

## Problems on Vieta's formulas

1. For how many real numbers  $a$  does the quadratic equation  $x^2 + ax + 123 = 0$  have two integer roots?
2. Let  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  be four distinct one-digit numbers. What is the maximum possible value of the sum of the roots of the equation  $(x - a)(x - b) + (x - c)(x - d) = 0$ ?
3. The sum of the zeros, the product of the zeros, and the sum of the coefficients of the function  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$  are equal. Their common value must also be which of the following?
  - (a) the coefficient of  $x^2$
  - (b) the coefficient of  $x$
  - (c) the  $y$ -intercept of the graph  $y = f(x)$
  - (d) one of the  $x$ -intercepts of the graph of  $y = f(x)$
  - (e) the mean of the  $x$ -intercepts of the graph of  $y = f(x)$
4. The quadratic equation  $x^2 + mx + n = 0$  has roots twice those of  $x^2 + px + m = 0$ , and none of  $m$ ,  $n$ , and  $p$  is zero. What is the value of  $n/p$ ?
5. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be the roots of the equation  $x^2 - mx + 2 = 0$ . Suppose that  $a + \frac{1}{b}$  and  $b + \frac{1}{a}$  are the roots of the equation  $x^2 - px + q = 0$ . What is  $q$ ?
6. What is the sum of the reciprocals of the roots of the equation  $\frac{2003}{2004}x + 1 + \frac{1}{x} = 0$ ?
7. If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are solutions of  $x^2 + px + q = 0$ , find  $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$  in terms of  $p$  and  $q$ .
8. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be the roots of  $x^2 - 3x - 1 = 0$ . Find a quadratic equation whose roots are  $a^2$  and  $b^2$ .
9. Suppose the roots of  $x^3 + 3x^2 + 4x - 11 = 0$  are  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ , and the roots of  $x^3 + rx^2 + sx + t = 0$  are  $a + b$ ,  $b + c$ , and  $c + a$ . Find  $r$ . (A harder problem: find  $t$ .)
10. Three of the roots of  $x^4 + ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  are 2,  $-3$ , and 5. Find the values of  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ .