



QUESTION WORKBOOK

Proof by induction: sums and series

Further proof · Year FM

6 questions · 20 marks

PRINT EDITION

SECTION A · Warm-up

- A1** State the two things a proof by induction must establish, and explain briefly why together they prove a statement for every positive integer n . [2]

- A2** For the claim $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n - 1) = n^2$, verify the base case and write down the inductive hypothesis. [3]

SECTION B · Standard

- B1** Complete the inductive step for $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n - 1) = n^2$, and state the conclusion. [4]

B2 Prove by induction that the sum of the first n positive integers is $n(n+1)/2$. [4]

B3 Prove by induction that $2 + 4 + 8 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 2$. [4]

SECTION C · Stretch

C1 A student proves the inductive step for a formula but skips the base case. Explain why nothing has been proved, using the false claim $1 + 3 + \dots + (2n-1) = n^2 + 1$ as an illustration. [3]