

**Roots of polynomials Mixed exercise 4**

**1**  $ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e = 0$

Roots are  $\alpha = \frac{1}{5}$ ,  $\beta = -\frac{2}{5}$ ,  $\gamma = -\frac{3}{5}$  and  $\delta = -\frac{1}{2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta &= \frac{1}{5} - \frac{2}{5} - \frac{3}{5} - \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{13}{10} \\ \alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta &= \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{2}{5}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{5}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &\quad + \left(-\frac{2}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{5}\right) + \left(-\frac{2}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(-\frac{3}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= -\frac{2}{25} - \frac{3}{25} - \frac{1}{10} + \frac{6}{25} + \frac{2}{10} + \frac{3}{10} \\ &= \frac{11}{25} \\ \alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta &= \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{2}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{5}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{2}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(-\frac{2}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{6}{125} + \frac{2}{50} + \frac{3}{50} - \frac{6}{50} \\ &= \frac{7}{250}\end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{2}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{5}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{6}{250}$$

$$\text{So } -\frac{13}{10} = -\frac{b}{a} \Rightarrow \frac{b}{a} = \frac{13}{10}$$

$$\frac{11}{25} = \frac{c}{a} \Rightarrow \frac{c}{a} = \frac{11}{25}$$

$$\frac{7}{250} = -\frac{d}{a} \Rightarrow \frac{d}{a} = -\frac{7}{250}$$

$$-\frac{6}{250} = \frac{e}{a} \Rightarrow \frac{e}{a} = -\frac{6}{250}$$

$$ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^4 + \frac{b}{a}x^3 + \frac{c}{a}x^2 + \frac{d}{a}x + \frac{e}{a} = 0$$

So the equation is:

$$x^4 + \frac{13}{10}x^3 + \frac{11}{25}x^2 - \frac{7}{250}x - \frac{6}{250} = 0$$

Multiply by 250 for integer coefficients:

$$250x^4 + 325x^3 + 110x^2 - 7x - 6 = 0$$

**2 a**  $x^3 + px^2 + 37x - 52 = 0$

So  $a = 1, b = p, c = 37$  and  $d = -52$ .

$$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = \frac{c}{a} = 37$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{d}{a} = 52$$

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{b}{a} = -p, \text{ so}$$

$$p = -(\alpha + \beta + \gamma)$$

**b** If  $\alpha = 3 - 2i$ , then  $\beta = 3 + 2i$

Substitute  $\alpha = 3 - 2i$  and  $\beta = 3 + 2i$  into  $\alpha\beta\gamma = 52$

$$(3 - 2i)(3 + 2i)\gamma = 52$$

$$(9 + 6i - 6i - 4i^2)\gamma = 52$$

$$13\gamma = 52$$

$$\gamma = 4$$

So the roots are  $3 - 2i, 3 + 2i$  and  $4$ .

$$p = -(\alpha + \beta + \gamma)$$

$$= -( (3 - 2i) + (3 + 2i) + 4 ) = -10$$

**3 a**  $2x^3 + 5x^2 - 2x + q = 0$

So  $a = 2, b = 5, c = -2$  and  $d = q$ .

If  $x = -2 + i$  is a root then  $x = -2 - i$  is also a root.

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{b}{a} = -\frac{5}{2}$$

$$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = \frac{c}{a} = -\frac{2}{2} = -1$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{d}{a} = -\frac{q}{2}$$

Substitute  $\alpha = -2 + i$  and  $\beta = -2 - i$  into

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{5}{2}$$

$$(-2 + i) + (-2 - i) + \gamma = -\frac{5}{2}$$

$$-4 + \gamma = -\frac{5}{2}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{3}{2}$$

The other two roots are  $-2 - i$  and  $\frac{3}{2}$ .

**3 b**  $\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{q}{2}$ , so

$$q = -2\alpha\beta\gamma$$

$$= -2(-2+i)(-2-i)\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$$

$$= (-3)(4+2i-2i-i^2)$$

$$= (-3)(5)$$

$$= -15$$

So  $q = -15$ .

**4**  $x^4 - 40x^3 + 510x^2 - 220x + 1729 = 0$

So  $a = 1, b = -40, c = 510, d = -2200$  and  $e = 1729$ .

Let  $\alpha = \alpha, \beta = \alpha + 2k, \gamma = \alpha + 4k$  and  $\delta = \alpha + 6k$ .

