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CLASS X · MATHEMATICS BASIC (241) · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

CHAPTER 2 **BASIC**

Polynomials

Chapter Practice Booklet · Questions only · Answers in the separate Answer Booklet

6 guided method questions | 33 practice questions | 3 case studies

Basic (430 series) board question index

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STUDENT DETAILS

NAME _____

CLASS & SECTION _____

ROLL NO. _____

BOOKLET STARTED ON _____

CHAPTER TEST SCORE _____ / 20

1

READ THIS FIRST · MATHEMATICS BASIC

Chapter Notes

The whole chapter in short-note form: every definition, formula, method and model answer. Revise from here – you should not need the textbook again.

1 Words you must know

- **Polynomial in x:** a sum of terms $a\,x^n$ where n is a whole number (0, 1, 2, …). $3x^2 - 5x + \frac{1}{2}$ is a polynomial; $\frac{1}{x}$, $\sqrt{x}$, x^{-2} are **not**.
- **Degree:** the highest power of x. Degree 1 = **linear**, 2 = **quadratic**, 3 = **cubic**.

Linear	$ax + b,\ a \neq 0$
Quadratic	$ax^2 + bx + c,\ a \neq 0$
Cubic	$ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d,\ a \neq 0$

In $ax^2 + bx + c$: a = coefficient of x^2, b = coefficient of x, c = constant term. Write the polynomial in this order before reading a, b, c.

2 Value and zero of a polynomial

- **Value** of $p(x)$ at $x = k$: put k in place of x. For $p(x) = x^2 - 3x - 4$: $p(2) = 4 - 6 - 4 = -6$.
- k is a **zero** of $p(x)$ if $p(k) = 0$. Here $p(4) = 16 - 12 - 4 = 0$, so 4 is a zero.

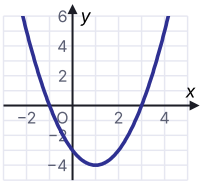
> Zero of the linear polynomial $ax + b$ is $x = -\frac{b}{a} = \frac{-\text{constant}}{\text{coefficient of } x}$

- A polynomial of degree n has **at most** n zeroes: linear 1, quadratic at most 2, cubic at most 3.
- If k is a zero, then $(x - k)$ is a **factor**. Factor $(x - 5)$ ↔ zero 5; factor $(2x + 1)$ ↔ zero $-\frac{1}{2}$.

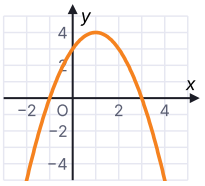
3 Geometrical meaning of zeroes

> The zeroes of $p(x)$ are the **x-coordinates of the points where the graph of $y = p(x)$ meets the x-axis**.

- Linear $y = ax + b$: a straight line, meets the x-axis once → exactly 1 zero.
- Quadratic $y = ax^2 + bx + c$: a curve called a **parabola**. It opens **up** if $a > 0$ and **down** if $a < 0$.



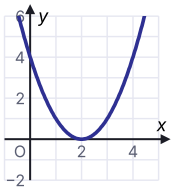
a > 0, two zeroes



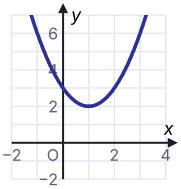
a < 0, opens down

For $y = x^2 - 2x - 3$ (left) the curve meets the x-axis at -1 and 3: these are its zeroes.

4 How many zeroes? Read the graph



one zero (touches)



no zero

- A parabola can meet the x-axis at **2** points, **touch** it at **1** point, or **not meet** it → 0 zeroes.
- A cubic graph meets the x-axis at 1, 2 or 3 points.
- **Count only points on the x-axis.** The point where the graph cuts the y-axis is $(0, c)$: it is **not** a zero.
- "Number of zeroes" = number of **distinct** points where the graph meets the x-axis.

5 Finding zeroes: splitting the middle term

1. Write $p(x)$ as $ax^2 + bx + c$. Find the product ac.
2. Find two numbers whose **product is** ac and **sum is** b.
3. Split bx, group in pairs, take out the common factor.
4. Put each factor $= 0$ to get the zeroes.

