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GCSE 4 - 5GCSE 6 - 7AQAEdexcelOCRWJECQA November 2022Edexcel November 2022WJEC November 2022FoundationHigher Level 4-5 GCSE Evaluating functions involves putting numbers into the function to get the result. Example: A function is given by  $f(x) = 3x+1$ , Find  $f(10)$  All this requires is to replace  $x$  with 10 and calculate the result. When we input 10 into this function that would look like:  $f(\text{function}(10)) = 3 \times \text{function}(10) + 1 = 31$ . Level 6-7 GCSE Level 6-7 GCSE A composite function is the result of one function being applied immediately after the other. Example: Let  $f(x) = \text{function}(2x-3)$  and  $g(x) = \text{function}(x+1)$ , find  $fg(x)$  To find  $fg(x)$  we replace  $x$  in  $f(x)$  with  $g(x)$   $fg(x) = f(g(x)) = \text{function}(2(\text{function}(x+1))) = 2(2x+2-3) = 2x+2-3 = 2x-1$  Level 8-9 GCSE An inverse function is a function acting in reverse. The inverse function of  $f(x)$  is given by  $f^{-1}(x)$ , and it tells us how to go from an output of  $f(x)$  back to its input. Example: Given that  $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}(x+8)$ , find  $f^{-1}(x)$  Step 1: Write the equation in the form  $x = f(y)$  For this we need to replace all the  $x$ 's in the equation with  $y$ 's and set the equation equal to  $x$   $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}(x+8)$  becomes  $x = \frac{1}{3}(y+8)$  Step 2: Rearrange the equation to make  $y$  the subject.  $x = \frac{1}{3}(y+8)$   $3x = y+8$   $3x-8 = y$  Step 3: Replace  $y$  with  $f^{-1}(x)$   $y = 3x-8$   $f^{-1}(x) = 3x-8$  Level 8-9 GCSE Level 6-7 GCSE Let  $f(x) = x-3$  and  $g(x) = x^2$  [4 marks] Find: a)  $fg(10)$  - we must find  $g(10)$  then apply  $f(x)$  to the answer.  $g(10) = 10^2 = 100$  so  $fg(10) = f(100) = 100 - 3 = 97$ . b)  $gf(-4)$  - we must find  $f(-4)$  then apply  $g(x)$  to the answer.  $f(-4) = -4 - 3 = -7$  so  $gf(-4) = g(-7) = (-7)^2 = 49$  c) an expression for  $fg(x)$  - we need to input  $g(x)$  into  $f(x)$ . So, we get  $fg(x) = f(g(x)) = g(x) - 3 = x^2 - 3$  Level 8-9 GCSE Given that  $f(x) = 3x - 9$ , find  $f^{-1}(x)$  [3 marks] Step 1: Write the equation in the form  $x = f(y)$   $f(x) = 3x - 9$  becomes  $x = 3y - 9$  Step 2: Rearrange to make  $y$  the subject  $x = 3y - 9$   $x+9 = 3y$   $\frac{x+9}{3} = y$  Step 3: Replace  $y$  with  $f^{-1}(x)$   $f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x+9}{3}$  Level 8-9 GCSE Example Questions a) Substituting  $x=10$  into  $f(x)$ , we find,  $f(10) = \frac{1}{3}(3(10)-5) = \frac{1}{3}(25) = \frac{1}{3}(25) = 8\frac{1}{3}$  b) Substituting  $x=2$  into  $f(x)$ , we find,  $f(10) = \frac{1}{3}(3(2)-5) = \frac{1}{3}(1) = 10$  c) Substituting  $x=-1$  into  $f(x)$ , we find,  $f(10) = \frac{1}{3}(3(-1)-5) = \frac{1}{3}(-8) = -\frac{8}{3}$  d) Substituting  $x=4$  into  $g(x)$ , then substituting the result into  $f(x)$ ,  $g(4) = (2 \times 4) - 5 = 8 - 5 = 3$   $fg(4) = f(3) = \frac{1}{3}(3) = 1$  e) For  $gf(-30)$  we must first find  $f(-30)$  and then substitute the result into  $g(x)$ ,  $f(-30) = \frac{1}{3}(3(-30)) = -30$   $gf(-30) = g(-30) = 2(-30) - 5 = -60 - 5 = -65$  To find an expression for  $fg(x)$ , substitute  $f(x)$  in for every instance of  $x$  in  $g(x)$ ,  $g(f(x)) = 2(f(x)) - 5 = 2(\frac{1}{3}(3x-9)) - 5 = \frac{2}{3}(3x-9) - 5 = 2(x-3) - 5 = 2x - 6 - 5 = 2x - 11$  So, we need to write the function as  $y = \frac{1}{3}(3x-9)$  and rearrange this equation to make  $x$  the subject. Then, we will swap every  $y$  with an  $x$  - and vice versa. We won't be able to get  $x$  on its own whilst it's in the denominator, so our first step will be multiplying both sides by  $(x-4)$ ,  $y(x-4) = 5$  Then, divide both sides by  $y$ :  $x-4 = \frac{5}{y}$  Finally, add 4 to both sides to make  $x$  the subject:  $x = \frac{5}{y} + 4$  Now, swap each  $x$  with  $y$  and vice versa to get  $f^{-1}(x) = \frac{5}{x} + 4$  So, we need to write the function as  $g = \frac{1}{3}(x+4)$  and rearrange this equation to make  $x$  the subject. Then, we will swap every  $y$  with