

Name

Class



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# Iteration

(9 – 1) Topic booklet

## Higher

These questions have been collated from previous years GCSE Mathematics papers.

**You must have:** Ruler graduated in centimetres and millimetres, protractor, pair of compasses, pen, HB pencil, eraser.

Total Marks

### Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- Diagrams are NOT accurately drawn, unless otherwise indicated.
- You must **show all your working out.**
- If the question is a **1H** question you are not allowed to use a calculator.
- If the question is a **2H** or a **3H** question, you may use a calculator to help you answer.

### 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.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

**Answer ALL questions**  
**Write your answers in the space provided.**  
**You must write down all the stages in your working.**

- 13** The number of animals in a population at the start of year  $t$  is  $P_t$   
The number of animals at the start of year 1 is 400

Given that

$$P_{t+1} = 1.01P_t$$

work out the number of animals at the start of year 3



**13** The number of slugs in a garden  $t$  days from now is  $p_t$  where

$$p_0 = 100$$

$$p_{t+1} = 1.06p_t$$

Work out the number of slugs in the garden 3 days from now.



**14** (a) Show that the equation  $x^3 + 4x = 1$  has a solution between  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$



(2)

(b) Show that the equation  $x^3 + 4x = 1$  can be arranged to give  $x = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{x^3}{4}$

(1)

(c) Starting with  $x_0 = 0$ , use the iteration formula  $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{x_n^3}{4}$  twice,  
to find an estimate for the solution of  $x^3 + 4x = 1$

(3)

15 (a) Show that the equation  $x^3 + 7x - 5 = 0$  has a solution between  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$



(2)

(b) Show that the equation  $x^3 + 7x - 5 = 0$  can be arranged to give  $x = \frac{5}{x^2 + 7}$

(2)

(c) Starting with  $x_0 = 1$ , use the iteration formula  $x_{n+1} = \frac{5}{x_n^2 + 7}$  three times to find an estimate for the solution of  $x^3 + 7x - 5 = 0$

(3)

(d) By substituting your answer to part (c) into  $x^3 + 7x - 5$ , comment on the accuracy of your estimate for the solution to  $x^3 + 7x - 5 = 0$

(2)

16 At the start of year  $n$  the population of a species is  $P_n$

At the start of the following year the population of the species is given by

$$P_{n+1} = kP_n \text{ where } k \text{ is a positive constant.}$$

The population of the species at the start of year 1 is 8 million.  
The population of the species at the start of year 2 is 6 million.

(a) Work out the population of the species at the start of year 3

..... million  
(3)

At the start of year 5 the value of  $k$  is increased by 0.3 to a new constant value.  
Louise thinks that from the start of year 5 the population of the species would increase year on year.

(b) Is Louise correct?  
You must give a reason for your answer.

.....  
.....  
.....  
(1)

- 16 (a)** Use the iteration formula  $x_{n+1} = \sqrt[3]{10 - 2x_n}$  to find the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$   
Start with  $x_0 = 2$



$$x_1 = \dots\dots\dots$$

$$x_2 = \dots\dots\dots$$

$$x_3 = \dots\dots\dots$$

(3)

The values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  found in part (a) are estimates of the solution of an equation of the form  $x^3 + ax + b = 0$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are integers.

- (b) Find the value of  $a$  and the value of  $b$ .

$$a = \dots\dots\dots$$

$$b = \dots\dots\dots$$

(1)

16 Using  $x_{n+1} = -2 - \frac{4}{x_n^2}$

with  $x_0 = -2.5$

(a) find the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$



$$x_1 = \dots\dots\dots$$

$$x_2 = \dots\dots\dots$$

$$x_3 = \dots\dots\dots$$

(3)

(b) Explain the relationship between the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  and the equation  $x^3 + 2x^2 + 4 = 0$

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2)



17 (a) Show that the equation  $x^3 + 2x - 6 = 0$  has a solution between  $x = 1$  and  $x = 2$



(2)

(b) Show that the equation  $x^3 + 2x - 6 = 0$  can be rearranged to give  $x = \frac{6}{x^2 + 2}$

(1)

(c) Starting with  $x_0 = 1.45$

use the iteration formula  $x_{n+1} = \frac{6}{x_n^2 + 2}$  twice to find an estimate  
for the solution of  $x^3 + 2x - 6 = 0$

Give your answer correct to 4 decimal places.

(3)

- 17** A ball is thrown upwards and reaches a maximum height.  
The ball then falls and bounces repeatedly.



After the  $n$ th bounce, the ball reaches a height of  $h_n$

After the next bounce, the ball reaches a height given by  $h_{n+1} = 0.55h_n$

After the 1st bounce, the ball reaches a height of 8 metres.

What height does the ball reach after the 4th bounce?

..... metres

June 2024 – Paper 3H

**(Total for Question 17 is 3 marks)**

**17** (a) Show that the equation  $x^4 - x^2 - 5 = 0$  can be written in the form  $x = \sqrt[4]{x^2 + 5}$



(1)

(b) Starting with  $x_0 = 1.5$

use the iteration formula  $x_{n+1} = \sqrt[4]{x_n^2 + 5}$  three times to find an estimate for a solution of  $x^4 - x^2 - 5 = 0$

(3)

**18** (a) Show that the equation  $x^3 + x = 7$  has a solution between 1 and 2



(2)

(b) Show that the equation  $x^3 + x = 7$  can be rearranged to give  $x = \sqrt[3]{7 - x}$

(1)

(c) Starting with  $x_0 = 2$ ,  
use the iteration formula  $x_{n+1} = \sqrt[3]{7 - x_n}$  three times to find an estimate for a  
solution of  $x^3 + x = 7$

(3)

**18** At time  $t = 0$  hours a tank is full of water.

Water leaks from the tank.

At the end of every hour there is 2% less water in the tank than at the start of the hour.



The volume of water, in litres, in the tank at time  $t$  hours is  $V_t$

Given that

$$V_0 = 2000$$

$$V_{t+1} = kV_t$$

write down the value of  $k$ .

$k =$  .....

November 2017 – Paper 2H

**(Total for Question 18 is 1 mark)**

- 21** The number of bees in a beehive at the start of year  $n$  is  $P_n$ .  
The number of bees in the beehive at the start of the following year is given by



$$P_{n+1} = 1.05(P_n - 250)$$

At the start of 2015 there were 9500 bees in the beehive.

How many bees will there be in the beehive at the start of 2018?

Specimen 1 – Paper 2H

.....  
**(Total for Question 21 is 3 marks)**

21 (a) Show that the equation  $3x^2 - x^3 + 3 = 0$  can be rearranged to give

$$x = 3 + \frac{3}{x^2}$$



(2)

(b) Using

$$x_{n+1} = 3 + \frac{3}{x_n^2} \quad \text{with } x_0 = 3.2,$$

find the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$

(3)

(c) Explain what the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  represent.

(1)

- 22** The number of rabbits on a farm at the end of month  $n$  is  $P_n$   
The number of rabbits at the end of the next month is given by  $P_{n+1} = 1.2P_n - 50$



At the end of March there are 200 rabbits on the farm.

- (a) Work out how many rabbits there will be on the farm at the end of June.

.....  
(3)

- (b) Considering your results in part (a), suggest what will happen to the number of rabbits on the farm after a long time.

.....  
.....  
(1)