



Website: [contoureducation.com.au](http://contoureducation.com.au) | Phone: 1800 888 300  
Email: [hello@contoureducation.com.au](mailto:hello@contoureducation.com.au)

## VCE Specialist Mathematics ½

### Proofs I [2.1]

### Workbook

#### Outline:



#### Sets and Notations

- Rationalising the Denominator

Pg 2-14

#### Statements

- Operation of Statements
- De Morgans's Law

Pg 15-21

#### Proving Number Sets

- Conditional Statements
- Even and Odd Numbers
- Divisibility
- Rational Numbers

Pg 22-37

#### Learning Objectives:

- SM12 [2.1.1] - Number sets
- SM12 [2.1.2] - Statements and operations
- SM12 [2.1.3] - Proving number sets



## Section A: Sets and Notations



### Context

- We will learn about proofs involving number sets later in this workbook.
- We need to first revise/preview the different number sets encountered in Specialist Mathematics.

*What is a set?*



### Set

$\{value_1, \quad value_2, \quad \dots\}$

- A set is simply a collection of multiple values.



*Let's look at some questions together!*



### Question 1 Walkthrough.

Interpret the following set and simplify:

$$\{x|x^2 = 4\}$$



## Your Turn!

### Question 2

Interpret the following set and simplify:

$$\{x: x^2 - 4x + 3 = 0\}$$

### Question 3 Additional Question.

Interpret the following set and simplify:

$$\{x: |x| = 8\}$$

Space for Personal Notes



### Interval Notation

- Between  $a$  and  $b$ .

$$(a, b)$$

- Between  $a$  and  $b$  inclusive.

$$[a, b]$$

- The interval of real numbers between  $a$  and  $b$  inclusive, but excluding  $c$ .

$$[a, b] \setminus \{c\}$$

*Let's look at some questions together!*



#### **Question 4 Walkthrough.**

Express each of the following subsets of  $R$  in interval notation.

a.  $\left\{x: -\frac{\pi}{2} < x \leq 3\pi\right\}$

b.  $\{x: x \neq -2\}$

c.  $\{x: x < 3\} \cap \{x: x \neq -2\}$



## *Your Turn!*

### Question 5

Express each of the following subsets of  $R$  in interval notation.

**a.**  $\{x: x > 5\}$

**b.**  $\{x: -1 \leq x < 6\} \cap \{x \neq 5\}$

c.  $\{x: x < 4\} \cap \{x: x \neq 0\}$

**Question 6 Additional Question.**

Express each of the following subsets of  $R$  in interval notation.

**a.**  $\{x: x < 3\} \cap \{x: x \geq 2\}$

**b.**  $\{x: x^2 \leq 4\} \cap \{x: x \neq 2\}$

*How could we combine two sets?*



### Operation of Sets

- Negation: Everything **but**

$$\neg A \text{ or } A'$$

- Intersection

$$A \cap B$$

- Union

$$A \cup B$$

- Difference

$$A \setminus B$$

- Product

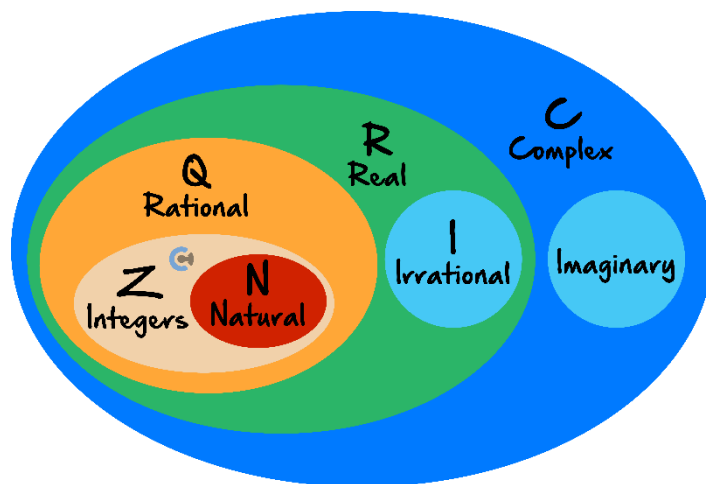
$$A \times B = \{(a, b), a \in A, b \in B\}$$