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta$$

$$= \alpha + (\alpha + 2k) + (\alpha + 4k) + (\alpha + 6k)$$

$$= 4\alpha + 12k$$

$$\text{But } \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = -\frac{b}{a} = 40$$

$$\text{So } 4\alpha + 12k = 40 \text{ or } \alpha + 3k = 10$$

$$\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta$$

$$= \alpha(\alpha + 2k) + \alpha(\alpha + 4k) + \alpha(\alpha + 6k)$$

$$+ (\alpha + 2k)(\alpha + 4k) + (\alpha + 2k)(\alpha + 6k)$$

$$+ (\alpha + 4k)(\alpha + 6k)$$

$$= \alpha^2 + 2\alpha k + \alpha^2 + 4\alpha k + \alpha^2 + 6\alpha k$$

$$+ \alpha^2 + 6\alpha k + 8k^2 + \alpha^2 + 8\alpha k + 12k^2$$

$$+ \alpha^2 + 10\alpha k + 24k^2$$

$$= 6\alpha^2 + 36\alpha k + 44k^2$$

$$\text{But } \alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta = \frac{c}{a} = 510$$

$$\text{So } 6\alpha^2 + 36\alpha k + 44k^2 = 510$$

$$\text{or } 3\alpha^2 + 18\alpha k + 22k^2 = 255$$

$$\text{If } \alpha + 3k = 10, \text{ then } \alpha = 10 - 3k$$

Substitute  $\alpha = 10 - 3k$  into

$$3\alpha^2 + 18\alpha k + 22k^2 = 255.$$

$$3(10 - 3k)^2 + 18(10 - 3k)k + 22k^2 = 255$$

$$3(100 - 60k + 9k^2) + 18(10 - 3k)k + 22k^2 = 255$$

$$300 - 180k + 27k^2 + 180k - 54k^2 + 22k^2 = 255$$

$$-5k^2 = -45$$

$$k^2 = 9$$

$$k = \pm 3$$

$$\text{If } k = 3, \alpha = 10 - 3(3) = 1$$

$$\text{If } k = -3, \alpha = 10 - 3(-3) = 19$$

Either way the roots are 1, 7, 13 and 19.

**5 a**  $24x^4 - 58x^3 + 17x^2 + dx + e = 0$

So  $a = 24, b = -58, c = 17, d = d$  and  $e = e$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2}, \beta = -\frac{1}{3}, \gamma = 2 \text{ and } \delta = \delta.$$

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = \frac{1}{2} + \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) + 2 + \delta$$

$$= \frac{13}{6} + \delta$$

$$\text{But } \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = -\frac{b}{a} = \frac{58}{24} = \frac{29}{12}$$

$$\text{So } \frac{13}{6} + \delta = \frac{29}{12}, \text{ hence } \delta = \frac{3}{12} = \frac{1}{4}$$

The fourth root is  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

**b**  $\alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)(2) + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(2)\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)(2)\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{24} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{6}$$

$$= -\frac{8}{24} - \frac{1}{24} + \frac{6}{24} - \frac{4}{24}$$

$$= -\frac{7}{24}$$

$$\text{But } \alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta = -\frac{d}{a} = -\frac{d}{24}$$

$$\text{So } -\frac{d}{24} = -\frac{7}{24}, \text{ hence } d = 7$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)(2)\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = -\frac{1}{12}$$

$$\text{But } \alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \frac{e}{a} = \frac{e}{24}$$

$$\text{So } \frac{e}{24} = -\frac{1}{12}, \text{ hence } e = -2.$$

**6 a**  $x^4 + 2x^3 + mx^2 + nx + 85 = 0$

So  $a = 1, b = 2, c = m, d = n$  and  $e = 85$ .

Given  $\alpha = -2+i$  and  $\beta = \alpha^* = -2-i$

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = (-2+i) + (-2-i) + \gamma + \delta$$

$$= -4 + \gamma + \delta$$

$$\text{But } \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = -\frac{b}{a} = -2$$

$$\text{So } -4 + \gamma + \delta = -2 \text{ hence } \gamma + \delta - 2 = 0$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = (-2+i)(-2-i)\gamma\delta$$

$$= 5\gamma\delta$$

$$\text{But } \alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \frac{e}{a} = 85$$

$$\text{So } 5\gamma\delta = 85 \text{ hence } \gamma\delta - 17 = 0$$

**6 b** If  $\gamma\delta - 17 = 0$ , then  $\gamma = \frac{17}{\delta}$

Substitute  $\gamma = \frac{17}{\delta}$  into  $\gamma + \delta - 2 = 0$

$$\frac{17}{\delta} + \delta - 2 = 0$$

Multiply by  $\delta$ :

$$17 + \delta^2 - 2\delta = 0$$

$$\delta^2 - 2\delta + 17 = 0$$

Solve by completing the square:

