



Lesmahagow High School
Mathematics Department

National 5

Factorising

Corrective Actions

WORKSHEETS

Factorise – Common Factor	Take the factors each term has in common outside the bracket: e.g. $4x^2 + 8x = 4x(x + 2)$ NB: Always look for a common factor first.
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****Remember we factorise trinomials using the AC method – FOIL only works with binomials****

Topic	Skills
Factorise – Difference of Two Squares	Always takes the same form, one square number take away another. Easy to factorise: e.g. $x^2 - 9 = (x + 3)(x - 3)$ $5x^2 - 125 = 5(x^2 - 25)$ (<i>Common factor first</i>) $= 5(x + 5)(x - 5)$
Factorise – Trinomial (simple)	Use any appropriate method to factorise: e.g. Opposite of FOIL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors of first term are Firsts in brackets. • Lasts multiply to give last term and add to give middle term. $x^2 - x - 6 = (x - 3)(x + 2)$
Factorise – Trinomial (hard)	This is more difficult. Use suitable method. Using opposite of FOIL above with trial and error. NB: The Outsides add Insides give a check of the correct answer: e.g. $3x^2 - 13x - 10$ $= (3x - 5)(x + 2)$ Check: $3x \times 2 + (-5) \times x = 6x - 5x = -x$ ✗ $= (3x + 2)(x - 5)$ Check: $3x \times (-5) + 2 \times x = -15x + 2x = -13x$ ✓ If the answer is wrong, score out and try alternative factors or positions. Keep a note of the factors you have tried.



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N5

Factorising

<https://www.national5maths.co.uk/free-national-5-maths-2/>

FACTORISING an ALGEBRAIC EXPRESSION

1. Factorise by first finding a common factor:

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) $2x + 2y$ | (b) $3c + 3d$ | (c) $6s + 6t$ | (d) $12x + 12y$ |
| (e) $9a + 9b$ | (f) $8b + 8c$ | (g) $5p + 5q$ | (h) $7g + 7h$ |
| (i) $4m + 4n$ | (j) $9e + 9f$ | (k) $13j + 13k$ | (l) $14v + 14w$ |

2. Factorise by finding the common factor:

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| (a) $2x + 4$ | (b) $3d + 9$ | (c) $6s + 3$ | (d) $12x + 4$ |
| (e) $6 + 9a$ | (f) $2b + 8$ | (g) $5y + 10$ | (h) $10 + 15c$ |
| (i) $12x + 16$ | (j) $18m + 24$ | (k) $30 + 36a$ | (l) $14y + 21$ |

3. Factorise by finding the common factor:

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| (a) $3x - 6$ | (b) $4y - 8$ | (c) $16 - 8a$ | (d) $10c - 15$ |
| (e) $9s - 12$ | (f) $2b - 14$ | (g) $12x - 20$ | (h) $22m - 33$ |
| (i) $15x - 10$ | (j) $18 - 12y$ | (k) $25b - 20$ | (l) $18d - 30$ |

4. Factorise by finding the common factor:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) $2a + 4b$ | (b) $10x - 12y$ | (c) $18m + 24n$ | (d) $10c + 15d$ |
| (e) $6a - 9x$ | (f) $18s - 12t$ | (g) $12x + 15y$ | (h) $14a - 7b$ |
| (i) $25c + 10d$ | (j) $9b - 15y$ | (k) $18x + 24y$ | (l) $6a + 28b$ |

5. Factorise by finding the common factor

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| (a) $ax + ay$ | (b) $xy^2 + xa^2$ | (c) $pqr + pst$ |
| (d) $xay - bac$ | (e) $pq + p$ | (f) $y^2 + y$ |
| (g) $a^2 - ab$ | (h) $ab - bc$ | (i) $n^2 - 3n$ |
| (j) $xy + y^2$ | (k) $abc - abd$ | (l) $fgh - efg$ |

6. Factorise by finding the highest common factor:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) $2ax + 6a$ | (b) $3y + 9y^2$ | (c) $24a - 16ab$ |
| (d) $pq^2 - pq$ | (e) $12xy - 9xz$ | (f) $6b^2 - 4b$ |
| (g) $3a^2 + 27ah$ | (h) $15abc + 20abd$ | (i) $3s^3 - 9s^2$ |
| (j) $14x - 12xyz$ | (k) $10b^2c - 15bcd$ | (l) $2\pi r^2 + 2\pi rh$ |

7. Factorise by finding the highest common factor:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| (a) $ap + aq - ar$ | (b) $2a + 2b + 2c$ | (c) $6e - 2f + 4g$ |
| (d) $p^2 + pq + xp$ | (e) $3ab - 6bc - 9bd$ | (f) $\frac{1}{2}ah + \frac{1}{2}bh + \frac{1}{2}ch$ |
| (g) $5x^2 - 8xy + 5x$ | (h) $4ac + 6ad - 10a^2$ | (i) $15p^2 + 10pq + 20ps$ |

8. Factorise the following expressions, which contain a difference of squares:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) $a^2 - b^2$ | (b) $x^2 - y^2$ | (c) $p^2 - q^2$ | (d) $s^2 - t^2$ |
| (e) $a^2 - 3^2$ | (f) $x^2 - 2^2$ | (g) $p^2 - 9^2$ | (h) $c^2 - 5^2$ |
| (i) $b^2 - 1$ | (j) $y^2 - 16$ | (k) $m^2 - 25$ | (l) $a^2 - 9$ |
| (m) $36 - d^2$ | (n) $4 - q^2$ | (o) $49 - w^2$ | (p) $x^2 - 64$ |

9. Factorise the following expressions, which contain a difference of squares:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| (a) $a^2 - 4b^2$ | (b) $x^2 - 25y^2$ | (c) $p^2 - 64q^2$ | (d) $16c^2 - d^2$ |
| (e) $81 - 4g^2$ | (f) $36w^2 - y^2$ | (g) $4a^2 - 1$ | (h) $g^2 - 81h^2$ |
| (i) $49x^2 - y^2$ | (j) $9c^2 - 16d^2$ | (k) $4p^2 - 9q^2$ | (l) $b^2 - 100c^2$ |
| (m) $25 - 16a^2$ | (n) $4d^2 - 121$ | (o) $225 - 49k^2$ | (p) $9x^2 - 0.25$ |

10. Factorise the following expressions which contain a common factor and a difference of two squares:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) $2a^2 - 2b^2$ | (b) $5p^2 - 5$ | (c) $45 - 5x^2$ | (d) $4d^2 - 36$ |
| (e) $2y^2 - 50$ | (f) $4b^2 - 100$ | (g) $3q^2 - 27$ | (h) $8a^2 - 32b^2$ |
| (i) $ab^2 - 64a$ | (j) $xy^2 - 25x$ | (k) $abc^2 - ab$ | (l) $8p^2 - 50q^2$ |
| (m) $2x^2 - 2 \cdot 88$ | (n) $ak^2 - 121a$ | (o) $10s^2 - 2 \cdot 5$ | (p) $\frac{1}{2}y^2 - 450$ |

11. Factorise the following quadratic expressions:

(a) $x^2 + 3x + 2$

(b) $a^2 + 2a + 1$

(c) $y^2 + 5y + 4$

(d) $x^2 + 8x + 7$

(e) $x^2 + 6x + 9$

(f) $b^2 + 8b + 12$

(g) $a^2 + 9a + 14$

(h) $w^2 + 10w + 9$

(i) $d^2 + 7d + 10$

(j) $x^2 + 10x + 21$

(k) $p^2 + 9p + 20$

(l) $c^2 + 10c + 24$

(m) $s^2 + 12s + 36$

(n) $x^2 + 11x + 28$

(o) $y^2 + 10y + 25$

12. Factorise the following quadratic expressions:

(a) $a^2 - 8a + 15$

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

(c) $c^2 - 9c + 18$

(d) $y^2 - 4y + 4$

(e) $b^2 - 6b + 5$

(f) $x^2 - 15x + 14$

(g) $c^2 - 10c + 16$

(h) $x^2 - 7x + 6$

(i) $y^2 - 12n + 32$

(j) $p^2 - 11p + 24$

(k) $a^2 - 13a + 36$

(l) $x^2 - 15x + 36$

(m) $b^2 - 4b + 3$

(n) $q^2 - 11q + 10$

(o) $a^2 - 7y + 12$

13. Factorise the following quadratic expressions:

(a) $b^2 + 3b - 10$

(b) $x^2 + 6x - 7$

(c) $y^2 - y - 6$

(d) $a^2 - a - 20$

(e) $q^2 + 2q - 8$

(f) $x^2 - 8x - 20$

(g) $d^2 + 4d - 21$

(h) $c^2 + 9c - 36$

(i) $p^2 - 5p - 24$

(j) $y^2 - 7y - 8$

(k) $a^2 + 5a - 6$

(l) $x^2 - 5x - 36$

(m) $b^2 - 4b - 5$

(n) $s^2 + 2s - 24$

(o) $d^2 + 6d - 16$

14. Factorise the following quadratic expressions:

(a) $3x^2 + 7x + 2$

(b) $2a^2 + 5a + 2$

(c) $3c^2 + 8c + 5$

(d) $2p^2 + 11p + 9$

(e) $2y^2 + 11y + 5$

(f) $3d^2 + 11d + 6$

(g) $5q^2 + 9q + 4$

(h) $4b^2 + 8b + 3$

(i) $6x^2 + 13x + 6$

(j) $3a^2 + 14a + 15$

(k) $10x^2 + 17x + 3$

(l) $9c^2 + 6c + 1$

(m) $6y^2 + 11y + 3$

(n) $3b^2 + 5b + 2$

(o) $8x^2 + 14x + 3$

15. Factorise the following quadratic expressions:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) $2x^2 - 7x + 3$ | (b) $2a^2 - 5a + 3$ | (c) $5p^2 - 17p + 6$ |
| (d) $5b^2 - 7b + 2$ | (e) $6x^2 - 7x + 2$ | (f) $4y^2 - 11y + 6$ |
| (g) $7c^2 - 29c + 4$ | (h) $4m^2 - 9m + 2$ | (i) $16a^2 - 10a + 1$ |
| (j) $8y^2 - 22y + 5$ | (k) $3p^2 - 37p + 12$ | (l) $4x^2 - 25x + 6$ |
| (m) $15a^2 - 16a + 4$ | (n) $24c^2 - 22c + 3$ | (o) $6b^2 - 35b + 36$ |

16. Factorise the following quadratic expressions:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) $3x^2 - 2x - 1$ | (b) $2a^2 - a - 3$ | (c) $4p^2 - p - 3$ |
| (d) $2c^2 + 7c - 4$ | (e) $6y^2 - 11y - 2$ | (f) $3w^2 + 10w - 8$ |
| (g) $3m^2 + 2m - 5$ | (h) $4q^2 + 5q - 6$ | (i) $6b^2 + 7b - 20$ |
| (j) $4t^2 - 4t - 3$ | (k) $12z^2 + 16z - 3$ | (l) $4d^2 - 4d - 15$ |
| (m) $7s^2 - 27s - 4$ | (n) $15x^2 + 16x - 15$ | (o) $36v^2 + v - 2$ |
| (p) $3v^2 + 10v + 7$ | (q) $2l^2 - 11l + 5$ | (r) $12m^2 - 31m + 7$ |
| (s) $3n^2 - 19v + 28$ | (t) $4b^2 - 20b + 25$ | (u) $9c^2 + 18c + 8$ |
| (v) $3q^2 + 14q - 5$ | (w) $6a^2 + a - 12$ | (x) $8b^2 - 2b - 15$ |
| (y) $12m^2 - 8m - 15$ | (z) $2n^2 - n - 28$ | |

17. Fully factorise these expressions:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) $3x^2 - 3$ | (b) $2p^2 + 12p + 10$ | (c) $9x^2 - 36$ |
| (d) $5x^2 + 25x + 30$ | (e) $ax^2 + 5ax + 6a$ | (f) $3y^2 - 12y - 15$ |
| (g) $15c^2 + 27c + 12$ | (h) $16b^2 + 28b + 6$ | (i) $9q^2 + 33q + 18$ |
| (j) $10s^2 - 35s + 15$ | (k) $8m^2 - 20m + 12$ | (l) $8a^2 - 36a + 36$ |
| (m) $4t^2 + 2t - 56$ | (n) $90d^2 - 60d - 80$ | (o) $400x^2 - 4$ |



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Solutions

<https://www.national5maths.co.uk/free-national-5-maths-2/>

FACTORISING an ALGEBRAIC EXPRESSION

1. (a) $2(x + y)$ (b) $3(c + d)$ (c) $6(s + t)$ (d) $12(x + y)$
(e) $9(a + b)$ (f) $8(b + c)$ (g) $5(p + q)$ (h) $7(g + h)$
(i) $4(m + n)$ (j) $9(e + f)$ (k) $13(j + k)$ (l) $14(v + w)$
2. (a) $2(x + 2)$ (b) $3(d + 3)$ (c) $3(2s + 1)$ (d) $4(3x + 1)$
(e) $3(2 + 3a)$ (f) $2(b + 4)$ (g) $5(y + 2)$ (h) $5(2 + 3c)$
(i) $4(3x + 4)$ (j) $6(3m + 4)$ (k) $6(5 + 6a)$ (l) $7(2y + 3)$
3. (a) $3(x - 2)$ (b) $4(y - 2)$ (c) $8(2 - a)$ (d) $5(2c - 3)$
(e) $3(3s - 4)$ (f) $2(b - 7)$ (g) $4(3x - 5)$ (h) $11(2m - 3)$
(i) $5(3x - 2)$ (j) $6(3 - 2y)$ (k) $5(5b - 4)$ (l) $6(3d - 5)$
4. (a) $2(a + 2b)$ (b) $2(5x - 6y)$ (c) $6(3m + 4n)$ (d) $5(2c + 3d)$
(e) $3(2a - 3x)$ (f) $6(3s - 2t)$ (g) $3(4x + 5y)$ (h) $7(2a - b)$
(i) $5(5c + 2d)$ (j) $3(3b - 5y)$ (k) $6(3x + 4y)$ (l) $2(3a + 14b)$
5. (a) $a(x + y)$ (b) $x(y^2 + a^2)$ (c) $p(qr + st)$
(d) $a(xy - bc)$ (e) $p(q + 1)$ (f) $y(y + 1)$
(g) $a(a - b)$ (h) $b(a - c)$ (i) $n(n - 3)$
(j) $y(x + y)$ (k) $ab(c - d)$ (l) $fg(h - e)$
6. (a) $2a(x + 3)$ (b) $3y(1 + 3y)$ (c) $8a(3 - 2b)$
(d) $pq(q - 1)$ (e) $3x(4y - 3z)$ (f) $2b(3b - 2)$
(g) $3a(a + 9h)$ (h) $5ab(3c + 4d)$ (i) $3s^2(s - 3)$
(j) $2x(7 - 6yz)$ (k) $5bc(2b - 3d)$ (l) $2\pi r(r + h)$
7. (a) $a(p + q - r)$ (b) $2(a + b + c)$ (c) $2(3e - f + 2g)$
(d) $p(p + q + x)$ (e) $3b(a - 2c - 3d)$ (f) $\frac{1}{2}h(a + b + c)$
(g) $x(5x - 8y + 5)$ (h) $2a(2c + 3d - 5a)$ (i) $5p(3p + 2q + 4s)$
8. (a) $(a - b)(a + b)$ (b) $(x - y)(x + y)$ (c) $(p - q)(p + q)$
(d) $(s - t)(s + t)$ (e) $(a - 3)(a + 3)$ (f) $(x - 2)(x + 2)$
(g) $(p - 9)(p + 9)$ (h) $(c - 5)(c + 5)$ (i) $(b - 1)(b + 1)$
(j) $(y - 4)(y + 4)$ (k) $(m - 5)(m + 5)$ (l) $(a - 3)(a + 3)$
(m) $(6 - d)(6 + d)$ (n) $(2 - q)(2 + q)$ (o) $(7 - w)(7 + w)$
(p) $(x - 8)(x + 8)$
9. (a) $(a - 2b)(a + 2b)$ (b) $(x - 5y)(x + 5y)$ (c) $(p - 8q)(p + 8q)$

