

Name: Answer Key

Date: 1/29/26

Test Prep 1

1. Simplify or factor

I made this test prep with your test in mind, so you shouldn't need a calculator!

a) $\frac{8a^{10}b^7}{16a^3b}$

$$\frac{a^7b^6}{2}$$

$$\frac{a^{10}}{a^3} \rightarrow a^7 \quad \frac{b^7}{b} \rightarrow b^6$$

$$\frac{8}{16} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$$

b) $2x^2+6x-36$

$$2(x^2+3x-18)$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 18 & \\ 1 & 18 \\ 2 & 9 \\ 3 & 6 \end{array}$$

$$2(x+6)(x-3)$$

$$(x+6)(x-3)$$

Foiling to check

$$x^2-3x+6x-18$$

$$2(x^2+3x-18)$$

$$2x^2+6x-36$$

c) $x^4-7x^3+10x^2$

$$x^2(x^2-7x+10)$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 10 & \\ 1 & 10 \\ 2 & 5 \end{array}$$

$$x^2(x-5)(x-2)$$

you can take x^2 out of every term

d) $3x^2-12$

$$3(x^2-4) \leftarrow \text{difference of squares}$$

$$3(x+2)(x-2)$$

2. Solve the rational equations and check for extraneous solutions

Hint: Find a LCD

it's always good to try and factor wherever you can!

$$a) \frac{1}{x+5} + \frac{1}{x-5} = \frac{4}{x^2-25}$$

$$\frac{1}{x+5} + \frac{1}{x-5} = \frac{4}{(x+5)(x-5)}$$

$$(x-5) + (x+5) = 4 \quad \frac{(x+5)(x-5)}{1} \cdot \frac{1}{x+5} + \frac{1}{x-5} = \frac{4}{(x+5)(x-5)} \cdot \frac{(x+5)(x-5)}{1}$$

$$\cancel{x-5} + \cancel{x+5} = 4 \rightarrow 2x = 4 \quad \boxed{x=2}$$

$$b) \frac{3}{n+1} = \frac{5}{n-3} \quad \frac{(n-3)(n+1)}{1} \cdot \frac{3}{n+1} = \frac{5}{n-3} \cdot \frac{(n-3)(n+1)}{1}$$

$$3(n-3) = 5(n+1)$$

$$3n-9 = 5n+5$$

$$\frac{2n = -14}{2}$$

$$\boxed{n = -7}$$

3. Solve these quadratics by completing the square

$$a) x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$$

$$x^2 + 4x + 4 = -3 + 4$$

$$4/2 \rightarrow 2^2 = 4$$

$$\sqrt{(x+2)^2} \neq 1$$

$$x+2=1$$

$$\boxed{x = -1}$$

$$x+2=-1$$

$$\boxed{x = -3}$$

$$b) 2x^2 - 8x + 9 = 0$$

$$2x^2 - 8x = -9$$

$$2(x-2)^2 = -9 + 8$$

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

$$\sqrt{(x-2)^2} \neq \pm 1/2$$

$$\boxed{(x-2) = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}$$

I'm leaving it here

you have to multiply by what you took out

4. Find the difference quotient of

$$f(x) = 3x + 2$$

difference quotient

$$\frac{3(x+h) + 2 - (3x + 2)}{h}$$

$$= \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

after canceling like terms

$$\frac{\cancel{3x} + 3h + \cancel{2} - \cancel{3x} - \cancel{2}}{h} \rightarrow \frac{3h}{h} \quad \frac{h(3)}{h} \rightarrow \boxed{3}$$

5. For the function $f(x) = (x-5)^2$ whose graph is shown below, find the net change and average rate of change between the following values

$$\begin{matrix} a & b \\ x=1 & \text{and } x=4 \end{matrix}$$

net change is $f(b) - f(a)$

average ROC is

$$(4-5)^2 - (1-5)^2$$

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

$$(-1)^2 - (-4)^2$$

$$1 - 16$$

$$\boxed{-15}$$

$$\frac{-15}{4-1}$$

$$\frac{-15}{3}$$

slope

$$\rightarrow \boxed{-5}$$

6. Polynomial long division

1) Divide $(x^3 + 9x^2 + 23x + 15)$ by $(x+1)$. Then, factor the result.

