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**VCE Specialist Mathematics ½**  
**AOS 1 Revision [1.0]**  
**SAC 3**

**46 Marks. 10 Minutes Reading. 60 Minutes Writing.**

## Section A: SAC Questions (46 Marks)

### Question 1 (13 marks)

The first few terms of an arithmetic sequence  $\{u_n\}$  is given below:

$n$	1	2	3	4	5
$u_n$	5	11	17	23	29

- a. Write down an explicit formula for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term of the arithmetic sequence  $\{u_n\}$ . (1 mark)

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- b. Express the sequence  $\{u_n\}$  as a recurrence relation. (1 mark)

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- c. Find:

- i. The eleventh term of the sequence. (1 mark)

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- ii. The sum of the first eleven terms of the sequence. (1 mark)

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The  $n^{\text{th}}$  term of the sequence exceeds 200.

- d. Find the smallest value of  $n$ . (1 mark)

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- e. The sum of the first  $k$  terms of the sequence is 705. Find the value of  $k$ . (1 mark)

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Another arithmetic sequence  $\{t_n\}$  is given below:

$n$	1	2	3	4	5
$t_n$	151	142	133	124	115

Define  $d_n = t_n - u_n$ .

- f. Find  $d_7$ . (2 marks)

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- g. What happens to  $d_n$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ? (1 mark)

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- h. Write down an expression for the sum of the first  $n$  terms in the sequence  $d_n$  in the form  $\hat{S}_n = Pn^2 + Qn$  where  $P$  and  $Q$  are rational numbers. (2 marks)

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- i. Hence, find the smallest value of  $\tau$  for which  $\hat{S}_\tau < 0$ . (2 marks)

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**Question 2** (11 marks)

Glenys invests \$60,000 in an account which earns interest at a compound rate of 7% per annum. She wants to make a withdrawal of \$ $W$  at the end of each year for part of her living expenses. The withdrawal is made immediately after that year's interest has been paid. She intends to do this for 20 years, so that at the end of this time her account will have a zero balance.

Use the compound interest formula  $A_n = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{100}\right)^n$ , where  $r$  = interest rate in %,  $P$  = principal amount (initial investment), and  $A_n$  = accumulated value of investment after time  $n$ .

- a. Write an expression for the amount of money in Glenys bank account immediately **after** she has made her first withdrawal. (2 marks)

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- b.** Write an expression in terms of  $W$  for the amount of money remaining in her account just before her final withdrawal. (3 marks)

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- c.** Calculate the value of  $P$  which leaves the account with a zero balance just after the 20<sup>th</sup> withdrawal. Give your answer to the nearest cent. (2 marks)

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- d.** Assume Glenys wishes to be able to withdraw \$7500 per annum for the 20 years. Estimate, to the nearest per cent, the interest rate she would need to earn on her investment. (2 marks)

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- e. If the interest rate was still at 7%, how much additional capital (money) would Glenys have to initially invest in the account to be able to withdraw \$7500 per annum for the 20 years. Give your answer to the nearest cent. (2 marks)

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**Question 3** (10 marks)

An athlete runs along a straight road. His distance  $d$  from a fixed point  $P$  on the road is measured at different times,  $n$ , and has the form  $d(n) = an^2 + bn + c$ . The distances are recorded in the table below.

Time (in seconds)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Distance (in metres)	17	10	5	2	$r$	$s$

- a. Determine the values of  $r$  and  $s$ . (2 marks)

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- b. Define the above sequence as a recurrence relation. (2 marks)

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- c. Determine the values of  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ . (2 marks)

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- d. How far is the athlete from  $P$  when  $n = 7$  and  $n = 8$ ? (2 marks)

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- e. Justify the statement: “The athlete is moving towards  $P$  when  $n < 5$ , and away from  $P$  when  $n > 5$ .” (2 marks)

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**Question 4** (12 marks)

A first-order linear recurrence relation generates a sequence of the form:

$$t_1 = b, t_{n+1} = rt_n + d \quad [1]$$

First order linear recurrence relations with constant coefficients will always have solutions of the form:

$$t_n = c \times r^n + \beta \quad [2]$$

Where  $c$ ,  $\beta$ , are new constants, and  $r$  is the same multiplier of  $t_n$  as seen in formula [1].

- a. Solve the following first order linear recurrence relation, writing an explicit formula for  $t_n$  in terms of  $n$  in the form of formula [2]. (3 marks)

$$t_{n+1} = -3t_n + 5, t_1 = -2$$

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An endangered species of insect has a total population of 400 and lives only in a certain area known as the Old Forest. Conservationists monitoring the situation decide to relocate 40 insects at the beginning of each year from the Old Forest to the New Forest. It is assumed that each population increases by 10% per year (i.e., from the start of the current year to the end of the current year).

- b. Find the insect population of each area after one year, just after the second set of 40 insects have been relocated. (2 marks)

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- c. The size,  $P_n$ , of the insect population at the Old Forest after  $n$  years (just after 40 insects have been relocated for that year) is given by the recurrence relation:

$$P_0 = 370, P_n = 1.10P_{n-1} - 40, \text{ for } n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Write down a similar recurrence relation for the size,  $Q_n$ , of the insect population at the New Forest after  $n$  years. (1 mark)

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- d. Find explicit expressions for  $P_n$  and  $Q_n$  in terms of  $n$ . (3 marks)

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e. Hence, or otherwise, predict:

- i. The insect populations of the Old Forest and the New Forest after five years, correct to the nearest whole number. (2 marks)

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- ii. The number of years (correct to one decimal place) that pass before the insect populations of the two areas are most nearly equal. (1 mark)

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