EXAMPLE

$6x^2 - 7x - 3$: $ac = -18$; numbers -9 and 2.
$6x^2 - 9x + 2x - 3 = 3x(2x - 3) + 1(2x - 3) = (2x - 3)(3x + 1)$
Zeroes: $\frac{3}{2}$ and $-\frac{1}{3}$.

$x^2 - k$ **(no x term)**	$x = \pm\sqrt{k}$, e.g. $x^2 - 18 \to \pm 3\sqrt{2}$
$ax^2 + bx$ **(no constant)**	$x(ax + b) \to 0$ and $-\frac{b}{a}$
Fractions in $p(x)$	multiply by the LCM first; the zeroes do not change

6 Relationship between zeroes and coefficients

If α, β are the zeroes of $ax^2 + bx + c$:

$$\alpha + \beta = -\frac{b}{a} = \frac{-\text{coefficient of } x}{\text{coefficient of } x^2}$$

$$\alpha\beta = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{\text{constant term}}{\text{coefficient of } x^2}$$

VERIFY

$2x^2 - 8x + 6 = 2(x - 1)(x - 3)$: zeroes 1 and 3.
Sum $= 4$ and $-\frac{b}{a} = -\frac{-8}{2} = 4$ ✓ Product $= 3$ and $\frac{c}{a} = \frac{6}{2} = 3$ ✓

Sign trap: the sum has a minus sign, the product does not. Read b and c **with their signs**.

7 Forming a quadratic polynomial

A quadratic polynomial with sum of zeroes S and product P:
$p(x) = k\left[x^2 - Sx + P\right]$, k any non-zero number (take $k = 1$ or the LCM).

EXAMPLE

$S = -\frac{1}{4}$, $P = \frac{1}{4}$: $x^2 + \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{4}$; multiply by $4 \to 4x^2 + x + 1$.

FROM THE ZEROES

Zeroes 3 and -5: $S = -2$, $P = -15 \to x^2 + 2x - 15$.

Infinitely many polynomials have the same zeroes: $x^2 + 2x - 15$ and $2x^2 + 4x - 30$ both have zeroes 3 and –5.

8 Expressions in α and β (no need to find α, β)

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

EXAMPLE

$x^2 - 5x + 3$: $\alpha + \beta = 5$, $\alpha\beta = 3$. $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = 25 - 6 = 19$.

9 Finding an unknown coefficient (k)

One zero r is given	put $x = r$: $p(r) = 0$, solve for k
Sum or product is given	equate it to $-\frac{b}{a}$ or $\frac{c}{a}$
Zeroes are reciprocals ($\alpha\beta = 1$)	$c = a$
Zeroes equal and opposite ($\alpha + \beta = 0$)	$b = 0$
One zero is 0	$c = 0$
One zero is m times the other	take zeroes α, $m\alpha$; use sum to find α, then product

EXAMPLE

One zero of $x^2 + 3x + k$ is 2: $4 + 6 + k = 0 \Rightarrow k = -10$. Other zero $= -3 - 2 = -5$.

10 Signs of the zeroes – a 10-second check

Both positive	sum > 0, product > 0
Both negative	sum < 0, product > 0
Opposite signs	product < 0, i.e. a and c have opposite signs
Equal zeroes	product $= \alpha^2 > 0$: a and c have the same sign

Spot a zero: if $a + b + c = 0$, then 1 is a zero (other zero $\frac{c}{a}$).
If $a - b + c = 0$ (i.e. $a + c = b$), then -1 is a zero (other zero $-\frac{c}{a}$).

$4x^2 - 9x + 5$: $4 - 9 + 5 = 0$, so the zeroes are 1 and $\frac{5}{4}$.

11 Cubic polynomials (for reading)

If α, β, γ are the zeroes of $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$:

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{b}{a}, \quad \alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = \frac{c}{a}, \quad \alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{d}{a}$$

The 2026–27 syllabus asks the relationship for **quadratic** polynomials only. Cubic graphs still appear in "count the zeroes" questions. The division algorithm has been removed from the syllabus.

12 Model answer: zeroes and verification (3 marks)

Find the zeroes of $3x^2 - x - 4$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients.