Space for Personal Notes

*A quick recap of number sets!*



## Number Sets



$$N \subseteq Z \subseteq Q \subseteq R \subseteq C$$

➤ Naturals ( $N$ )

$$N =$$

➤ Integers ( $Z$ )

$$Z =$$

➤ Rationals ( $Q$ )

$$Q =$$

➤ Real ( $R$ )

$$R =$$

➤ Complex ( $C$ )

$$C =$$



*Let's look at some questions together!*

### Question 7 Walkthrough.

For the following numbers, state all the number sets they are an element of.

a.  $\sqrt{3}$

b.  $\frac{1}{3}$

c.  $3$

d.  $3 + i$

Space for Personal Notes



*Recall!*



**Active Recall: Determining Number Sets**



- $N$  is the set of \_\_\_\_\_.
- $Z$  is the set of \_\_\_\_\_.
- $Q$  is the set of \_\_\_\_\_.
- $R$  is the set of \_\_\_\_\_.
- $C$  is the set of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Your Turn!*



**Question 8**

For the following numbers, state all the number sets they are an element of.

a.  $-4$

b.  $\frac{5}{12}$

c.  $-4 + i$

**Question 9 Additional Question.**

For the following numbers, state all the number sets they are an element of.

a.  $e$

b.  $10$

c.  $i$

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Rationalising the Denominator



### Context

- Take a look at the fraction below:

$$\frac{\sqrt{2} + 3}{\sqrt{2} - 1}$$

- How can we express this in the form of  $\frac{a+\sqrt{b}}{c}$ ?
- VCAA loves these types of questions!
- EG: 2022 VCAA Specialist Exam 1.

The graph of  $y = f(x)$  for  $x \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{24}, \frac{\pi}{48}\right]$  is rotated about the  $x$ -axis to form a solid of revolution.

Find the volume of this solid. Give your answer in the form  $\frac{(a-\sqrt{b})\pi}{c}$ , where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ . 3 marks

### Rationalising the Denominator

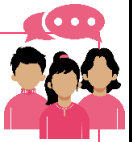


- Aim:** To remove surds in the denominator.

$$\frac{1}{a - \sqrt{b}} = \frac{1}{a - \sqrt{b}} \times \frac{a + \sqrt{b}}{a + \sqrt{b}}$$

- Multiply the top and bottom by the **conjugate of the denominator**.

Space for Personal Notes



**Discussion:** How does this work? What does  $(a - \sqrt{b}) \times (a + \sqrt{b})$  equal to?

*Let's look at some questions together!*



**Question 10 Walkthrough.**

Rationalise the denominator for the following:

$$\frac{1}{2 + \sqrt{7}}$$

*Recall!*



**Active Recall**



- ▶ To rationalise the denominator, we multiply the numerator and denominator by \_\_\_\_\_ and expand.



## Your Turn!

### Question 11

Rationalise the denominator for the following.

a.  $\frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{5-\sqrt{2}}$

b.  $\frac{5-\sqrt{6}}{7+\sqrt{6}}$

### Question 12 Additional Question.

Rationalise the denominator for the following. Write your answer in the form  $\frac{a+b\sqrt{c}}{d}$ .

$$\frac{3 + \sqrt{2}}{6 - \sqrt{2}}$$



**TIP:** We will need this skill again when we look at complex numbers later!



### Key Takeaways

- ✓ A set is a collection of multiple values.
- ✓ When using interval notation, square brackets are used to include the endpoints and round brackets are used to exclude the endpoints.
- ✓ Common number sets that are encountered in Specialist Mathematics are  $N$  (positive whole numbers),  $Z$  (integers),  $Q$  (rational numbers),  $R$  (real numbers) and  $C$  (complex numbers).
- ✓ To rationalise a fraction with a surd in the denominator, we can first multiply the numerator and denominator by the conjugate of the denominator and simplify by expanding.

Space for Personal Notes

## Section B: Statements

### Sub-Section: Operation of Statements

*What is a statement?*

#### Context

- Before we start looking at proof questions, we need to learn about statements.

#### Statements and its Operations

- Statements can be very general.

$A = \text{Doing SM12}$

- Negation: Everything **but**

$\neg A$

- Intersection

$A \wedge B$

- Union

$A \vee B$

**NOTE:** We can use  $\cup$  notation instead of  $\vee$ .

Space for Personal Notes



*Let's look at some questions together!*

### Question 13 Walkthrough.

Consider the following statements:

$A = \text{Doing SM12}$

$B = \text{Liking Maths}$

Write down the statement for:

a.  $\neg A$

b.  $A \wedge B$

c.  $A \vee B$



*Recall!*



### Active Recall



- For two statements  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $\neg A$  is the statement \_\_\_\_\_,  $A \wedge B$  is the statement \_\_\_\_\_ and  $A \vee B$  is the statement \_\_\_\_\_.

*Your Turn!*



### Question 14

Consider the following statements:

$A$  = Travelling to Argentina

$B$  = Learning Spanish

Write down the statement for:

a.  $\neg A$

b.  $A \wedge B$

c.  $A \vee \neg B$

**Question 15 Additional Question.**

Consider the following statements:

$$A = \text{Taking Accounting } \frac{1}{2}$$

$$B = \text{Taking Accounting } \frac{3}{4}$$

Write down the statement for:

a.  $\neg A$

b.  $A \wedge \neg B$

c.  $A \vee B$

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: De Morgans's Law



### Context

- ▶ We can do expanding and factorising involving the symbols  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$ .

### Exploration: De Morgans's Law



- ▶ Consider the statements:

$A = \text{I Like Chocolate}$

$B = \text{I Like Strawberry}$

- ▶ Consider  $\neg(A \wedge B)$ . Write it in words below!

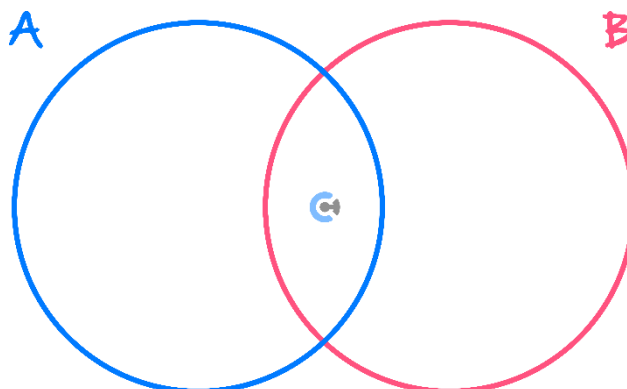
- ▶ Consider  $\neg A \vee \neg B$ . Write it in words below!

- ▶ Hence, we can say,

$$\neg(A \wedge B) = \neg A \vee \neg B$$

- ▶ We can also say,

$$\neg(A \vee B) = \neg A \wedge \neg B$$



**NOTE:** If you expand or factorise negation, the union and intersection flips!



### De Morgan's Law



$$\neg(A \wedge B) = \neg A \vee \neg B$$

$$\neg(A \vee B) = \neg A \wedge \neg B$$

*Let's look at some questions together!*



### **Question 16 Walkthrough.**

Using De Morgan's Law, write down the statement below in a different way.

**Negation of "Sam doesn't like SM or MM."**

*Recall!*



### Active Recall



►  $\neg(A \wedge B) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  and  $\neg(A \vee B) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .



## Your Turn!

### Question 17

Using De Morgan's Law, write down the statement below in a different way.

**Negation of "Bobby has an iPhone but doesn't have a Mac."**

### Question 18 Additional Question.

Using De Morgan's Law, write down the statement below in a different way.

**Negation of "Bobby can speak Portuguese and English."**

### Key Takeaways



- ☒ We can do the following operations involving statements:  $\neg A$  meaning "not  $A$ ,"  $A \wedge B$  meaning " $A$  or  $B$ ," and  $A \vee B$ , meaning " $A$  and  $B$ ."
- ☒ De Morgan's Laws state that  $\neg(A \wedge B) = \neg A \vee \neg B$  and  $\neg(A \vee B) = \neg A \wedge \neg B$ .
- ☒ We notice that in De Morgan's Laws, the intersections and unions flip.

## Section C: Proving Number Sets

### Sub-Section: Conditional Statements



#### Context

- Conditional statements will be the most important for us when doing a question involving proof.
- Check out this question from the sample Specialist Mathematics 3/4 exam. The “If ..., then ...” statement is an example of a conditional statement.

#### **Question 1**

Consider the following statement.

‘For all integers  $n$ , if  $n^2$  is even, then  $n$  is even.’

Which one of the following is the contrapositive of this statement?

- A. For all integers  $n$ , if  $n^2$  is odd, then  $n$  is odd.
- B. There exists an integer  $n$  such that  $n^2$  is even and  $n$  is odd.
- C. There exists an integer  $n$  such that  $n$  is even and  $n^2$  is odd.
- D. For all integers  $n$ , if  $n$  is odd, then  $n^2$  is odd.
- E. For all integers  $n$ , if  $n$  is even, then  $n^2$  is even.

Discussion: If you are living, what must you be doing?

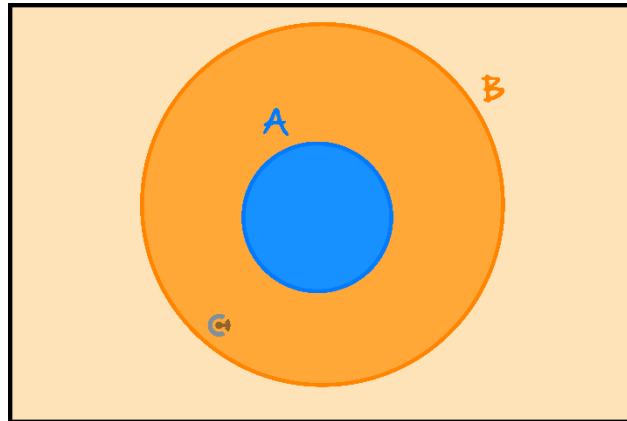


**NOTE:** Visually, imply is the same as “subset”.






## Conditional Statements



$$A \Rightarrow B$$

► Notation for "implies":  $\Rightarrow$

*"Hypothesis  $\Rightarrow$  Conclusion"*

 A is a \_\_\_\_\_ of B.

*Let's look at some questions together!*



### Question 19 Walkthrough.

Write a conditional statement from each of the following:

**All students at Contour Education are hard-working and diligent.**

**NOTE:** Order Matters!



*Recall!*



**Active Recall:** What is the relationship between the hypothesis and the conclusion?




---



---



---

*Your Turn!*



### Question 20

Write a conditional statement from each of the following:

**Students doing SM12 are all brave.**

### Question 21 Additional Question.

Write a conditional statement from each of the following:

*You must do well enough in English in order to study Law at University.*



## Sub-Section: Even and Odd Numbers



### Context

- Exam 1 of Specialist Mathematics 3/4 usually has a proof question. Here is a question from the sample exam. After this workbook, you will be proving the statement!

#### **Question 4** (3 marks)

Use proof by contradiction to prove that if  $n$  is odd, where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $n^3 + 1$  is even.

### Exploration: Even and Odd Numbers



- Write out a few **even** numbers:
- We can rewrite them in the following way:
- Do you notice a pattern?

*Even =*

- Now write out a few **odd** numbers:
- We can rewrite them in the following way:
- There is a similar pattern for odd numbers!

*Odd =*



### Proofs involving Even and Odd numbers

► Simply show:

$$\text{Even} = 2k, k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\text{Odd} = 2k + 1, k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

*Let's look at some questions together!*



#### **Question 22 Walkthrough.**

Prove that if  $n$  is even, then  $n^2$  is also even.

**NOTE:** Start with the hypothesis by saying "let..."



Space for Personal Notes

*Recall!*



**Active Recall: Odd and Even Numbers**



- An even number can be written in the form \_\_\_\_\_.
- An odd number can be written in the form \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is important to include  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Your Turn!*



**Question 23**

Prove that if  $n$  is odd, then  $n^2$  is also odd.

Space for Personal Notes

**Question 24 Additional Question.**

Prove that if two numbers  $a$  and  $b$  are odd, then their sum is even.

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Divisibility



### Context

- Even numbers are divisible by 2. How about divisibility by other numbers? Check out this divisibility question from the sample exam.

#### **Question 3** (4 marks)

Prove by mathematical induction that the number  $9^n - 5^n$  is divisible by 4 for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

### Exploration:

- Write out a few numbers that are divisible by 3.
- Notice that these numbers can be written in the form:
- Therefore, any number that is divisible by 3 can be written in the form:

$$n =$$



Space for Personal Notes

*Let's look at some questions together!*



### Question 25 Walkthrough.

Prove that if  $n$  is a multiple of 3,  $n^2$  must be divisible by 9.

**NOTE:** For a number  $n$  to be divisible by  $a$ ,  $n$  MUST be an integer multiple of  $a$ , that is you MUST be able to write  $n = a \times \text{INTEGER}$ .



*Recall!*



### Active Recall



► If  $n$  is divisible by  $a$ , then  $n$  can be written as \_\_\_\_\_.

Space for Personal Notes



## *Your Turn!*

### Question 26

Prove the following statement: If  $n$  is a multiple of 4,  $n^2$  must be divisible by 8.

**Question 27 Additional Question.**

Prove the following statements:

- a. If  $n$  is a multiple of 3, then  $n^2 + 10n + 9$  is divisible by 3.
- b. If  $n$  is a multiple of 3, then  $n^2 - 1$  is not divisible by 3.
- c. If  $n$  is divisible by 3 and  $m$  is divisible by 10, then  $5n + 7m$  is divisible by 5.



### Divisibility Proof - Splitting by Cases

- For divisibility of 2, we split the cases into \_\_\_\_\_.

**Case 1:  $2k$ ,  $2k + 1$**

- For divisibility of  $n$  we split the cases into \_\_\_\_\_.

**Case 1:  $nk$ ,  $nk + 1$ ,  $nk + 2$  ...  $nk + (n - 1)$**



*Let's look at some questions together!*

#### **Question 28 Walkthrough.**

Prove the following statement:

For any integer  $n$ ,  $(n + 1)(n + 2)$  is an even number (divisible by 2).

**NOTE:** Split the case into two because we are checking the divisibility of 2.





*Recall!*



**Active Recall: Splitting by cases**



- For a proof question where we want to show something is divisible by 3, we can split it into three cases where \_\_\_\_\_.

*Your Turn!*



**Question 29**

Prove the following statement: For any integer  $n$ ,  $(n + 1)(n + 2)n$  is divisible by 3.

Space for Personal Notes

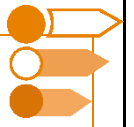
**Question 30 Additional Question.**

Prove the following statement below:

Prove that if  $n = m^2$  for some integer  $m$ , then  $n = 4k$  or  $n = 4k + 1$  for some integer  $k$ .

