplify an equation whose roots are $\alpha+\beta$, $\beta+\gamma$, $\gamma+\alpha$. [3]

(d) Find the value of $\dfrac{1}{\alpha+\beta} + \dfrac{1}{\beta+\gamma} + \dfrac{1}{\gamma+\alpha}$. [2]

Q6.

It is given that

$$\alpha+\beta+\gamma = 3, \quad \alpha^2+\beta^2+\gamma^2 = 5, \quad \alpha^3+\beta^3+\gamma^3 = 6.$$

The cubic equation $x^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$ has roots α, β, γ.

Find the values of b, c and d. [6]

Q7.

The cubic equation $x^3 + 2x^2 + 3x + 3 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ.

(a) Find the value of $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2$. [2]

(b) Show that $\alpha^3 + \beta^3 + \gamma^3 = 1$. [2]

(c) Use standard results from the list of formulae (MF19) to show that

$$\sum_{r=1}^{n}\left((\alpha+r)^3 + (\beta+r)^3 + (\gamma+r)^3\right) = n + \tfrac{1}{4}n(n+1)\left(an^2+bn+c\right),$$

where a, b and c are constants to be determined. [6]

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Q8.

The cubic equation $2x^3 + 5x^2 - 6 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ.

(a) Find a cubic equation whose roots are $\frac{1}{\alpha^3}, \frac{1}{\beta^3}, \frac{1}{\gamma^3}$. [3]

(b) Find the value of $\frac{1}{\alpha^6} + \frac{1}{\beta^6} + \frac{1}{\gamma^6}$. [3]

(c) Find also the value of $\frac{1}{\alpha^9} + \frac{1}{\beta^9} + \frac{1}{\gamma^9}$. [2]

Q9.

The cubic equation $x^3 + 5x^2 + 10x - 2 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ.

(a) Find the value of $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2$. [3]

(b) Show that the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha & \beta \\ \alpha & 1 & \gamma \\ \beta & \gamma & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ is singular. [4]

Q10.

The cubic equation $x^3 + bx^2 + d = 0$ has roots α, β, γ, where $\alpha = \beta$ and $d \neq 0$.

(a) Show that $4b^3 + 27d = 0$. [5]

(b) Given that $2\alpha^2 + \gamma^2 = 3b$, find the values of b and d. [3]