an  $x$  - and vice versa. The first step is to subtract 3 from both sides,  $y-3 = \frac{1}{3}(x+4)$  Then, multiply both sides by 3:  $3(y-3) = x+4$  Finally, divide both sides by  $(y-3)$  to make  $x$  the subject:  $x = \frac{3(y-3)}{y-3}$  Now, simply swap each  $x$  with a  $y$  and vice versa to get,  $f^{-1}(x) = \frac{3(x-3)}{x-3}$  Related Topics Worksheet and Example Questions Drill Questions You May Also Like... Revise for your GCSE maths exam using the most comprehensive maths revision cards available. These GCSE Maths revision cards are relevant for all major exam boards including AQA, OCR, Edexcel and WJEC. £8.99 View Product The MME GCSE maths revision guide covers the entire GCSE maths course with easy to understand examples, explanations and plenty of exam style questions. We also provide a separate answer book to make checking your answers easier! From: £19.99 £14.99 View Product The transition maths cards are a perfect way to cover the higher level topics from GCSE whilst being introduced to new A level maths topics to help you prepare for year 12. Your ideal guide to getting started with A level maths! £8.99 View Product Here we will learn about composite functions including how to evaluate composite functions and how to solve problems involving composite functions. There are also composite functions worksheets based on Edexcel, AQA and OCR exam questions, along with further guidance on where to go next if you're still stuck. Composite functions are when the output of one function is used as the input of another. If we have a function  $f$  and another function  $g$ , the function  $fg(x)$ , said as "f of g of x", or "fg of x", is the composition of the two functions. The order of how the functions are applied is important. We are finding a function of a function, and if we have two or more functions, there could be many different permutations of those functions leading to many different composite functions.  $fg(x)$  could be written as  $f(g(x))$  which shows that the inner function must be applied before the outer function. We can evaluate composite functions for numerical values or find the algebraic expression for the new function. To evaluate a composition of functions for a numerical value we can just substitute the value into the inside function and then use the result of that function to substitute into the outside function. E.g. Here the function  $h$  is described by  $h(x) = x^2$  and the function  $f$  by  $f(x) = x-5$ . We can find  $hf(2)$  by finding  $f(2)$  which gives us  $-3$ , and then finding  $h(-3)$  which gives us 9. If we want to find the expression for the function  $fg(x)$ , we can replace the  $x$  in the expression for  $f(x)$  with the expression for  $h(x)$ . There are other types of notation that can be used for composite functions. E.g. The composition of functions  $f$  and  $g$  can be written using a small circle,  $(f \circ g)(x) = fg(x)$ . In A level mathematics we look at composite functions in more depth by finding the derivatives of composite functions using a process called the chain rule. The derivative of a function gives us an expression for the function's gradient at any point. In order to evaluate composite functions: Use the number to be evaluated as the input for the inner function and substitute it into the expression. Find the output for the inner function and substitute it into the expression for the outer function. Repeat the process if there are any further outer functions. Get your free composite functions worksheet of 20+ questions and answers. Includes reasoning and applied questions. DOWNLOAD FREE x Get your free composite functions worksheet of 20+ questions and answers. Includes reasoning and applied questions. DOWNLOAD FREE If  $f(x) = 4x$  and  $g(x) = x^2 - 1$ , find  $fg(4)$ : Use the number to be evaluated as the input for the inner function and substitute it into the expression.  $g(4) = 4^2 - 1 = 15$  Find the output for the inner function and substitute it into the expression for the outer function.  $f(15) = 4 \times 15 = 60$  If  $f(x) = 2x + 1$  find  $f(3)$ : Use the number to be evaluated as the input for the inner function and substitute it into the expression.  $f(3) = 2(3) + 1 = 7$  Find the output for the inner function and substitute it into the expression for the outer function.  $g(7) = 7^2 = 49$  Find the output for the inner function and substitute it into the expression for the outer function.  $fg(5) = f(g(5)) = f(25) = 2(25) + 1 = 51$  Find the output for the inner function and substitute it into the expression for the outer function.  $gf(25) = g(f(25)) = g(51) = 51^2 = 2601$  Repeat Step 2 for  $h(7)$   $h(7) = \frac{1}{3}(7) = \frac{7}{3}$  So  $hf(5) = 38.5$  In order to find composite functions: Take the most inner function and substitute it into the next outer function wherever there is an  $x$ . Simplify the expression as appropriate. Repeat for any further outer functions. If  $f(x) = 3x - 1$  and  $g(x) = x^2 + 2$ , find  $fg(x)$ : Take the most inner function and substitute it into the next outer function wherever there is an  $x$ .  $fg(x) = 3(x^2 + 2) - 1 = 3x^2 + 6 - 1 = 3x^2 + 5$ . If  $f(x) = 2x + 1$  and  $g(x) = x^2$ , find  $gf(x)$ : Take the most inner function and substitute it into the next outer function wherever there is an  $x$ .  $gf(x) = 2(x^2) + 1 = 2x^2 + 1$ . Repeat for any further outer functions. No further outer functions, so  $gf(x) = 2x^2 + 1$ . If  $f(x) = x + 2$ ,  $g(x) = x^2 + 1$  and  $h(x) = 3x$ , find  $hgf(x)$ : Take the most inner function and substitute it into the next outer function wherever there is an  $x$ .  $hgf(x) = 3(x^2 + 1) + 2 = 3x^2 + 3 + 2 = 3x^2 + 5$ . Simplify the expression as appropriate. Repeat for any further outer functions.  $hgf(9) = 3(9^2 + 1) + 2 = 3(81 + 1) + 2 = 3(82) + 2 = 246 + 2 = 248$ . So,  $hgf(x) = 3x^2 + 5$ . Mistaking composite functions for the product of the functions A common mistake is to think that  $fg(x)$  means  $f(x)$  times  $g(x)$ . E.g. If  $f(x) = x + 1$  and  $g(x) = 2x - 3$ , the error will be to think that  $fg(x) = (x + 1)(2x - 3)$ , rather than the correct answer of  $fg(x) = 2x - 2$ . The functions are applied from left to right instead of right to left. A common error is to apply the functions in the wrong order.  $fg(x)$  means we should apply the functions in the order  $h$ , then  $g$ , then  $f$ , which is right to left. A common mistake is to apply them from left to right. Thinking of  $fg(x)$  as  $f(g(h(x)))$  can help to use the functions in the correct order, i.e. starting with the innermost function and working outwards. Practice composite function questions  $g(3) = 10$ , then  $f(10) = 48$ ,  $f(4) = 1$ , then  $h(1) = 5$ , then  $g(5) = 25$ .  $gf(x) = g(4x + 6) = \frac{1}{3}(4x + 6) - 3 = 2x - 3$ .  $fg(x) = f(2x + 3) = (2x + 3)^2 - 1$ . Composite functions GCSE questions 1.  $f(x) = 3x + 1$  and  $g(x) = x^2 + 2$ . (a) Find  $gf(2)$  (b) Find an expression for  $fg(x)$ . (4 marks) (a)  $f(2) = 5$  (1)  $g(5) = 27$  (1) (b)  $g(x)$  substituted into  $f$ ,  $3(x^2 + 2) + 1 = 3x^2 + 6 + 1 = 3x^2 + 7$  (1) 2.  $f(x) = 2x^2 - 1$ ,  $g(x) = x + 6$ ,  $h(x) = 3(x - 4)$  (a) Find  $ghg(3)$  (b) Write an expression for  $hfg(x)$ . (6 marks) (a)  $hg(3) = 15$  (1)  $ghg(3) = 21$  (1) (b)  $g$  correctly substituted into  $f$ ,  $fg(x) = 2(x + 6)^2 - 1$  (1)  $fg(x)$  simplified,  $fg(x) = 2x^2 + 24x + 71$  (1)  $fg$  correctly substituted into  $h$  (1) Fully simplified answer  $hfg(x) = 6x^2 + 72x + 201$  (1) 3.  $f(x) = 2x + 1$  and  $g(x) = x^2 - 2$  (a) Find  $fg(x)$  (b) Find when  $fg(x) = gf(x)$  (6 marks) (a)  $2(x^2 - 2) + 1 = 2x^2 - 4 + 1 = 2x^2 - 3$  (1) (b)  $gf(x) = (2x + 1)^2 - 2 = 4x^2 + 4x - 1$  (1) Attempt to solve/ factorise  $2(x + 1)(x + 1) = 0$  (1)  $x = -1$  (1) You have now learned how to: Where appropriate, interpret simple expressions as functions with inputs and outputs Interpret the succession of two functions as a 'composite function' Laws of Indices Factorising Inequalities Prepare your KS4 students for maths GCSEs success with Third Space Learning. Weekly online one to one GCSE maths revision lessons delivered by expert maths tutors. 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