$$(\delta - 1)^2 - 1 + 17 = 0$$

$$(\delta - 1)^2 = -16$$

$$\delta - 1 = \pm 4i$$

$$\delta = 1 \pm 4i$$

So the roots are  $-2 \pm i$  and  $1 \pm 4i$

But  $\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta = \frac{c}{a} = m$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-2+i)(-2-i) + (-2+i)(1+4i) + (-2+i)(1-4i) \\ &\quad + (-2-i)(1+4i) + (-2-i)(1-4i) + (1+4i)(1-4i) \end{aligned}$$

and cancelling the imaginary terms gives us

$$= 5 - 2 - 2 - 2 + 17 = 14 = m$$

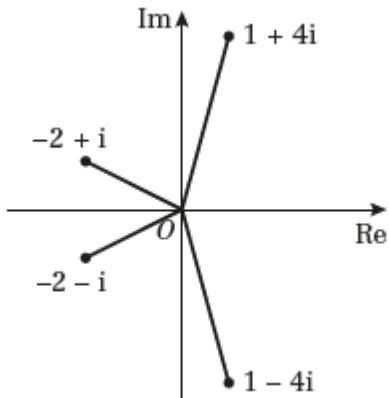
Now  $\alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta = \frac{-d}{a} = n$

$$= 5(\gamma + \delta) + 17(\alpha + \beta) = (5)(2) + (17)(-4) = -58 = -n$$

So

$$n = 58$$

**c**



**7 a**  $4x^4 - 16x^3 + 115x^2 + 4x - 29 = 0$

So  $a = 4, b = -16, c = 115, d = 4$  and

$$e = -29$$

Show  $\alpha = 2 - 5i$  is a root:

$$4(2-5i)^4 - 16(2-5i)^3 + 115(2-5i)^2$$

$$+ 4(2-5i) - 29 = 0$$

**7 a** Use

$$(a+b)^4 = a^4 + 4a^3b + 6a^2b^2 + 4ab^3 + b^4$$

with  $a = 2$  and  $b = -5i$

$$\begin{aligned} (2-5i)^4 &= (2)^4 + 4(2)^3(-5i) + 6(2)^2(-5i)^2 \\ &\quad + 4(2)(-5i)^3 + (-5i)^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2-5i)^4 &= 16 + (32)(-5i) + (24)(-5i)^2 \\ &\quad + (8)(-5i)^3 + (-5i)^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$(2-5i)^4 = 16 - 160i + 600i^2 - 1000i^3 + 625i^4$$

Use the fact that  $i^2 = -1, i^3 = -i$  and

$$i^4 = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2-5i)^4 &= 16 - 160i - 600 + 1000i + 625 \\ &= 41 + 840i \end{aligned}$$

Use  $(a+b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$  with  $a = 2$  and  $b = -5i$

$$\begin{aligned} (2-5i)^3 &= (2)^3 + 3(2)^2(-5i) \\ &\quad + 3(2)(-5i)^2 + (-5i)^3 \\ &= 8 + (12)(-5i) \\ &\quad + (6)(-5i)^2 + (-5i)^3 \\ &= 8 - 60i + 150i^2 - 125i^3 \end{aligned}$$

Use the fact that  $i^2 = -1$  and  $i^3 = -i$  to simplify:

$$\begin{aligned} (2-5i)^3 &= 8 - 60i - 150 + 125i \\ &= -142 + 65i \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2-5i)^2 &= 4 - 10i - 10i + 25i^2 \\ &= -21 - 20i \end{aligned}$$

So  $4(2-5i)^4 - 16(2-5i)^3 + 115(2-5i)^2 + 4(2-5i) - 29 = 0$  becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} &4(41+840i) - 16(-142+65i) \\ &+ 115(-21-20i) + 4(2-5i) - 29 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$164 + 3360i + 2272 - 1040i$$

$$-2415 - 2300i + 8 - 20i - 29 = 0$$

$$(164 + 2272 - 2514 + 8 - 29)$$

$$+ (3360 - 1040 - 2300 - 20)i = 0$$

So  $\alpha = 2 - 5i$  is a root.