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 + 8x + 15 \\ x+1 \overline{) x^3 + 9x^2 + 23x + 15} \\ \underline{-(x^3 + x^2)} \downarrow \\ 0 + 8x^2 + 23x \downarrow \\ \underline{-(8x^2 + 8x)} \\ 15x + 15 \\ \underline{-(15x + 15)} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 + 8x + 15 \\ (x+3)(x+5) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 15 \\ 15 \cdot 1 \\ 3 \cdot 5 \end{array}$$

$$\boxed{(x+3)(x+5)(x+1)}$$

7. Solve $e^{2x} - e^x - 6 = 0$

let $u = e^x$

$$u^2 - u - 6 = 0$$

$$(u-3)(u+2) = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ u \cdot 1 \\ 2 \cdot 3 \end{array}$$

$$u = 3 \quad u = -2$$

$$e^x = 3 \quad e^x = -2$$

$$\underline{\ln 3 = x} \quad \boxed{\ln -2 = x}$$

only answer

not a solution

8. Evaluate the following rational functions

$$a) \frac{2x^2 - 8x - 24}{x^2 - 5x - 6}$$

$$\frac{2(x^2 - 4x - 12)}{x^2 - 5x - 6}$$

$$\frac{2(x-6)(x+2)}{(x-6)(x+1)}$$

① horizontal asymptote - powers are the same so the coefficients are the h.c. $2/1 = h.c. = 2$ or $y=2$

② hole $(x-6)$ cancels out on top & bottom
 $x=6$

to find y-value $\rightarrow \frac{2(x+2)}{(x+1)}$

$$\frac{2(6+2)}{(6+1)}$$

$$\frac{16}{7}$$

③ v.a. left-over in denominator $x=-1$

hole at $(6, 16/7)$

④ x-int left-over in numerator

x-int @ $x=-2$

$$b) \frac{x^2 + 5x + 4}{x-3}$$

$$\frac{(x+4)(x+1)}{x-3}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x-3 \overline{) x^2 + 5x + 4} \\ \underline{-(x^2 - 3x)} \\ 8x + 4 \\ \underline{-(8x - 24)} \\ 28 \end{array}$$

• no h.c. but a slant asymptote at $y=x+8$

• no holes

• v.a. at $x=3$ x-ints at $x=-4$ and $x=-1$

28 - doesn't matter

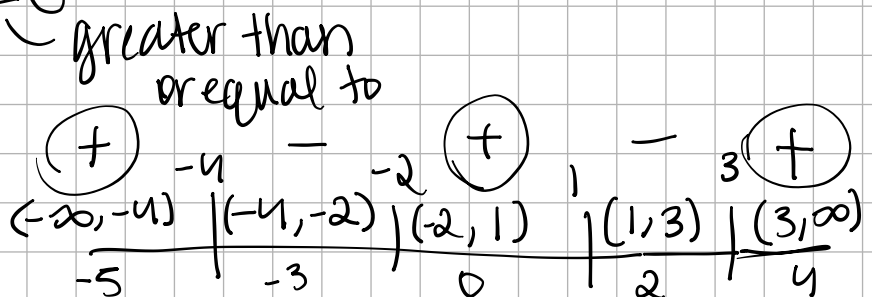
9. Polynomial inequality (open and closed intervals)

$$a) \frac{(x+2)(x-1)}{(x-3)(x+4)} \geq 0$$

no holes

v.a. at $x=-4, 3$

x-ints at $x=-2, 1$



$$\textcircled{-5} \frac{(-5+2)(-5-1)}{(-5-3)(-5+4)} \rightarrow \frac{(-3)(-6)}{(-8)(-1)} \rightarrow + \quad \left[(-\infty, -4) \cup [-2, 1] \cup (3, \infty) \right]$$

$$\textcircled{-3} \frac{(-3+2)(-3-1)}{(-3-3)(-3+4)} \rightarrow \frac{(-1)(-4)}{(-6)(1)} \rightarrow - \quad \textcircled{2} \frac{(2+2)(2-1)}{(2-3)(2+4)} \rightarrow \frac{(4)(1)}{(-1)(8)} \rightarrow -$$

$$\textcircled{0} \frac{(0+2)(0-1)}{(0-3)(0+4)} \rightarrow \frac{(2)(-1)}{(-3)(4)} \rightarrow + \quad \textcircled{1} \frac{(1+2)(1-1)}{(1-3)(1+4)} \rightarrow \frac{(3)(0)}{(-2)(8)} \rightarrow +$$

10. Transformations

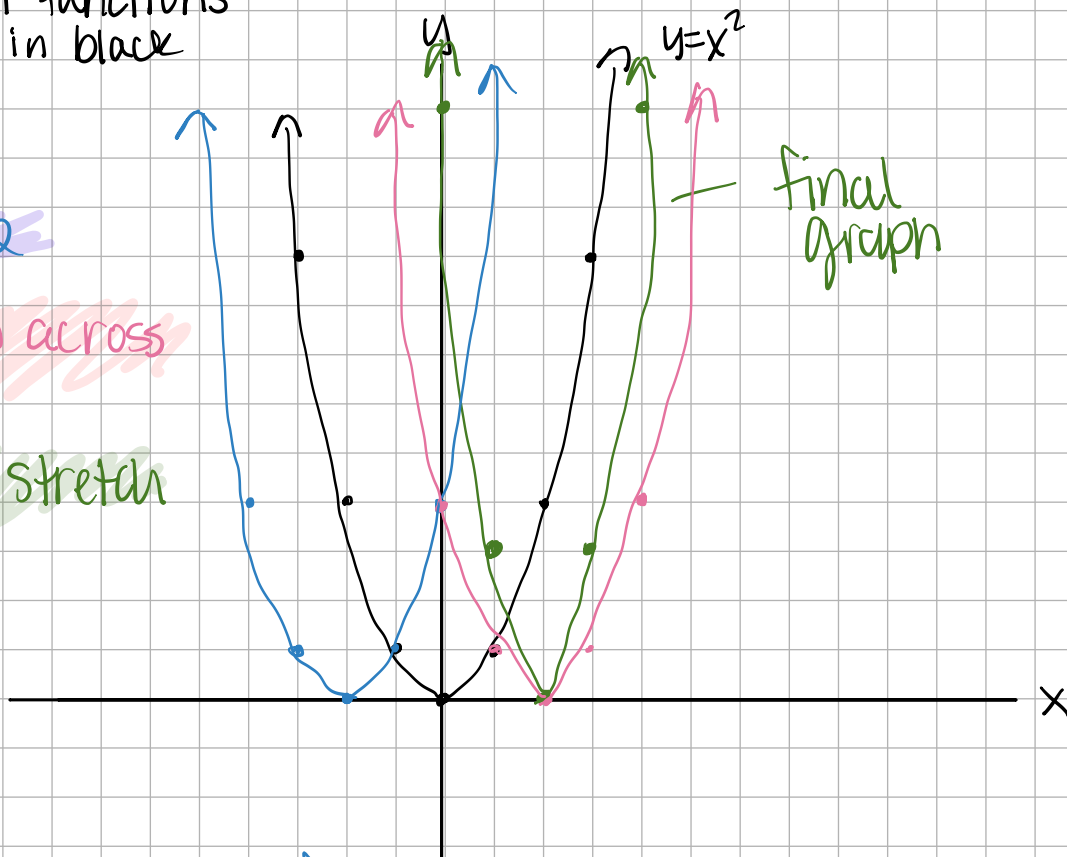
parent functions
will be in black

(each square is 1)

