

Books, watches, notes or cell phones are **not** allowed. The **only** calculators allowed are the Sharp EL-531***. You **must** show all your work, the correct answer is worth 1 mark the remaining marks are given for the work.

Question 1. (5 marks) Only using elementary operations show that

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 & x^3 \\ a & 1 & x & x^2 \\ p & b & 1 & x \\ q & r & c & 1 \end{vmatrix} = (1-ax)(1-bx)(1-cx)$$

Question 2. (5 marks) By first performing a cofactor expansion along the first column show that

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 + (-1)^{n+1}$$