1. $3x^2 - 4x + 3x - 4 = x(3x - 4) + 1(3x - 4) = (3x - 4)(x + 1)$ 1
2. Zeroes: $\frac{4}{3}$ and -1 1
3. Sum $= \frac{4}{3} - 1 = \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{(-1)}{3} = -\frac{b}{a}$ ½
4. Product $= \frac{4}{3} \times (-1) = -\frac{4}{3} = \frac{c}{a}$ ½

13 Model answer: expression in α, β (3 marks)

If α, β are the zeroes of $2x^2 - 6x + 3$, find $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$ and $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$.

1. $\alpha + \beta = -\frac{-6}{2} = 3, \quad \alpha\beta = \frac{3}{2}$ 1
2. $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = (\alpha + \beta)^2 - 2\alpha\beta = 9 - 3 = 6$ 1
3. $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha\beta} = \frac{3}{3/2} = 2$ 1

Write the identity first, then substitute. A bare answer loses the step marks.

Exam snapshot

What the board asks, and how to prepare

SYLLABUS 2026–27

- Zeroes of a polynomial, and their geometrical meaning (reading a graph).
- Relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients of a **quadratic** polynomial.

Not asked: division algorithm for polynomials (deleted). Cubic relationships are for reading only.

BOARD WEIGHTAGE

20 / 80

Unit II Algebra together. Basic papers give about 3 marks to Polynomials: a 1-mark question plus a 2- or 3-mark question on forming a polynomial or finding a coefficient. Full marks if you show each step.

MOST ASKED IN BASIC BOARD PAPERS + SAMPLE PAPER 2026–27 (3 PAPERS CHECKED)

How often	Question type	Marks	Papers
★★☆	Form a quadratic from the sum and product of zeroes, or find a coefficient when one zero is given	2–3	2 of 3
★☆☆	Value of an expression in α, β such as $(\alpha - \beta)^2$	1	1 of 3
★☆☆	Zeroes from a graph (how many, or their signs)	1	1 of 3

MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Writing only the answer. The factorised form and both zeroes carry separate marks.
- Taking $\alpha + \beta = \frac{b}{a}$. The sum is $-\frac{b}{a}$.
- Forgetting to divide by a: for $3x^2 - 5x + 2$, product $= \frac{2}{3}$.
- Counting the y-axis point as a zero.
- Writing $x^2 + Sx + P$ instead of $x^2 - Sx + P$.
- Sign slips in ac while splitting the middle term.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. **Day 1:** Notes, then Part A (guided methods) – fill every blank.
2. **Day 2:** Part B (NCERT practice). Do every MUST DO question first.
3. **Day 3:** Part C (board pattern), Part D (case studies) and the real board questions in Part E.
4. **Wed 9 Dec: zero-period chapter test – 20 marks in 40 minutes, without the booklet.**
5. Check every answer in the Answer Booklet. Write each mistake on the My Mistakes page.

FORMULAS AT A GLANCE

Sum of zeroes	$-\frac{b}{a}$	Product	$\frac{c}{a}$
Polynomial	$x^2 - Sx + P$	Linear zero	$-\frac{b}{a}$
$\alpha^2 + \beta^2$	$S^2 - 2P$	$(\alpha - \beta)^2$	$S^2 - 4P$
$\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$	$\frac{S}{P}$	$\alpha^3 + \beta^3$	$S^3 - 3PS$

PART A · LEARN THE METHODS

A Guided Practice

Fill in the blanks to learn each board method step by step. Then use the same steps on your own in Part B.

Read a, b, c

A1. Complete the table. The first row is done for you. MUST DO [3]

Polynomial	a	b	c	Sum $= -\frac{b}{a}$	Product $= \frac{c}{a}$
$x^2 - 5x + 6$	1	-5	6	5	6
$2x^2 + 3x - 2$	___	___	___	_____	_____
$3x^2 - 12$	___	___	___	_____	_____
$x^2 + 4x$	___	___	___	_____	_____

Find zeroes step by step

A2. Complete the steps to find the zeroes of $x^2 - 2x - 15$ by splitting the middle term. MUST DO [2]

Product $ac =$ _____. Two numbers with product -15 and sum -2: _____ and _____.