move left 2

reflection across
y-axis

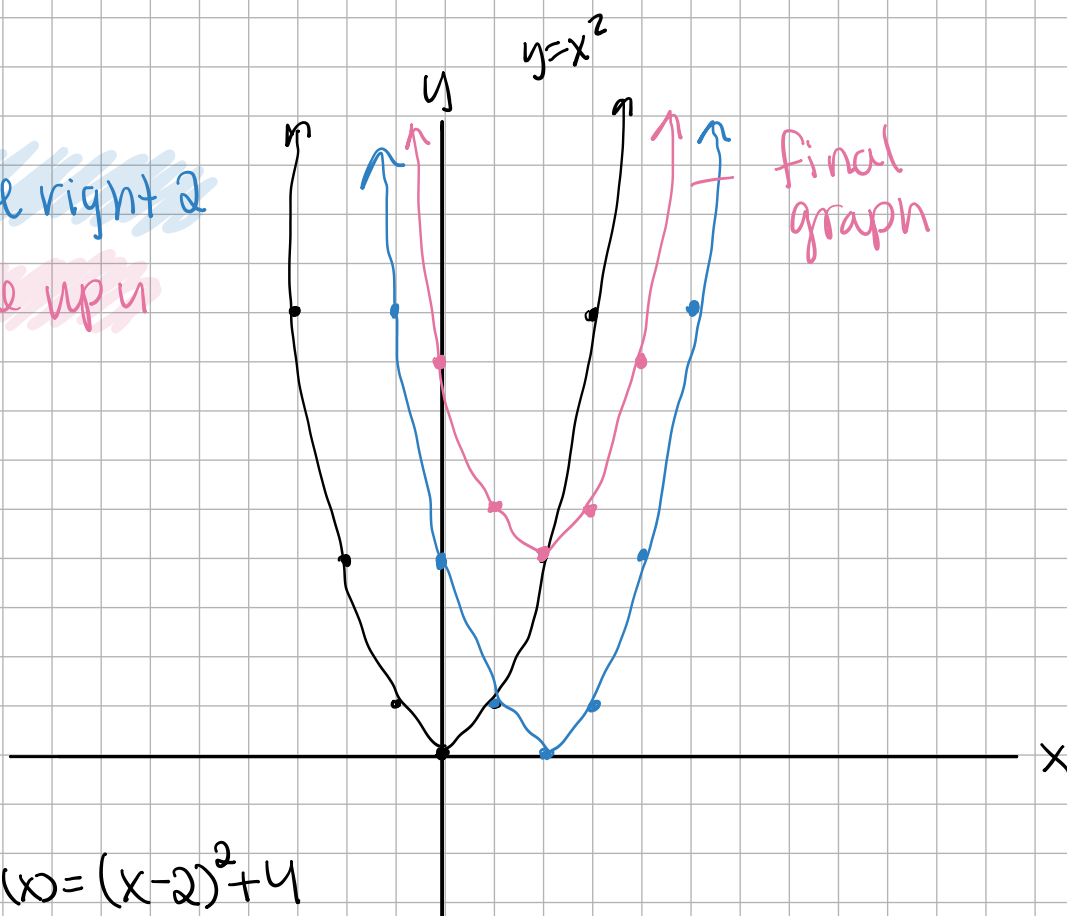
vertical stretch
of 3



a) $y = 3(-x+2)^2$ - fix this 1)

move right 2

move up 4



b) $f(x) = (x-2)^2 + 4$

Move right 3

Horizontal shrink
of 4

Reflection over x-
axis (x-int is
pivot point)

up 2

c) $y = 2 - (4x - 3)$

$y = x$

final
graph

$\frac{3}{4} = 0.75$

divide x-values by 4

