

## PRECALCULUS PREREQUISITES

PRECALCULUS builds on previous mathematical learning. Below are six key themes, along with subtopics, which are essential prerequisite learning for Precalculus. Prior learning will be spiraled during the year in Precalculus, but an overall understanding of the below six themes will maximize your chances of success in Precalculus.

A sampling of prerequisite problems is included in this packet. The Prerequisite Assessment will consist of problems, which cover the main ideas of the problems in this packet. The Prerequisite Assessment will be on the third day of class and be weighed as a quiz in Marking Period 1. The first two days of class will be devoted to review with ample time for question-and-answer periods. Please bring your completed packet with you on the first day of school to make the review as successful as possible for you.

1. RENAMING EXPRESSIONS: base ten number system; arithmetic with decimals, fractions, signed numbers; set notation (interval, union, intersection); basic vocabulary (e.g., the phrases “at least” and “at most,” nonnegative, integers, consecutive); percent; unit conversion; scientific notation; factoring; radicals; exponent rules; polynomials; matrices; complex numbers; completing the square technique; long division of polynomials; logarithms.
2. SOLVING EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES IN ONE VARIABLE: linear; quadratic; absolute value; exponential; logarithmic; radical; systems; rational; compound inequalities; the zero factor rule. Understand extraneous solutions, and when they can arise. Be sure that you can distinguish between exact and approximate solutions. You should understand the relationship between the algebraic and graphical solutions of sentences. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO FACTOR.
3. GRAPHING EQUATIONS IN TWO VARIABLES: familiarity with these “basic models”:  $y = k$ ,  $y = x$ ,  $y = x^2$ ,  $y = x^3$ ,  $y = |x|$ ,  $y = \sqrt{x}$ ,  $y = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $y = \ln x$  (and other bases),  $y = e^x$  (and other bases). Be able to graph circles and lines. Be able to graph transformations of the “basic models” involving: horizontal and vertical translations; vertical scaling; reflection about the x-axis; absolute value transformation. Be able to handle compound sentences that use the mathematical words ‘and’ and ‘or.’
4. BASIC GEOMETRY FORMULAS: perimeters of common figures, including the circumference of a circle. Also know the following formulas: AREA: rectangle, triangle, circle, trapezoid VOLUME: right cylinder (with familiar base).
5. FUNCTIONS: function notation; domain and range; composition; piecewise-defined functions; quadratic,  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$  and  $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$ ; higher-order polynomial (relationship between the zeros and factors); exponential and logarithmic (allowable bases, shapes of graphs); rational (asymptotes, end behavior, puncture points); periodic (sine and cosine).
6. CALCULATOR SKILLS: change the mode in your calculator as needed. Key in expressions using correct knowledge of order of operations. Graph functions: set the window; trace along a curve; find maxima/minima of graphs; find x-intercepts using the built-in calculator feature; use the table feature; use the Zoom In, Zoom Out, and Zoom Box features; find intersection points of graphs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Monroe Township High School Mathematics Department  
Precalculus Summer Preparation Packet for the 2026-2027 School Year

An assessment will be given on the following prerequisite material at the beginning of the school year without a calculator. It is recommended that the packet is completed without the use of a calculator.

*Answers to select questions are on the last page.*

**Simplifying Radicals/Operations with Radicals**

*Simplify. Answers should be in simplest radical form.*

1.  $\sqrt{180}$

2.  $2\sqrt{45} - \sqrt{125}$

3.  $\frac{2\sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{200}}$

4.  $(3 + \sqrt{6})(3 - \sqrt{6})$

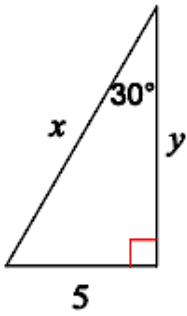
5.  $(\sqrt{5} + 4)^2$

6.  $\frac{2}{3+\sqrt{3}}$

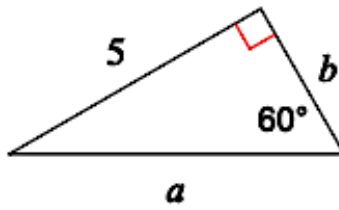
**Special Right Triangles (45-45-90 and 30-60-90)**

Find the missing side lengths. Answers should be in simplest radical form. No decimals.

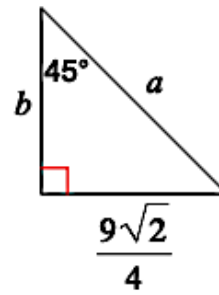
7.



8.



9.



**Simplifying**

Simplify.

