

McMurry University  
Pre-test  
Practice Exam

Answer  
Key

1. Simplify each expression, and eliminate any negative exponent(s).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } (5x^{-3}y^3)(7x^2)^2 &= \left(\frac{5y^3}{x^3}\right) (7^2 x^{2 \cdot 2}) = \frac{5y^3}{x^3} (49x^4) \\ &= 5 \cdot 49 \cdot \frac{x^4}{x^3} \cdot y^3 = \boxed{245xy^3} \end{aligned}$$

Rules:

$$a^n \cdot a^m = a^{n+m}$$

$$\frac{b^n}{b^m} = b^{n-m}$$

$$(c^n)^m = c^{n \cdot m}$$

$$d^{-n} = \frac{1}{d^{+n}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \frac{y^{-2}z^{-3}}{y^{-1}} &= \frac{y^1}{y^2 z^3} \\ &= \frac{1}{y^{2-1} z^3} = \boxed{\frac{1}{y z^3}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c. } \left(\frac{a^3 b^{-2}}{b^3}\right)^2 &= \left(\frac{a^3}{b^3 \cdot b^2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{a^3}{b^{3+2}}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{a^3}{b^5}\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{a^{3 \cdot 2}}{b^{5 \cdot 2}} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{a^6}{b^{10}}} \end{aligned}$$

Rule

$$\sqrt[n]{x^a} = x^{\frac{a}{n}}$$

unless

even index  $\sqrt[n]{x}$  even #

$$= |x^{\frac{a}{n}}|$$

2. Simplify the expression. Assume that  $a$  and  $b$  denote any real numbers. (Assume that  $a$  denotes a positive number.)

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt[4]{80a^7b^4} &= \sqrt[4]{2^4 \cdot 5 a^{4+3} b^4} = \sqrt[4]{2^4 \cdot 5 a^4 a^3 b^4} \\ &= \sqrt[4]{2^4} \sqrt[4]{5} \sqrt[4]{a^4} \sqrt[4]{a^3} \sqrt[4]{b^4} \\ &= 2 \sqrt[4]{5} \cdot |a| \cdot \sqrt[4]{a^3} \cdot |b| \\ &= \boxed{2|ab| \sqrt[4]{5a^3}} \end{aligned}$$

# Answer Key

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Rule:

$$a(b+c) = ab+ac$$

3. Find the sum, difference, or product. (Simplify your answer completely.)

$$\begin{aligned} &7(x^2 - 3x + 5) - 6(x^2 - 2x + 1) \\ &7(x^2) + 7(-3x) + 7(5) - 6(x^2) - 6(-2x) - 6(1) \\ &\underline{7x^2} \quad \underline{-21x} + \underline{35} \quad \underline{-6x^2} \quad \underline{+12x} \quad \underline{-6} \\ &7x^2 - 6x^2 - 21x + 12x + 35 - 6 \\ &\boxed{x^2 - 9x + 29} \end{aligned}$$

4. Factor the difference of squares. Rule  $A^2 - B^2 = (A+B)(A-B)$

$$\begin{aligned} &49a^2 - 4 \\ &(7a)^2 - (2)^2 \\ &(7a+2)(7a-2) \end{aligned}$$

5. Factor the trinomial.

AC method:  $ax^2 + bx + c$

$$\begin{aligned} &7x^2 - 36x + 5 \\ &7x^2 - 35x - 1x + 5 \\ &(7x^2 - 35x) + (-1x + 5) \\ &7x(x-5) + -1(x-5) \\ &\boxed{(x-5)(7x-1)} \end{aligned}$$

Find  $ac = 7(5) = 35$   
What factors of 35 add to -36  

$$\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ -1 \quad -35 \end{array}$$

Replace  $bx$  term with new factors and factor by grouping.

6. Factor the trinomial.

$$\begin{aligned} &x^2 + 10x - 39 \\ &\boxed{(x-3)(x+13)} \end{aligned}$$

What factors of -39 will add to 10

$$\begin{array}{c} -39 \\ 1 \quad 39 \\ 3 \quad 13 \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} +3 -13 \neq 10 \\ -3 +13 = 10 \end{array}$$

Note: Can use ac method if you choose to.