- (d) $(4c - d)(4c + d)$ (e) $(9 - 2g)(9 + 2g)$ (f) $(6w - y)(6w + y)$
 (g) $(2a - 1)(2a + 1)$ (h) $(g - 9h)(g + 9h)$ (i) $(7x - y)(7x + y)$
 (j) $(3c - 4d)(3c + 4d)$ (k) $(2p - 3q)(2p + 3q)$ (l) $(b - 10c)(b + 10c)$
 (m) $(5 - 4a)(5 + 4a)$ (n) $(2d - 11)(2d + 11)$ (o) $(15 - 7k)(15 + 7k)$
 (p) $(3x - 0.5)(3x + 0.5)$
10. (a) $2(a - b)(a + b)$ (b) $5(p - 1)(p + 1)$ (c) $5(3 - x)(3 + x)$
 (d) $4(d - 3)(d + 3)$ (e) $2(y - 5)(y + 5)$ (f) $4(b - 5)(b + 5)$
 (g) $3(q - 3)(q + 3)$ (h) $8(a - 2b)(a + 2b)$ (i) $a(b - 8)(b + 8)$
 (j) $x(y - 5)(y + 5)$ (k) $ab(c - 1)(c + 1)$ (l) $2(2p - 5q)(2p + 5q)$
 (m) $2(x - 1.2)(x + 1.2)$ (n) $a(k - 11)(k + 11)$ (o) $2.5(2s - 1)(2s + 1)$
 (p) $\frac{1}{2}(y - 30)(y + 30)$
11. (a) $(x + 1)(x + 2)$ (b) $(a + 1)(a + 1)$ (c) $(y + 1)(y + 4)$
 (d) $(x + 7)(a + 1)$ (e) $(x + 3)(x + 3)$ (f) $(b + 6)(b + 2)$
 (g) $(a + 7)(a + 2)$ (h) $(w + 1)(a + 9)$ (i) $(d + 5)(d + 2)$
 (j) $(x + 7)(x + 3)$ (k) $(p + 4)(p + 5)$ (l) $(c + 4)(c + 6)$
 (m) $(s + 6)(s + 6)$ (n) $(x + 7)(x + 4)$ (o) $(y + 5)(y + 5)$
12. (a) $(a - 5)(a - 3)$ (b) $(x - 1)(x - 8)$ (c) $(a - 6)(a - 3)$
 (d) $(y - 2)(y - 2)$ (e) $(b - 5)(b - 1)$ (f) $(x - 14)(x - 1)$
 (g) $(c - 2)(c - 8)$ (h) $(x - 6)(x - 1)$ (i) $(y - 4)(y - 8)$
 (j) $(p - 8)(p - 3)$ (k) $(a - 9)(a - 4)$ (l) $(x - 3)(x - 12)$
 (m) $(b - 1)(b - 3)$ (n) $(q - 10)(q - 1)$ (o) $(a - 4)(a - 3)$
13. (a) $(b + 5)(b - 2)$ (b) $(x + 7)(x - 1)$ (c) $(y + 2)(y - 3)$
 (d) $(a + 4)(a - 5)$ (e) $(q + 4)(q - 2)$ (f) $(x + 2)(x - 10)$
 (g) $(d + 7)(d - 3)$ (h) $(c + 12)(c - 3)$ (i) $(p + 3)(p - 8)$
 (j) $(y + 1)(y - 8)$ (k) $(a + 6)(a - 1)$ (l) $(x + 4)(x - 9)$
 (m) $(b + 1)(b - 5)$ (n) $(s + 6)(s - 4)$ (o) $(d + 8)(d - 2)$
14. (a) $(3x + 1)(x + 2)$ (b) $(2a + 1)(a + 2)$ (c) $(3c + 5)(c + 1)$
 (d) $(2p + 9)(p + 1)$ (e) $(2y + 1)(y + 5)$ (f) $(3d + 2)(d + 3)$
 (g) $(5q + 4)(q + 1)$ (h) $(2b + 3)(2b + 1)$ (i) $(3x + 2)(2x + 3)$
 (j) $(3a + 5)(a + 3)$ (k) $(5x + 1)(2x + 3)$ (l) $(3c + 1)(3c + 1)$
 (m) $(3y + 1)(2y + 3)$ (n) $(3b + 2)(b + 1)$ (o) $(4x + 1)(2x + 3)$