Space for Personal Notes

### Sub-Section: Rational Numbers



## Proving Rationals ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )

- Write out a few rational numbers:
- Write out a few numbers that are not rational numbers!
- Not all fractions are rational numbers! What is the general form for a rational number?

### Space for Personal Notes

*Let's look at some questions together!*



**Question 31 Walkthrough.**

Prove the following conditional statement:

If  $x$  is a rational number,  $\frac{x+2}{x+3}$  is also a rational number.

*Recall!*



**Active Recall: Rational numbers**



- ▶ A rational number can be written in the form:

**Question 32**

Prove the following conditional statement:

If  $x$  and  $y$  are rational numbers,  $\frac{xy}{x+y}$  is also a rational number.

**Question 33 Additional Question.**

Prove the following statement below:

If  $x$  and  $y$  are rational numbers and  $y$  is not equal to zero, then  $x/y$  is also a rational number.

**Key Takeaways**


- ✓ Adding, subtracting and multiplying integers result in integers.
- ✓ An even number can be expressed as  $2k$  where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and an odd number can be expressed as  $2k + 1$  where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- ✓ If  $n$  is divisible by  $a$ , then  $n = a \times k$  where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , meaning  $n = a \times \text{INTEGER}$ .
- ✓ Where helpful, we can approach a proof involving divisibility by considering different cases.



## Contour Check

### Learning Objective: [2.1.1] - Number sets

#### Key Takeaways

- ❑ A set is a collection of multiple values.
- ❑ When using interval notation, square brackets are used to include the endpoints and round brackets are used to exclude the endpoints.
- ❑ Common number sets that are encountered in Specialist Mathematics are  $N$  (positive whole numbers),  $Z$  (integers),  $Q$  (rational numbers),  $R$  (real numbers) and  $C$  (complex numbers).
- ❑ To rationalise a fraction with a surd in the denominator, we can first multiply the numerator and denominator by the conjugate of the denominator and simplify by expanding.

### Learning Objective: [2.1.2] - Statements and operations

#### Key Takeaways

- ❑ We can do the following operations involving statements:  $\neg A$  meaning "not  $A$ ",  $A \wedge B$  meaning " $A$  or  $B$ ", and  $A \vee B$ , meaning " $A$  and  $B$ ".
- ❑ De Morgan's Laws state that  $\neg(A \wedge B) = \neg A \vee \neg B$  and  $\neg(A \vee B) = \neg A \wedge \neg B$ .
- ❑ We notice that in De Morgan's Laws, the intersection/union flips.

### Learning Objective: [2.1.3] - Proving number sets

#### Key Takeaways

- Adding, subtracting and multiplying integers result in integers.
- An even number can be expressed as  $2k$  where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and an odd number can be expressed as  $2k + 1$  where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- If  $n$  is divisible by  $a$ , then  $n = a \times k$  where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , meaning  $n = a \times \text{INTEGER}$ .
- Where helpful, we can approach a proof involving divisibility by considering different cases.



Website: [contoureducation.com.au](https://contoureducation.com.au) | Phone: 1800 888 300 | Email: [hello@contoureducation.com.au](mailto:hello@contoureducation.com.au)

## VCE Specialist Mathematics ½

# Free 1-on-1 Consults

### What Are 1-on-1 Consults?

- **Who Runs Them?** Experienced Contour tutors (45 + raw scores and 99 + ATARs).
- **Who Can Join?** Fully enrolled Contour students.
- **When Are They?** 30-minute 1-on-1 help sessions, after-school weekdays, and all-day weekends.
- **What To Do?** Join on time, ask questions, re-learn concepts, or extend yourself!
- **Price?** Completely free!
- **One Active Booking Per Subject:** Must attend your current consultation before scheduling the next :)

**SAVE THE LINK, AND MAKE THE MOST OF THIS (FREE) SERVICE!**

### Booking Link

[bit.ly/contour-specialist-consult-2025](https://bit.ly/contour-specialist-consult-2025)