7. Perform the multiplication or division and simplify.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x^2+3x+2}{x^2+9x+20} \cdot \frac{x^2+7x+10}{x^2+4x+4} \\ &= \frac{(x+2)(x+1)}{(x+5)(x+4)} \cdot \frac{(x+2)(x+5)}{(x+2)(x+2)} \\ &= \frac{(x+2)(x+1)(x+2)(x+5)}{(x+5)(x+4)(x+2)(x+2)} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{x+1}{x+4}} \end{aligned}$$

Factor each numerator and denominator

Remember:  $\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$

and  $\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{b}{a} = \frac{a}{1}$

8. Perform the addition or subtraction and simplify.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{x+6} + \frac{3}{x-1} \quad \text{LCD: } (x+6)(x-1) \\ &= \frac{1}{x+6} \cdot \frac{(x-1)}{(x-1)} + \frac{3}{x-1} \cdot \frac{(x+6)}{(x+6)} \\ &= \frac{1(x-1) + 3(x+6)}{(x+6)(x-1)} \\ &= \frac{x-1 + 3x + 18}{(x+6)(x-1)} = \frac{x+3x-1+18}{(x+6)(x-1)} = \boxed{\frac{4x+17}{(x+6)(x-1)}} \end{aligned}$$

Rule:  $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad+cb}{bd}$

1st Find LCD  
rewrite each fraction with LCD  
add fractions.

9. The given equation is either linear or equivalent to a linear equation. Solve the equation.

$$\begin{aligned} & 7(1-x) = 8(1+2x) + 9 \\ & 7-7x = 8+16x+9 \\ & 7-7x = 17+16x \\ & \quad +7x \quad \quad +7x \\ & \hline & 7 = 17+23x \\ & -17 \quad -17 \\ & \hline & -10 = 23x \\ & \quad 23 \quad \quad 23 \\ & \hline & -\frac{10}{23} = x \end{aligned}$$

Distribute  
combine like terms  
solve for x.

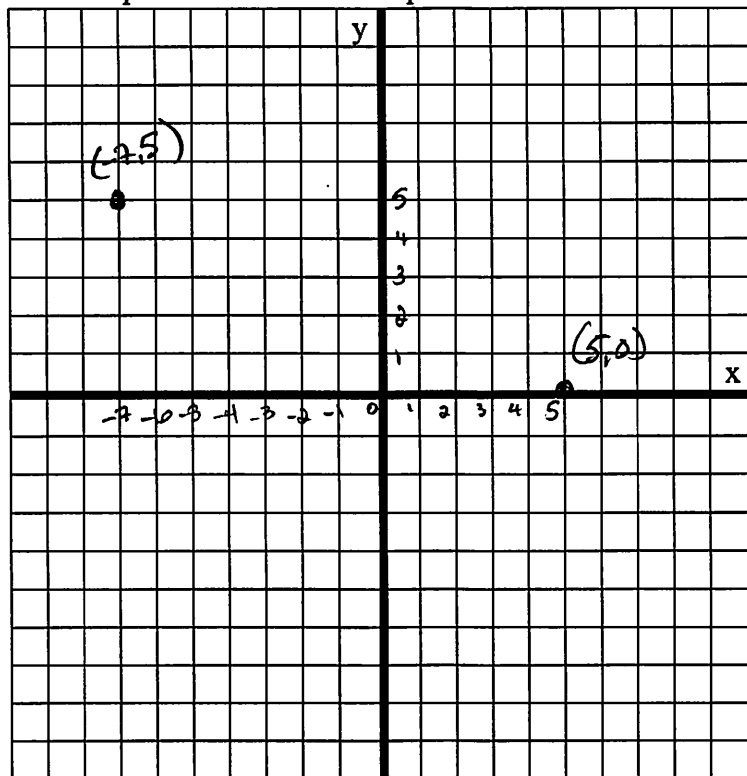
$$\boxed{x = -10/23}$$

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10. A pair of points is given.  $(-7, 5), (5, 0)$

a. Plot the points in a coordinate plane.



$$(-7, 5) = (x_1, y_1)$$

$$(5, 0) = (x_2, y_2)$$

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

$$M = \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

b. Find the distance between them.

$$d = \sqrt{(5 - (-7))^2 + (0 - 5)^2} = \sqrt{(5 + 7)^2 + (-5)^2} = \sqrt{(12)^2 + (-5)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{144 + 25} = \sqrt{169} = 13$$

c. Find the midpoint of the segment that joins them.

$$(x, y) = \left( \frac{-7 + 5}{2}, \frac{5 + 0}{2} \right) = \left( \frac{-2}{2}, \frac{5}{2} \right) = \left( -1, \frac{5}{2} \right)$$

