

Which of the following
is a zero?

a. $x = 2$ b. $x + 1$ c. $x - 3$

d. $x = -9$ e. $x = 0$ f. x

Answers to Factor and Remainder Theorem

1) Yes

2) No

3) Yes

4) No

5) Yes

6) No

7) 2

8) 0 *yes*9) 0 *yes*

10) -7

11) -10

12) 0 *yes*

⑫

$$\begin{array}{r}
 3 \overline{) 2 \quad -1 \quad -16 \quad -2 \quad 15} \\
 \underline{ \downarrow } 6 \quad 15 \quad -3 \quad -15} \\
 2 \quad 5 \quad -1 \quad -5 \quad \boxed{0}
 \end{array}$$

⑦

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2 \overline{) 1 \quad 4 \quad -9 \quad -3 \quad -4} \\
 \underline{ \downarrow } 2 \quad 12 \quad 6 \quad 6} \\
 1 \quad 6 \quad 3 \quad 3 \quad \boxed{2}
 \end{array}$$

The Rational Zero Theorem:

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT: Narrows the search for rational zeros to a finite list.

- If $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$ has integer coefficients ($a_n \neq 0$) and $\frac{p}{q}$ is a rational zero (in lowest terms) of p , then p is a factor of the constant term a_0 and q is a factor of the leading coefficient a_n .

EX 1: Find the roots of $x^3 + 6x^2 + 10x + 3 = 0$.

HINT: Apply the **Rational Root Theorem** to find the **possible** rational roots!

What is p? 3 : 1, 3 $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{3}{1}$
constant
What is q? 1 : 1
L.C.

Possible list: $\pm 1, \pm 3$

EX 2: Find the possible rational roots of $3x^3 + 5x^2 + 7x + 2 = 0$.

What is p? 2 : 1, 2 $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{2}{1}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{2}{3}$
 constant
 What is q? 3 : 1, 3
 L.C.

Possible List: $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm \frac{1}{3}, \pm \frac{2}{3}$

EX 3: Find the possible rational roots of $2x^3 + 5x^2 - 6x - 8 = 0$.

What is p? 8 : 1, 2, 4, 8 $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{2}{1}$ $\frac{4}{1}$ $\frac{8}{1}$
 What is q? 2 : 1, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{4}{2}$ $\frac{8}{2}$

Possible list: $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 8, \pm \frac{1}{2}$

Steps for Finding the Zeros of a Polynomial Function with Integer Coefficients:

- 1) Gather General Information.
 - Determine the degree n of the polynomial function.
 - The **number of distinct zeros** of the polynomial function is **at MOST n** .
- 2) Check rational zeros.
 - Apply the **Rational Zero Theorem** to list rational numbers that are *possible zeros*.
 - Use **synthetic division** to test the numbers in the list.
- 3) Work with the **reduced/depressed** polynomial.
 - Each time a zero is found, obtain the reduced/depressed polynomial.
 - Work to get a **reduced polynomial of degree 2**.
 - Then, find its zeros by *factoring* or by applying the *quadratic formula*.

EX 3: Find the zeros of $f(x) = x^3 - 7x^2 + 16x - 12$.

At most 3 zeros.

Rational Root Theorem – Possible rational zeros:

12: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12

1: 1

↓
±1, ±2, ±3, ±4, ±6, ±12

Find the roots:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \mid \quad 1 \quad -7 \quad 16 \quad -12 \\ \quad \downarrow \quad 2 \quad -10 \quad 12 \\ \hline \quad \quad -5 \quad 6 \quad \boxed{0} \end{array}$$

$$x^2 - 5x + 6$$

$$(x-2)(x-3) = 0$$

$$x-2=0$$

$$x=2$$

$$x-3=0$$

$$x=3$$

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} x=2 \\ x=2 \\ x=3 \end{array}}$$