$x^2 - 2x - 15 = x^2 - 5x +$ _____ $-15 = x(x - 5) +$ _____$(x - 5)$

$= (x - 5)$ (_____). Zeroes: _____ and _____.

A3. Complete the steps to verify the relationship between the zeroes 5, −3 and the coefficients of $x^2 - 2x - 15$. [2]

$a =$ ___, $b =$ ___, $c =$ ___.

Sum of zeroes $= 5 + (-3) =$ ____. $-\frac{b}{a} =$ _____ ✓

Product of zeroes $= 5 \times (-3) =$ ____. $\frac{c}{a} =$ _____ ✓

Form a polynomial · use α and β

A4. Complete the steps to find a quadratic polynomial whose sum of zeroes is 4 and product is −12. Then find its zeroes. [2]

$p(x) = x^2 - (\text{sum})x + (\text{product}) = x^2 -$ ____$x +$ ____ $=$ _____

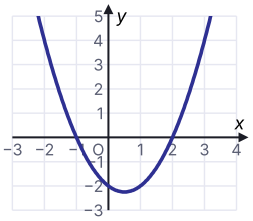
Factorise: _____. Zeroes: ____ and ____.

A5. If α and β are the zeroes of $x^2 - 6x + 8$, complete the steps to find $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$. [2]

$\alpha + \beta = -\frac{b}{a} =$ _____, $\alpha\beta = \frac{c}{a} =$ _____.

$\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = (\alpha + \beta)^2 - 2\alpha\beta =$ _____ − _____ = _____.

A6. The graph of $y = p(x)$ is shown. Complete: (i) the number of zeroes (ii) the zeroes (iii) a polynomial with these zeroes. [2]



(i) Number of zeroes = ____ (ii) Zeroes: ____ and ____

(iii) Sum = ____, product = ____, polynomial: _____

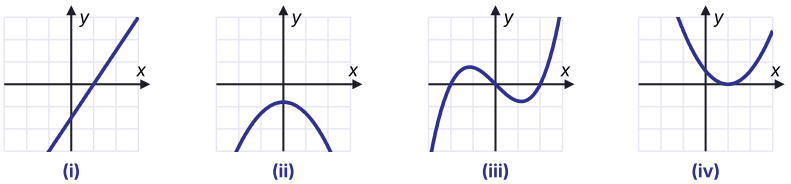
B PART B · NCERT PRACTICE
NCERT Practice

The same skills as the NCERT examples and exercises, with new numbers. Basic papers are built on NCERT, so finish every question.

Zeroes from a graph

B1. The graphs of $y = p(x)$ are given below. Find the number of zeroes of $p(x)$ in each case. [2]

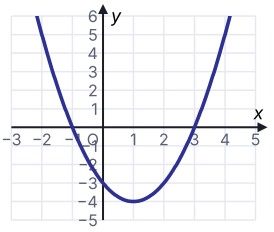
MUST DO



B2. The graph of $y = p(x)$ meets the x-axis at $(-2, 0)$, $(1, 0)$ and $(3, 0)$ only. The number of zeroes of $p(x)$ is: [1]

(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

B3. The graph of $y = p(x)$ is shown. The zeroes of $p(x)$ are: [1]



(a) -3 and 1 (b) -1 and 3 (c) 1 and 3 (d) -3 only

Find the zeroes and verify the relationship

B4. Find the zeroes of $x^2 - 3x - 10$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. MUST DO [2]

B5. Find the zeroes of $4s^2 - 4s + 1$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. [2]

B6. Find the zeroes of $8x^2 - 2x - 3$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. MUST DO [3]

B7. Find the zeroes of $5u^2 + 15u$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. [2]

B8. Find the zeroes of $y^2 - 18$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. [2]

B9. Find the zeroes of $3x^2 - x - 4$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. [3]

Form a quadratic polynomial

B10. Find a quadratic polynomial, the sum and product of whose zeroes are given: MUST DO [3]

(i) $5,\ 6$ (ii) $-\frac{2}{3},\ -\frac{1}{3}$ (iii) $\sqrt{3},\ -1$

B11. Find a quadratic polynomial, the sum and product of whose zeroes are given: [3]

