KS3 Unit 46 Solving Quadratics by Factorising

Topic/Skill	Definition/Tips	Example
1. Quadratic	A quadratic expression is of the form $\boldsymbol{ax^2 + bx + c}$ where a, b and c are numbers, $\boldsymbol{a \neq 0}$	Examples of quadratic expressions: x^2 $8x^2 - 3x + 7$ Examples of non-quadratic expressions: $2x^3 - 5x^2$ $9x - 1$
2. Factorising Quadratics	When a quadratic expression is in the form $x^2 + bx + c$ find the two numbers that **add to give b** and **multiply to give c**.	$x^2 + 7x + 10 = (x + 5)(x + 2)$ (because 5 and 2 add to give 7 and multiply to give 10) $x^2 + 2x - 8 = (x + 4)(x - 2)$ (because +4 and -2 add to give +2 and multiply to give -8)
3. Difference of Two Squares	An expression of the form $\boldsymbol{a^2 - b^2}$ can be factorised to give $\boldsymbol{(a + b)(a - b)}$	$x^2 - 25 = (x + 5)(x - 5)$ $16x^2 - 81 = (4x + 9)(4x - 9)$
4. Solving Quadratics $(ax^2 = b)$	Isolate the x^2 term and square root both sides. Remember there will be a **positive and a negative solution**.	$2x^2 = 98$ $x^2 = 49$ $x = \pm 7$
5. Solving Quadratics $(ax^2 + bx = 0)$	**Factorise** and then **solve = 0**.	$x^2 - 3x = 0$ $x(x - 3) = 0$ $x = 0 \; or \; x = 3$
6. Solving Quadratics by Factorising $(a = 1)$	**Factorise** the quadratic in the usual way. **Solve = 0** Make sure the equation = 0 before factorising.	Solve $x^2 + 3x - 10 = 0$ Factorise: $(x + 5)(x - 2) = 0$ $x = -5 \; or \; x = 2$
7. Factorising Quadratics when $a \neq 1$	When a quadratic is in the form $ax^2 + bx + c$ 1. Multiply a by c = ac 2. Find two numbers that add to give b and multiply to give ac. 3. Re-write the quadratic, replacing bx with the two numbers you found. 4. Factorise in pairs – you should get the same bracket twice 5. Write your two brackets – one will be the repeated bracket, the other will be made of the factors outside each of the two brackets.	Factorise $6x^2 + 5x - 4$ 1. $6 \times -4 = -24$ 2. Two numbers that add to give +5 and multiply to give -24 are +8 and -3 3. $6x^2 + 8x - 3x - 4$ 4. Factorise in pairs: $2x(3x + 4) - 1(3x + 4)$ 5. Answer = $(3x + 4)(2x - 1)$
8. Solving Quadratics by Factorising $(a \neq 1)$	**Factorise** the quadratic in the usual way. **Solve = 0** Make sure the equation = 0 before factorising.	Solve $2x^2 + 7x - 4 = 0$ Factorise: $(2x - 1)(x + 4) = 0$ $x = \frac{1}{2} \; or \; x = -4$