11. Find the x- and y-intercepts of the graph of the equation. (If answer does not exist, enter DNE.)

$$5x - 6y = 120$$

$(x, 0)$  Let  $y = 0$  → X-intercept =  $(24, 0)$

$(0, y)$  Let  $x = 0$  → Y-intercept =  $(0, -20)$

X-intercept  
 $5x - 6(0) = 120$   
 $5x = 120$   
 $\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{120}{5}$   
 $x = 24$   
 $(24, 0)$

Y-intercept  
 $5(0) - 6y = 120$   
 $-6y = 120$   
 $\frac{-6y}{-6} = \frac{120}{-6}$   
 $y = -20$   
 $(0, -20)$

12. Find the slope of the line through P and Q.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &P(5, -5), Q(8, -1) \\
 m &= \frac{-1 - (-5)}{8 - 5} \\
 &= \frac{-1 + 5}{8 - 5} \\
 &= \boxed{\frac{4}{3}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5, -5) &= (x_1, y_1) \\
 (8, -1) &= (x_2, y_2) \\
 m &= \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}
 \end{aligned}$$

13. Find the equation of the line that satisfies the given conditions.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Through } (-1, -2) \text{ and } (6, 5). \\
 m &= \frac{5 - (-2)}{6 - (-1)} = \frac{5 + 2}{6 + 1} = \frac{7}{7} = 1 \\
 &\text{Use } m = 1 \quad (-1, -2) = (x_1, y_1) \\
 y - y_1 &= m(x - x_1) \\
 y - (-2) &= 1(x - (-1)) \\
 y + 2 &= 1(x + 1) \\
 y + 2 &= x + 1 \\
 \begin{array}{r} y + 2 \\ -2 \end{array} &= \begin{array}{r} x + 1 \\ -1 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 \boxed{y} &= \boxed{x - 1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (-1, -2) &= (x_1, y_1) \\
 (6, 5) &= (x_2, y_2) \\
 m &= \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \\
 y - y_1 &= m(x - x_1) \\
 y &= mx + b
 \end{aligned}$$

14. Find all real solution of the equation by factoring. (Enter your answer as a comma-separated list.)

$$x^2 - 10x + 24 = 0$$

$$x = \boxed{4, 6}$$

what multiplies to -10  
but adds to 24?

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^2 - 10x + 24 &= 0 \\
 (x - 6)(x - 4) &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x - 6 = 0 \\
 +6 \quad +6 \\
 \hline
 x = 6
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x - 4 = 0 \\
 +4 \quad +4 \\
 \hline
 x = 4
 \end{array}$$

15. Find all real solutions of the equation. (Enter your answers as a comma-separated list. If there is no real solution, enter NO REAL SOLUTION.)

$$x^2 - 10x + 1 = 0$$

$$x = \boxed{5 - 4\sqrt{6}, 5 + 4\sqrt{6}}$$

$$x^2 - 10x + 1 = 0$$

$$a = 1 \quad b = -10 \quad c = 1$$

$$x = \frac{-(-10) \pm \sqrt{(-10)^2 - 4(1)(1)}}{2(1)}$$

$$= \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{100 - 4}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{96}}{2} = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{16 \cdot 6}}{2} = \frac{10 \pm 4\sqrt{6}}{2} = 5 \pm 4\sqrt{6}$$

$$= 5 - 4\sqrt{6}, 5 + 4\sqrt{6}$$

Since no factors of 1 add to 10...  
Use the quadratic formula

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

16. Evaluate the product, and write the results in the form  $a + bi$ .

$$(9 - i)(7 + 5i)$$

$$9(7 + 5i) - i(7 + 5i)$$

$$63 + 45i - 7i - 5i^2$$

$$63 + 38i - 5(-1)$$

$$63 + 38i + 5 = \boxed{68 + 38i}$$

Remember that  $\sqrt{-1} = i$   
so  $i^2 = -1$

17. Find all real solutions of the equation. (Enter your answers as a comma-separated list.)

$$x^3 = 25x$$

$$x = \boxed{-5, 0, 5}$$

$$x^3 = 25x$$

$$\frac{-25x - 25x}{-25x - 25x}$$

$$x^3 - 25x = 0$$

$$x(x^2 - 25) = 0$$

$$x(x + 5)(x - 5) = 0$$

$$x = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x + 5 = 0 \\ -5 \quad -5 \\ \hline x = -5 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x - 5 = 0 \\ +5 \quad +5 \\ \hline x = +5 \end{array}$$

$$\boxed{x = -5, 0, 5}$$

1st equation = 0  
2nd factor and solve for x.

Remember

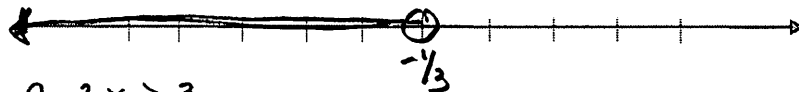
$$A^2 - B^2 = (A + B)(A - B)$$

18. Solve the linear inequality. Express the solution using interval notation.

$$2 - 3x > 3$$

Graph the solution set.

Remember when multiplying or dividing by a negative, the inequality sign switches.



$$\begin{array}{r} 2 - 3x > 3 \\ -2 \quad -2 \\ \hline -3x > 1 \\ -3 \quad -3 \\ \hline x > -1/3 \end{array}$$

Interval notation  
 $(-\infty, -1/3)$

19. Solve the equation. (Enter your answers as a comma-separated list. If there is no solution, enter NO SOLUTION.)

$$\begin{array}{r} 3|x+6| + 4 = 19 \\ -4 \quad -4 \\ \hline 3|x+6| = 15 \\ \frac{3}{3} \quad \frac{15}{3} \end{array}$$

$$|x+6| = 5$$

$$|x+6| = 5$$

If  $x+6 > 0$  then

$$\begin{array}{r} x+6 = 5 \\ -6 \quad -6 \\ \hline x = -1 \end{array}$$

If  $x+6 < 0$  then

$$\begin{array}{r} x+6 = -5 \\ -6 \quad -6 \\ \hline x = -11 \end{array}$$

When working with absolute values remember

$$|a| = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } a \geq 0 \\ -a & \text{if } a < 0 \end{cases}$$

1st isolate the absolute value term.

$$x = -11, -1$$

20. Hooke's Law states that the force needed to keep spring stretched  $x$  units beyond its natural length is directly proportional to  $x$ . Here the constant of proportionality is called the **spring constant**.

a. Write Hooke's Law as an equation. (Use  $k$  for the constant of proportionality.)

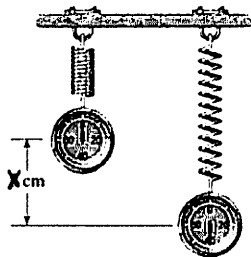
Look at: "the force is directly proportional to  $x$ ." to write the equation:

Force =  $kx$  or

$$F = kx$$

b. If the spring has a natural length of 6 cm and a force of 35 N is required to maintain the spring stretched to a length of 10 cm, find the spring constant.

$$k = \boxed{8.75}$$



Force = 35 N

$x = \text{stretched length (of the spring)} - \text{natural length (of the spring)}$

$x = 10\text{cm} - 6\text{cm}$

$x = 4\text{cm}$

Force =  $kx$

$35\text{N} = k(4\text{cm})$

$\frac{35}{4} = \frac{k}{4}$

$k = 35/4 = 8.75 \text{ N/cm}$

c. What force is needed to keep the spring stretched to a length of 14 cm?

Find  $x$  first :  $x = \text{stretched length} - \text{natural length}$

$x = 14\text{cm} - 6\text{cm} = 8\text{cm}$

$F = kx$

$F = (8.75 \text{ N/cm})(8\text{cm})$

$F = \boxed{70\text{N}}$

21. Find the domain of the function. (Enter your answer using interval notation.)

$$f(x) = \frac{x^4}{x^2+x-6}$$

$x^2+x-6 \neq 0$  Factor

$(x+3)(x-2) \neq 0$

$x+3 \neq 0$

$-3 \neq -3$

$x \neq -3$

$x-2 \neq 0$

$2 \neq 2$

$x \neq 2$

Domain rule for fractions:

$\frac{1}{\text{term}}, \text{ term} \neq 0$

Everything but  $x \neq -3, 2$

graph:

$$\boxed{(-\infty, -3) \cup (-3, 2) \cup (2, \infty)}$$



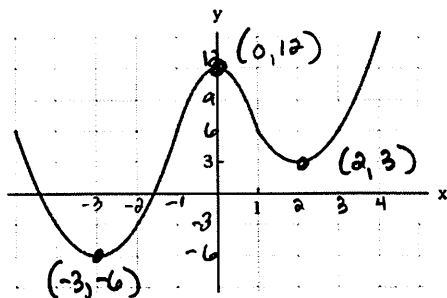
22. Complete the table.

