

EdExcel Further Pure 1

Complex Numbers

Section 3: Complex numbers and equations

Crucial points

- 1. Remember that complex roots of polynomial equations with real coefficients always occur in conjugate pairs**
This is important when solving polynomial equations. If you know one complex root, then you know a second complex root (its conjugate) and you can then find a quadratic factor with real coefficients for the equation.
- 2. Make sure that you can divide a polynomial by a linear or quadratic factor**
If you find this difficult, there are two PowerPoint presentations in this section which demonstrate factorisation of polynomials by inspection or algebraic long division.
- 3. Check your work carefully**
It is easy to make mistakes in the algebra when solving polynomial equations.