- 7 b** If  $\alpha = 2 - 5i$  is a root, then  $\beta = 2 + 5i$  is also a root. Let the other two roots be  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta &= (2 - 5i) + (2 + 5i) + \gamma + \delta \\ &= 4 + \gamma + \delta\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But } \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = -\frac{b}{a} = 4$$

So  $4 + \gamma + \delta = 4$  hence  $\gamma + \delta = 0$  and  $\gamma = -\delta$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha\beta\gamma\delta &= (2 - 5i)(2 + 5i)\gamma\delta \\ &= 29\gamma\delta\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But } \alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \frac{e}{a} = -\frac{29}{4}$$

$$\text{So } 29\gamma\delta = -\frac{29}{4}, \text{ hence } \gamma\delta = -\frac{1}{4}.$$

Substitute  $\gamma = -\delta$  into  $\gamma\delta = -\frac{1}{4}$ .

$$-\delta^2 = -\frac{1}{4}$$

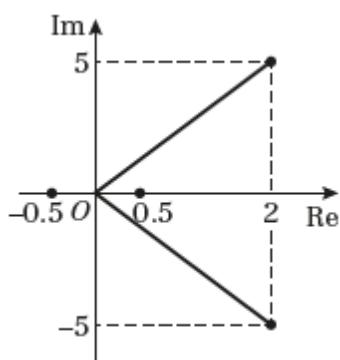
$$\delta^2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\delta = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{So } \gamma = \mp \frac{1}{2}$$

So the roots are  $2 - 5i, 2 + 5i, \frac{1}{2}$  and  $-\frac{1}{2}$ .

c



- 8 a**  $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 11x - 9 = 0$

So  $a = 2, b = -5, c = 11$  and  $d = -9$

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{b}{a} = \frac{5}{2}$$

$$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{11}{2}$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{d}{a} = \frac{9}{2}$$

$$\mathbf{b} \quad \mathbf{i} \quad \frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} = \frac{\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha}{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \frac{\left(\frac{11}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{9}{2}\right)} = \frac{11}{9}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{ii} \quad \alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 &= (\alpha + \beta + \gamma)^2 - 2(\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha) \\ &= \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^2 - 2\left(\frac{11}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{25}{4} - 11 \\ &= -\frac{19}{4}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{iii} \quad (\alpha - 1)(\beta - 1)(\gamma - 1) &= \alpha\beta\gamma - (\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha) \\ &\quad + (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) - 1 \\ &= \frac{9}{2} - \frac{11}{2} + \frac{5}{2} - 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{9 a} \quad px^4 + 12x^3 + 6x^2 + 5x - 7 = 0$$

So  $a = p, b = 12, c = 6, d = 5$  and  $e = -7$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \frac{e}{a} = -\frac{7}{p}$$

But  $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = -1$

$$\text{So } -\frac{7}{p} = -1, \text{ hence } p = 7.$$

$$\mathbf{b} \quad \sum \alpha = -\frac{b}{a} = -\frac{12}{7}$$

$$\sum \alpha\beta = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{6}{7}$$

$$\sum \alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{d}{a} = -\frac{5}{7}$$

$$\mathbf{c} \quad \alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 + \delta^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}&= (\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta)^2 \\ &\quad - 2(\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta)\end{aligned}$$

$$= \left(-\frac{12}{7}\right)^2 - 2\left(\frac{6}{7}\right)$$

$$= \frac{144}{49} - \frac{12}{7}$$

$$= \frac{144}{49} - \frac{84}{49}$$

$$= \frac{60}{49}$$

**10 a**  $5x^3 + cx + 21 = 0$

So  $a = 5$ ,  $b = 0$ ,  $c = c$ , and  $d = 21$ .

$$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{c}{5}$$

But  $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = -6$

So  $\frac{c}{5} = -6$ , hence  $c = -30$

**b**  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{b}{a} = 0$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{d}{a} = -\frac{21}{5}$$

**c**  $(1-\alpha)(1-\beta)(1-\gamma)$

$$= 1 - (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) + (\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha) - \alpha\beta\gamma$$

$$= 1 - 0 + (-6) - \left(-\frac{21}{5}\right)$$

$$= -5 + \frac{21}{5}$$

$$= -\frac{4}{5}$$

**11**  $2x^3 + 5x^2 + 7x - 2 = 0$

$$w = 3x + 1, \text{ so } x = \frac{w-1}{3}$$

Substitute  $x = \frac{w-1}{3}$  into

$$2x^3 + 5x^2 + 7x - 2 = 0$$

$$2\left(\frac{w-1}{3}\right)^3 + 5\left(\frac{w-1}{3}\right)^2 + 7\left(\frac{w-1}{3}\right) - 2 = 0$$