$$g(x) = |8x + 7|$$

x	g(x)
-3	$ 8(-3)+7  = 17$
-2	$ 8(-2)+7  = 9$
0	$ 8(0)+7  = 7$
1	$ 8(1)+7  = 15$
3	$ 8(3)+7  = 31$

$$\begin{aligned} |8(-3)+7| &= |-24+7| = |-17| = 17 \\ |8(-2)+7| &= |-16+7| = |-9| = 9 \\ |8(0)+7| &= |0+7| = |7| = 7 \\ |8(1)+7| &= |8+7| = |15| = 15 \\ |8(3)+7| &= |24+7| = |31| = 31 \end{aligned}$$

23. The graph of a function is given. Use the graph to estimate the following.



- a. All the local maximum and minimum values of the function and the values of  $x$  at which each occurs

Local Maximum:  $(x, y) = (0, 12)$

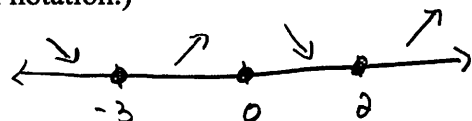
Local Minimum:  $(x, y) = (-3, -6)$

Local Minimum:  $(x, y) = (2, 3)$

- b. The interval on which the function is increasing and on which the function is decreasing. (Enter your answer using interval notation.)

Increasing:  $[-3, 0] \cup [2, \infty)$

Decreasing:  $(-\infty, -3] \cup [0, 2]$



24. A function  $f$  is given, and the indicated transformations are applied to its graph (in the given order). Write the equation for the final transformed graph.

$f(x) = x^2$ ; stretched vertically by a factor of 2, shift downward 8 units, and shift 9 units to the right.

$$y = 2(x-9)^2 - 8$$

Stretch factor  $(x \begin{matrix} + \text{left} \\ - \text{right} \end{matrix})^2 \begin{matrix} + \text{up} \\ - \text{down} \end{matrix}$

remember the function  $-(x-)^2$

25. Use  $f(x) = 4x - 5$  and  $g(x) = 2 - x^2$  to evaluate the expression.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } (f \circ g)(x) &= f(g(x)) = f(2 - x^2) = 4(2 - x^2) - 5 \\ &= 8 - 4x^2 - 5 \\ &= 3 - 4x^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } (g \circ f)(x) &= g(f(x)) = g(4x - 5) = 2 - (4x - 5)^2 \\ &= 2 - (4x - 5)(4x - 5) \\ &= 2 - (16x^2 - 20x - 20x + 25) \\ &= 2 - 16x^2 + 20x + 20x - 25 \\ &= -16x^2 + 40x - 23 \end{aligned}$$

26. Find the function  $f$  whose graph is a parabola with the given vertex and that passes through the given point.

Vertex:  $(3, -3)$ ; point:  $(4, 2)$

$$f(x) = 5(x-3)^2 - 3$$

$(3, -3) = (h, k)$  and  $(4, 2) = (x, y)$

$$y = a(x-h)^2 + k$$

$$2 = a(4-3)^2 - 3$$

$$2 = a(1) - 3$$

$$2 = 1a - 3$$

$$\begin{array}{r} +3 \qquad +3 \\ \hline 5 = a \end{array}$$

$$y = 5(x-3)^2 - 3$$

Standard form:

$$f(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$$

where  $(h, k) = \text{vertex}$

$$f(x) = y.$$

Find "a" then plug

$a, (h, k)$  into the standard form equation.

27. Find the quotient and remainder using long division.

$$\frac{x^6 + 4x^4 - 3x^2 - 12}{x^2 + 4}$$

Quotient:  $x^4 - 3$

Remainder:  $0$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^4 \\ x^2 + 0x + 4 \overline{) x^6 + 0x^5 + 4x^4 + 0x^3 - 3x^2 + 0x - 12} \\ \underline{-x^6 - 0x^5 - 4x^4} \phantom{+ 0x^3 - 3x^2 + 0x - 12} \\ -3x^2 + 0x - 12 \\ \underline{+3x^2 + 0x + 12} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$x^4(x^2 + 0x + 4)$   
 $x^6 + 0x^5 + 4x^4$   
then subtract.  
 $-3(x^2 + 0x + 4)$   
 $-3x^2 + 0x - 12$   
then subtract.

28. Find all the zeros of the polynomial. (Enter your answer as a comma-separated list. Enter all answers including repetitions.)

$$P(x) = x^3 + 5x^2 + 4x + 20$$

$$x = -5, 2i, -2i$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \underbrace{x^3 + 5x^2}_{x^2(x+5)} + \underbrace{4x + 20}_{4(x+5)} \\ & x^2(x+5) + 4(x+5) \\ & (x+5)(x^2+4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x+5=0 \\ -5 \quad -5 \\ \hline x = -5 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2+4=0 \\ -4 \quad -4 \\ \hline x^2 = -4 \\ \sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{-4} \\ x = \pm\sqrt{-4} \\ x = \pm 2i \end{array}$$

Factor by grouping  
set each factor = 0.  
solve for x.

29. Find the intercepts and asymptotes. (If an answer does not exist, enter DNA. Enter your asymptotes as a comma-separated list of equations if necessary.)

$$s(x) = \frac{(4x-12)}{(x-4)(x+1)}$$

numerator = 0

X-intercept:  $(x, y) = (3, 0)$

X intercept

$$4x - 12 = 0$$

$$\frac{4x}{4} = \frac{12}{4}$$

$$x = 3$$

Y intercept

$$y = \frac{4(0) - 12}{(0-4)(0+1)} = \frac{-12}{(-4)(1)} = 3$$

plug zero in for all x's

Y-intercept:  $(x, y) = (0, 3)$

Denominator = 0

Vertical asymptote(s):  $x = 4, x = -1$

vertical

$$x - 4 = 0$$

$$x = 4$$

$$x + 1 = 0$$

$$x = -1$$

3 rules:

$$\frac{ax^n}{bx^m} \begin{cases} n < m & y = 0 \\ n = m & y = a/b \\ n > m & \text{none} \end{cases}$$

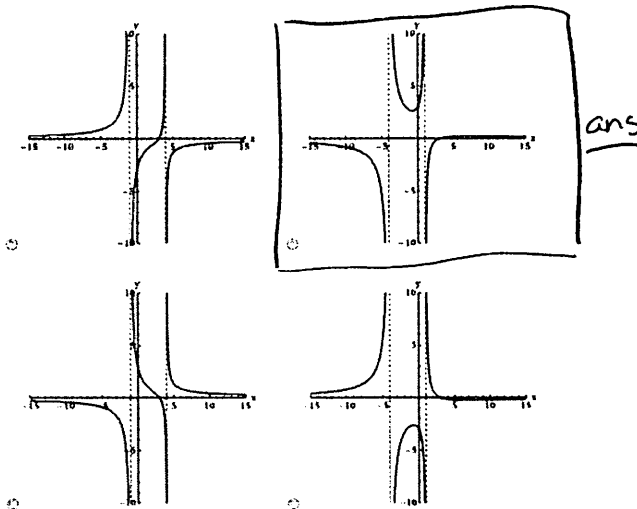
Horizontal asymptote:  $y = 0$

horizontal

$$\frac{4x-12}{(x-4)(x+1)} = \frac{4x-12}{x^2+4x+x-4}$$

n = 1  
m = 2

Sketch the graph of the rational function.



State the domain and range. Use a graphing device to confirm your answer. (Enter your answer using interval notation.)

look at vertical asymptotes

Domain:  $(-\infty, -1) \cup (-1, 4) \cup (4, \infty)$

Range:  $(-\infty, \infty)$

30. Use the elimination method to find all solutions of the system of equations.

$$\begin{cases} 3x + 5y = 28 \\ 6x + y = 11 \end{cases}$$

$$(x, y) = (1, 5)$$

Elimination method:

Want one of the unknown values,  $x$  or  $y$ . to cancel when equations are added together.

$$\begin{array}{r} 3x + 5y = 28 \\ \underline{6x + y = 11} \end{array}$$

if you want to cancel the  $x$  terms, I could:

$$\begin{array}{r} +6(3x + 5y = 28) \Rightarrow \\ -3(6x + y = 11) \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{r} \cancel{18x} + 30y = 168 \\ \cancel{-18x} - 3y = -33 \\ \hline 27y = 135 \\ \underline{27} \quad \underline{27} \\ y = 5 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3x + 5y = 28 \\ 3x + 5(5) = 28 \\ 3x + 25 = 28 \\ \underline{-25 \quad -25} \\ 3x = 3 \\ \underline{3} \quad \underline{3} \\ x = 1 \end{array}$$

There are easier ways to find the answer, this is just the way I saw first.