(i) $0,\ \sqrt{7}$ (ii) $\frac{1}{4},\ -1$ (iii) $4,\ 4$

B12. One zero of a quadratic polynomial is -2 and the sum of its zeroes is 1. Find the polynomial. [2]

Use the relationship

B13. If one zero of $x^2 - 6x + k$ is 2, then k is: [1]

(a) -8 (b) 8 (c) 4 (d) 6

B14. If α and β are the zeroes of $x^2 - 5x + 4$, find the value of $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} - 2\alpha\beta$. [2]

B15. Verify that 3 and $-\frac{1}{2}$ are the zeroes of $2x^2 - 5x - 3$. Also verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. [2]

B16. The number of zeroes of $p(x) = x^2 + 4$ is: [1]

(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 4

C

PART C · BOARD PATTERN (BASIC)

Board Pattern Practice

Question types from real Mathematics Basic papers (430 series) and the 2026–27 Sample Paper. ★★★ = asked in all 3 papers checked · ★★ = 2 papers · ★ = 1 paper.

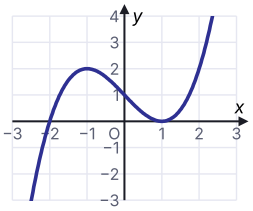
ASSERTION–REASON: HOW TO ANSWER

(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Zeroes from a graph

★☆☆ 1 of 3 papers · 1 mark

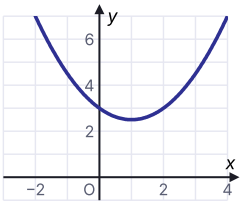
C1. The graph of $y = p(x)$ is shown. The number of zeroes of $p(x)$ is: [1]



MUST DO

(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 0

C2. The graph of $y = p(x)$ lies wholly above the x-axis and cuts the y-axis at $(0, 3)$, as shown. The number of zeroes of $p(x)$ is: [1]



(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3

C3. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): The graph of $y = x^2 - 6x + 9$ meets the x-axis at exactly one point.

Reason (R): A quadratic polynomial has at most two zeroes.

Find the zeroes (and verify)

C4. Find the zeroes of $p(x) = x^2 + \frac{1}{6}x - \frac{1}{3}$. MUST DO [2]

C5. Find the zeroes of $4x^2 - 4x - 3$ and verify the relationship between the zeroes and the coefficients. [3]

Value of an expression in α and β

★☆☆ 1 of 3 papers · 1 mark

C6. If α, β are the zeroes of $x^2 - 4x - 2$, then $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$ is: MUST DO [1]

(a) 2 (b) $\frac{1}{2}$ (c) -2 (d) $-\frac{1}{2}$

C7. If α, β are the zeroes of $x^2 - 5x + 3$, then $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$ is: [1]

(a) 25 (b) 31 (c) 22 (d) 19

C8. If α and β are the zeroes of $x^2 - 7x + 10$, find (i) $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$ (ii) $\alpha^2\beta + \alpha\beta^2$. MUST DO [2]

C9. If α and β are the zeroes of $x^2 - x - 4$, find the value of $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} - \alpha\beta$. [2]

Find an unknown coefficient

★★☆ 2 of 3 papers · 2–3 marks

C10. If the zeroes of $(k-2)x^2 + 5x + (2k+1)$ are reciprocals of each other, then k is: [1]

(a) 3 (b) 1 (c) -1 (d) -3

C11. If 2 is a zero of $2x^2 + kx - 6$, find k and the other zero. MUST DO [2]

C12. If one zero of $x^2 + 3x + k$ is 2, find the value of k and the other zero. [2]

Form a quadratic polynomial

★★☆ 2 of 3 papers · 2–3 marks

C13. Find a quadratic polynomial, the sum and product of whose zeroes are -3 and 2 respectively. Hence find its zeroes. MUST DO [3]

C14. Find a quadratic polynomial whose zeroes are $2 + \sqrt{3}$ and $2 - \sqrt{3}$. [2]

C15. A quadratic polynomial whose sum of zeroes is 0 and one zero is 5 is: [1]

(a) $x^2 + 25$ (b) $x^2 - 5$ (c) $x^2 - 25$ (d) $x^2 - 10x + 25$

Signs of zeroes · spot a zero

C16. The zeroes of $x^2 + 7x + 10$ are: [1]

(a) both positive (b) both negative (c) of opposite signs (d) equal

C17. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): The zeroes of $2x^2 + 3x - 5$ have opposite signs.

