

Categorising quadratics by the remainder theorem

Think about all quadratic expressions and the three properties:

A: The remainder is 1 when divided by $x+1$

B: $x-1$ is a factor of the expression

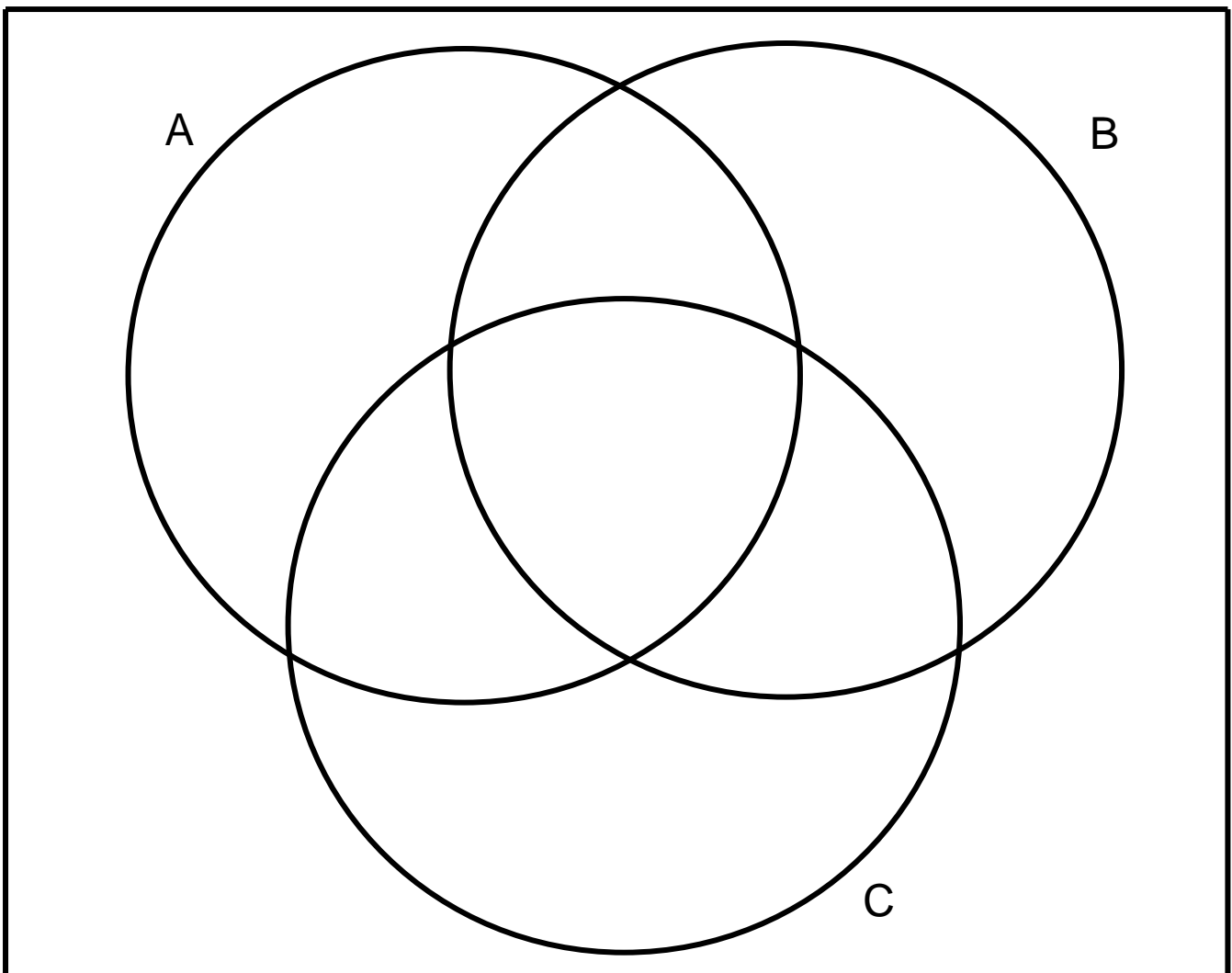
C: $x-2$ is a factor of the expression

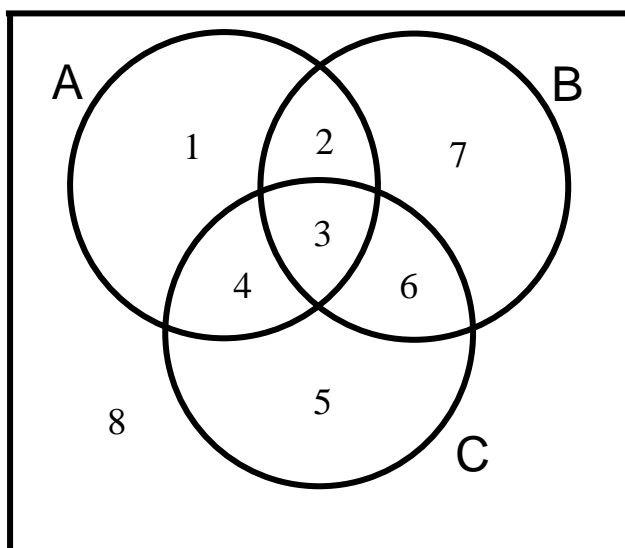
Can you find a quadratic expression which satisfies all three properties A, B and C?
If so write this quadratic in the central region where the three circles overlap.

How about a quadratic expression which doesn't satisfy any of the requirements?
Fill this in the region outside the three circles.

The task: To find one example for each of the other six regions.

Is it possible to find an example for every region?





A possible solution

- A: The remainder is 1 when divided by $x+1$
- B: $x-1$ is a factor of the expression
- C: $x-2$ is a factor of the expression

1 $f(x) = \frac{1}{6}(13x^2 - 9x - 16)$	2 $f(x) = \frac{1}{6}(7x^2 - 3x - 4)$
3 $f(x) = \frac{1}{6}(x^2 - 3x + 2)$	4 $f(x) = \frac{1}{6}(7x^2 - 9x - 10)$
5 $f(x) = x^2 - x - 2$	6 $f(x) = x^2 - 3x + 2$
7 $f(x) = x^2 - 1$	8 $f(x) = 3x^2 - 4x - 1$

How did we find these?

Think about $f(x) = a(x-1)(x-2) + b(x-1)(x+1) + c(x-2)(x+1)$ where a, b, c and R are constants.

a	b	c	f(x)	Region
0	0	1	$f(x) = (x-2)(x+1)$	5
$\frac{1}{6}$	0	1	$f(x) = (x-2)(\frac{1}{6}(x-1) + (x+1))$	4
0	1	0	$f(x) = (x-1)(x+1)$	7
$\frac{1}{6}$	1	0	$f(x) = (x-1)(\frac{1}{6}(x-2) + (x+1))$	2
1	0	0	$f(x) = (x-1)(x-2)$	6
$\frac{1}{6}$	0	0	$f(x) = \frac{1}{6}(x-1)(x-2)$	3
$\frac{1}{6}$	1	1	$f(x) = \frac{1}{6}(x-1)(x-2) + (x-1)(x+1) + (x-2)(x+1)$	1
1	1	1	$f(x) = (x-1)(x-2) + (x-1)(x+1) + (x-2)(x+1)$	8

Although this doesn't follow the generating pattern used, for region 1 there is an easier approach: $f(x) = (x+1)^2 + 1$ and for region 8: $f(x) = 2x^2$ but not $f(x) = x^2$ (Why?)

An easier problem:

Give your students the eight quadratics to place in the Venn diagram.