10.  $\frac{\frac{1}{x+1} - 1}{x}$

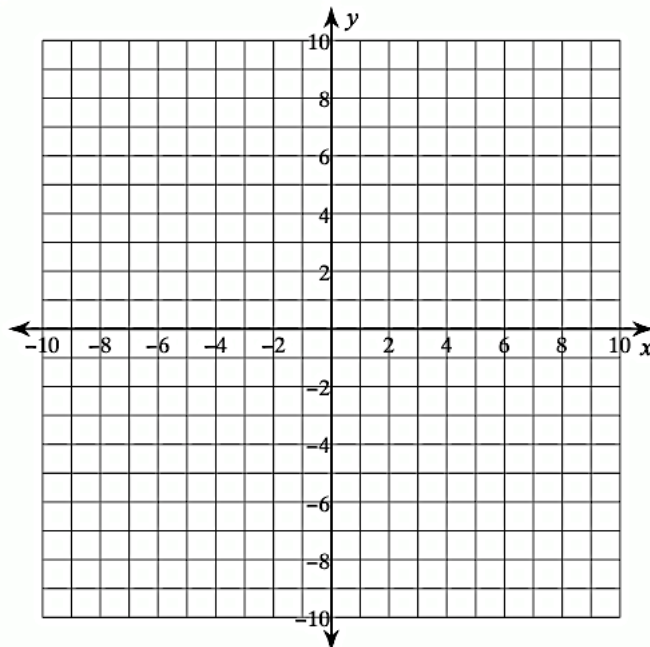
11.  $\frac{1 + \frac{1}{x-3}}{x-2}$

## Graphing

**Note:** It is recommended that you know how to graph without the use of a graphing utility. You are advised to use a graphing utility to check your work.

Graph. State the domain and range in interval notation.

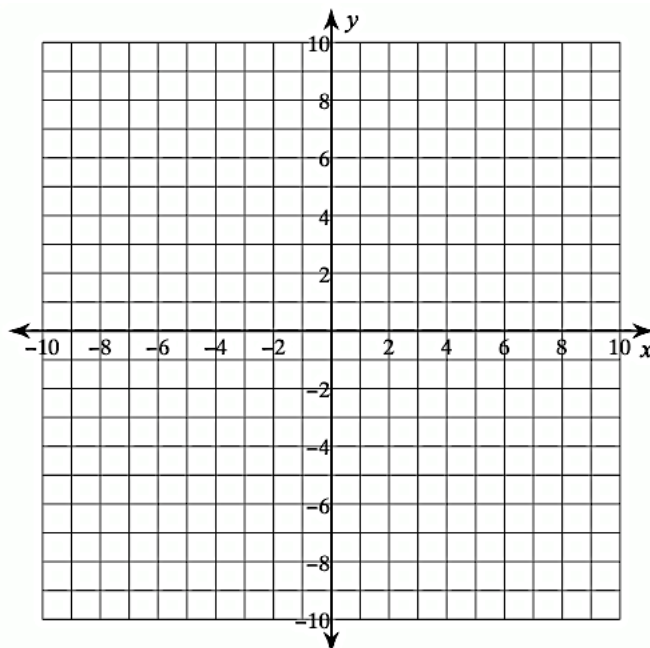
12.  $f(x) = 2x^2 - 4x + 1$



domain: \_\_\_\_\_

range: \_\_\_\_\_

13.  $f(x) = -\frac{1}{2}(x - 1)^2 - 2$



domain: \_\_\_\_\_

range: \_\_\_\_\_

**Factoring***Factor completely.*

14.  $8x^2 - 50$

15.  $6x^2 - x - 2$

16.  $x^3 - 64$

17.  $27x^3 + 8$

18.  $x^5 - 49x$

19.  $x^4 - 15x^2 + 56$

**Solving***Solve by factoring.*

20.  $x^3 + 2x^2 - 24x = 0$

21.  $18x^3 + 32x^2 - 18x - 32 = 0$

22.  $4x^2 - 12x = -9$

23.  $18x^2 = 24x$

**Operations with Fractions***Simplify.*

24.  $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{5}{3} - \frac{2}{9}$

25.  $-\frac{5}{3} + \left(-\frac{7}{8}\right)$

26.  $\left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^2 \div \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3$

27.  $\frac{2}{9} + \frac{20}{3} \cdot \frac{12}{5}$

## Answers

1.  $6\sqrt{5}$

2.  $\sqrt{5}$

3.  $\frac{2}{5}$

4. 3

5.  $21+8\sqrt{5}$

6.  $1-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$

$x=10$

7.  $y=5\sqrt{3}$

$a=\frac{10\sqrt{3}}{3}$

8.

$b=\frac{5\sqrt{3}}{3}$

$a=\frac{9}{2}$

9.

$b=\frac{9\sqrt{2}}{4}$

10.  $\frac{-1}{x+1}$

11.  $\frac{1}{x-3}$

24.  $\frac{29}{18}$

25.  $\frac{-61}{24}$

26.  $\frac{25}{2}$

27.  $\frac{146}{9}$