

Write your name here

Surname

Other Names

AS/A Level Mathematics

The Discriminant

Candidates may use any calculator allowed by the regulations of the Joint Council for Qualifications. Calculators must not have the facility for symbolic algebra manipulation, differentiation and integration, or have retrievable mathematical formulae stored in them.

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- If pencil is used for diagrams/sketches/graphs it must be dark (HB or B).
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name.
- Answer **all** questions and ensure that your answers to parts of questions are clearly labelled..
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– there may be more space than you need.
- You should show sufficient working to make your methods clear.
Answers without working may not gain full credit.
- Answers should be given to three significant figures unless otherwise stated.

Information

- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

1 The equation $x^2 + kx + 2 = 0$, where k is a constant has no real roots.

Find the set of possible values for k .

(Total for question 1 is 3 marks)

2 The equation $kx^2 + 5x + k = 0$, where k is a positive constant has equal roots.

Find the value for k .

(Total for question 2 is 3 marks)

3 The equation $kx^2 + 6kx + 2 = 0$, where k is a constant has no real roots.

Find the set of possible values for k .

(Total for question 3 is 4 marks)

4 The equation $(k + 5)x^2 + 4x + (k + 2) = 0$, where k is a constant has two distinct real solutions for x .

Find the set of possible values for k .

(Total for question 4 is 7 marks)

5 The equation $x^2 + (n + 1)x + (3 - 3n) = 0$, where n is a constant has two distinct real roots.

Find the set of possible values for n .

(Total for question 5 is 7 marks)

6 The equation $x^2 + (2k - 3)x + (k + 3) = 0$, where k is a constant has no real roots.

Find the set of possible values for k .

(Total for question 6 is 8 marks)

7 The curve with equation $y = px^2 - 4px - 5p$, where p is a constant does not intersect the line with equation $y = 2x - 12$.

(a) Show that $9p^2 - 8p + 1 < 0$

(b) Find the set of possible values for p .

(Total for question 7 is 8 marks)

8 The line $y = mx - 2$ is a tangent to the circle $x^2 + 6x + y^2 - 8y + 5 = 0$

Find the two possible values of m , giving your answers in exact form.

(Total for question 8 is 7 marks)

9 The line $y = mx + 2$ is a tangent to the circle $(x - 5)^2 + (y + 1)^2 = 15$

Find the two possible values of m , giving your answers in exact form.

(Total for question 9 is 7 marks)