15. (a) $(2x - 1)(x - 3)$ (b) $(2a - 3)(a - 1)$ (c) $(5p - 2)(p - 3)$
 (d) $(5b - 2)(b - 1)$ (e) $(3x - 2)(2x - 1)$ (f) $(4y - 3)(y - 2)$
 (g) $(7c - 1)(c - 4)$ (h) $(4m - 1)(m - 2)$ (i) $(8a - 1)(2a - 1)$
 (j) $(4y - 1)(2y - 5)$ (k) $(3p - 1)(p - 12)$ (l) $(4x - 1)(x - 6)$
 (m) $(5a - 2)(3a - 2)$ (n) $(6c - 1)(4c - 3)$ (o) $(3b - 4)(2b - 9)$
16. (a) $(3x + 1)(x - 1)$ (b) $(a + 1)(2a - 3)$ (c) $(4p + 3)(p - 1)$
 (d) $(c + 4)(2c - 1)$ (e) $(6y + 1)(y - 2)$ (f) $(3w - 2)(w + 4)$
 (g) $(3m + 5)(m - 1)$ (h) $(q + 2)(4q - 3)$ (i) $(2b + 5)(3b - 4)$
 (j) $(2t + 1)(2t - 3)$ (k) $(2z + 3)(6z - 1)$ (l) $(2d + 3)(2d - 5)$
 (m) $(7s + 1)(s - 4)$ (n) $(3x + 5)(5x - 3)$ (o) $(4v + 1)(9v - 2)$
 (p) $(3v + 7)(v + 1)$ (q) $(2l - 1)(l - 5)$ (r) $(3m - 7)(4m - 1)$
 (s) $(3n - 7)(n - 4)$ (t) $(2b - 5)(2b - 5)$ (u) $(3c + 4)(3c + 2)$
 (v) $(3q - 1)(q + 5)$ (w) $(2a + 3)(3a - 4)$ (x) $(4b + 5)(2b - 3)$
 (y) $(6m + 5)(2m - 3)$ (z) $(2n + 7)(n - 4)$
17. (a) $3(x - 1)(x + 1)$ (b) $2(p + 5)(p + 1)$ (c) $9(x - 2)(x + 2)$
 (d) $5(x + 2)(x + 3)$ (e) $a(x + 2)(x + 3)$ (f) $3(y - 5)(y + 1)$
 (g) $3(5c + 4)(c + 1)$ (h) $2(4b + 1)(2b + 3)$ (i) $3(3q + 2)(q + 3)$
 (j) $5(2s - 1)(s - 3)$ (k) $4(2m - 3)(m - 1)$ (l) $4(2a - 3)(a - 3)$
 (m) $2(2t - 7)(t + 4)$ (n) $10(3d + 2)(3d - 4)$ (o) $4(10x - 1)(10x + 1)$