

Not to be submitted. This is a warm up to check your basic algebra is up to speed.

Important Information:

- Page and problem numbers refer to the textbook on the website. If you do not have this versions of the textbook you should check with someone else two make sure you're doing the correct problems
 - In general, homework assignments for this class can be lengthy, but a lot of practice solving problems is essential for learning the material. Be organised, and dont leave things for a marathon session on night before submission.. Instead, get a good start on the homework over the weekend. As a rough guideline expect to spent anywhere between 5 and 10 hours a week on a problem set. Generally the final questions in a section are the most challenging.
 - Discussing problems with your classmates is permitted and is a good way to make it more fun and gain a deeper understanding. However you should **always** begin each problem alone. I can't emphasise this point enough. If you've attacked a question from multiple directions over at least an hour and are completely stuck, that's the time to discuss it with your peers, not before. If solving a problem is like building a house, the initial time working alone is like laying the foundations. If you don't do it, then even if you end up with a solution after talking to other people, everything is at risk of collapse because it doesn't have a solid base. I've seen students work in big groups the moment they start a homework assignment and it tends to dramatically dilute individual understanding. Remember, you don't sit exams as a group, you sit them on your own. That said by all means talk to each other, just do it after you've spent some serious time on your own. And remember when you hand in proper homework, you must **write all the solutions yourself**. Copying of solutions is cheating and will be dealt with severely.
 - Good Luck!
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Prerequisite Skills Diagnostic Test

- **Read:** Preface xix. These questions are designed to check your algebra skills. If you struggle with any of them you should review the relevant chapters at the beginning the textbook. Although the course is not explicitly about algebra, virtually every example will require you to be able to manipulate algebraic expressions.
- **Work:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.