Multiply by 27 to remove fractions:

$$2(w-1)^3 + 15(w-1)^2 + 63(w-1) - 54 = 0$$

$$2(w^3 - 3w^2 + 3w - 1) + 15(w^2 - 2w + 1)$$

$$+ 63(w-1) - 54 = 0$$

$$2w^3 - 6w^2 + 6w - 2 + 15w^2 - 30w + 15$$

$$+ 63w - 63 - 54 = 0$$

$$2w^3 + 9w^2 + 39w - 104 = 0$$

**12 a**  $6x^4 - 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 7x + 8 = 0$

$$w = 2x, \text{ so } x = \frac{w}{2}$$

Substitute  $x = \frac{w}{2}$  into

$$6x^4 - 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 7x + 8 = 0$$

$$6\left(\frac{w}{2}\right)^4 - 2\left(\frac{w}{2}\right)^3 - 5\left(\frac{w}{2}\right)^2 + 7\left(\frac{w}{2}\right) + 8 = 0$$

**12 a** Multiply by 16 to eliminate fractions:

$$6w^4 - 4w^3 - 20w^2 + 56w + 128 = 0$$

All coefficients are divisible by 2:

$$3w^4 - 2w^3 - 10w^2 + 28w + 64 = 0$$

**b**  $w = 3x - 2$ , so  $x = \frac{w+2}{3}$

Substitute  $x = \frac{w+2}{3}$  into

$$6x^4 - 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 7x + 8 = 0$$

$$6\left(\frac{w+2}{3}\right)^4 - 2\left(\frac{w+2}{3}\right)^3 - 5\left(\frac{w+2}{3}\right)^2 + 7\left(\frac{w+2}{3}\right) + 8 = 0$$

Multiply by 81 to eliminate fractions:

$$6(w+2)^4 - 6(w+2)^3 - 45(w+2)^2$$

$$+ 189(w+2) + 648 = 0$$

All coefficients are divisible by 3:

$$2(w+2)^4 - 2(w+2)^3 - 15(w+2)^2$$

$$+ 63(w+2) + 216 = 0$$

$$2(w^4 + 8w^3 + 24w^2 + 32w + 16)$$

$$- 2(w^3 + 6w^2 + 12w + 8)$$

$$- 15(w^2 + 4w + 4) + 63(w+2) + 216 = 0$$

$$2w^4 + 16w^3 + 48w^2 + 64w + 32$$

$$- 2w^3 - 12w^2 - 24w - 16$$

$$- 15w^2 - 60w - 60 + 63w + 126 + 216 = 0$$

$$2w^4 + 14w^3 + 21w^2 + 43w + 298 = 0$$

## Challenge

**1** Multiply by  $w^3$  :

$$1 - 3w + 3w^2 - w^3 + 4w(1 - 2w + w^2)$$

$$-5w^2(1 - w) - 7w^3 = 0$$

$$1 - 3w + 3w^2 - w^3 + 4w - 8w^2 + 4w^3$$

$$-5w^2 + 5w^3 - 7w^3 = 0$$

$$w^3 - 10w^2 + w + 1 = 0$$

**2**  $x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x - 5 = 0$

So  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2$ ,  $c = -3$  and  $d = -5$ .

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{b}{a} = -2$$

Hence  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -2$

So,  $\alpha + \beta = -2 - \gamma$ ,  $\beta + \gamma = -2 - \alpha$  and

$$\gamma + \alpha = -2 - \beta$$

$$w = -2 - x, \text{ so } x = -2 - w$$

Substitute  $x = -2 - w$  into

$$x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x - 5 = 0$$

$$(-2 - w)^3 + 2(-2 - w)^2 - 3(-2 - w) - 5 = 0$$

$$-8 - 12w - 6w^2 - w^3 + 2(4 + 4w + w^2)$$

$$+6 + 3w - 5 = 0$$

$$-8 - 12w - 6w^2 - w^3 + 8 + 8w + 2w^2$$

$$+6 + 3w - 5 = 0$$

$$-w^3 - 4w^2 - w + 1 = 0$$

Divide by  $-1$ :

$$w^3 + 4w^2 + w - 1 = 0$$

**3**  $x^4 + 2x^2 - 5x + 2 = 0$

$$w = x^2 + 1, \text{ so } x^2 = w - 1.$$

Therefore  $x = \sqrt{w - 1}$ .

Substitute  $x = \sqrt{w - 1}$  into

$$x^4 + 2x^2 - 5x + 2 = 0.$$

$$(\sqrt{w-1})^4 + 2(\sqrt{w-1})^2 - 5(\sqrt{w-1}) + 2 = 0$$

$$(w-1)^2 + 2(w-1) - 5\sqrt{w-1} + 2 = 0$$

$$w^2 - 2w + 1 + 2w - 2 - 5\sqrt{w-1} + 2 = 0$$

$$w^2 - 5\sqrt{w-1} + 1 = 0$$

Multiply by  $w^2 + 5\sqrt{w-1} + 1$ .

$$w^4 + 2w^2 - 25(w-1) + 1 = 0$$

$$w^4 + 2w^2 - 25w + 26 = 0$$