Reason (R): If a and c of $ax^2 + bx + c$ have opposite signs, the product of the zeroes is negative.

D

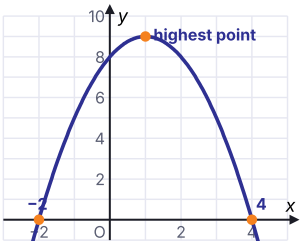
PART D · SECTION E STYLE

Case-Based Questions

Each case carries 4 marks (1 + 1 + 2), as in Section E of the board paper. Underline the numbers in the passage before you start.

D1. Case Study · Garden Fountain [4]

A fountain in the school garden throws a jet of water. With the nozzle line as the x-axis, the jet follows the curve of $p(x) = -x^2 + 2x + 8$ (in metres), as shown. The water is at ground level where $p(x) = 0$.



(i) How many zeroes does $p(x)$ have? Write them from the graph. [1]

(ii) Find the sum and the product of the zeroes. [1]

(iii) Verify that the sum of the zeroes $= -\frac{b}{a}$ and the product $= \frac{c}{a}$. [2]

OR

(iii) The jet is highest midway between the zeroes. Find that value of x and the greatest height of the jet. [2]

D2. Case Study · Water Rocket [4]

The science club launches a water rocket from the roof of a building. Its height in metres after t seconds is $h(t) = -5t^2 + 20t + 25$. It lands on the ground when $h(t) = 0$.

(i) What type of polynomial is $h(t)$? What is the height of the roof? [1]

(ii) Write the sum and the product of the zeroes of $h(t)$ without finding them. [1]

(iii) Find the zeroes of $h(t)$. After how many seconds does the rocket land? [2]

OR

(iii) Find the height of the rocket after 2 seconds and after 4 seconds. What do you notice? [2]

D3. Case Study · Vegetable Plot [4]

A rectangular vegetable plot has length $(2x + 3)$ m and breadth $(x - 1)$ m. Its area is given by the polynomial $A(x) = (2x + 3)(x - 1) = 2x^2 + x - 3$.

(i) Find the zeroes of $A(x)$. [1]

(ii) Find the sum and the product of the zeroes of $A(x)$. [1]

(iii) Find a quadratic polynomial whose zeroes are twice the zeroes of $A(x)$. [2]

OR

(iii) If α, β are the zeroes of $A(x)$, find $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$ using the relationship with the coefficients. [2]

E

PART E · REAL BOARD QUESTIONS

Board PYQ Index (Basic)

Real questions from the Mathematics Basic (430 series) papers and the 2026–27 Sample Paper, by type. Open the official paper and solve the listed questions.

Frequency	Question type	Marks	Where asked (year: paper code, question number)	Practise here
★★☆	**Form a polynomial / coefficient from one zero**	2–3	**2025:** 430/1/1 Q27 · **SQP 2026–27:** Q23	A4, B10–B13, C10–C15
★☆☆	**Expression in α, β**	1	**SQP 2026–27:** Q2	A1, A5, B13–B16, C6–C9, D3
★☆☆	**Zeroes from a graph**	1	**2026:** 430/1/2 Q6	A6, B1–B3, B16, C1–C3, D1

Papers checked (3): 2026 – 430/1/2 (Section A only could be read online) · 2025 – 430/1/1 · CBSE Sample Paper 2026–27 (Mathematics Basic). Sets of one code family share most questions, so they count as one paper. Download the official papers from cbse.gov.in → Previous Year Question Papers → Mathematics Basic.

PART F · YOUR RECORD

F My Mistakes

Write down each mistake from this chapter, including the chapter test.

Every wrong answer is a free lesson. Write it here, find the rule you missed, and redo the question after three days. Bring this page to class before the next test.

Date	Part & Q No.	What went wrong	Correct rule or method	Redone ✓