

Pre-Calculus A  
Section 5.3 Solving Trig Equations

Name : Key  
Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Period : \_\_\_\_\_

Solve in radians. Please solve everywhere if no interval is noted.

1.  $4\sin^2 x - 3 = 0$  on  $[0, 2\pi)$

$$\sin^2 x = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\sin x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}$$

$$\sin x = \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{4\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3}$$

2.  $\sin^2 x = 2 \sin x$

$$\sin^2 x - 2 \sin x = 0$$

$$\sin x (\sin x - 2) = 0$$

$$\sin x = 0$$

$$x = 0, \pi$$

$$\sin x - 2 = 0$$

$$\sin x = 2$$

↑  
no solution

3.  $2\cos^2 x - \cos x - 1 = 0$

$$(2\cos x + 1)(\cos x - 1) = 0$$

$$2\cos x + 1 = 0 \quad \cos x - 1 = 0$$

$$\cos x = -\frac{1}{2} \quad \cos x = 1$$

$$x = \frac{2\pi}{3} + a\pi n$$

$$x = \frac{4\pi}{3} + a\pi n$$

$$x = 0 + a\pi n$$

4.  $\sqrt{3} \sec x - 2 = 0$  on  $[0, 2\pi)$

$$\sec x = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \leftarrow \text{take reciprocal of both sides}$$

$$\cos x = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{6}, x = \frac{11\pi}{6}$$

5.  $\sin x + 1 = \cos^2 x$

$$\sin x + 1 = 1 - \sin^2 x$$

$$\sin^2 x + \sin x + 1 = 1$$

$$\sin^2 x + \sin x = 0$$

$$\sin x (\sin x + 1) = 0$$

$$\sin x = 0 \quad \sin x + 1 = 0$$

$$x = 0 + a\pi n$$

$$\sin x = -1$$

$$x = \frac{3\pi}{2} + a\pi n$$

7.  $\cos^2 x + \sin x = 1$

$$(1 - \sin^2 x) + \sin x = 1$$

$$1 - \sin^2 x + \sin x - 1 = 0$$

$$-\sin^2 x + \sin x = 0$$

$$\sin x (\sin x + 1) = 0$$

$$\sin x = 0 \quad -\sin x + 1 = 0$$

$$-\sin x = -1$$

$$\sin x = 1$$

$$x = 0 + a\pi n$$

$$x = \pi + a\pi n$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{2} + a\pi n$$

6.  $4\cos x = 1 + 2\cos x$

$$2\cos x = 1$$

$$\cos x = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{3} + a\pi n$$

$$x = \frac{5\pi}{3} + a\pi n$$

8.  $\sec^2 x - 2\tan x = 4$

$$\tan^2 x + 1 - 2\tan x = 4$$

$$\tan^2 x - 2\tan x + 1 - 4 = 0$$

$$\tan^2 x - 2\tan x - 3 = 0$$

$$(\tan x - 3)(\tan x + 1) = 0$$

$$\tan x = 3$$

$$\tan x = -1$$

↑  
no solution  
for now

$$x = \frac{3\pi}{4} + a\pi n$$

$$x = \frac{7\pi}{4} + a\pi n$$

9.  $\tan x \sin^2 x = 2 \tan x$  on  $[0, 2\pi)$

$$\tan x \sin^2 x - 2 \tan x = 0$$

$$\tan x (\sin^2 x - 2) = 0$$

$$\tan x = 0 \quad \sin^2 x - 2 = 0$$

$$x = 0, \pi$$

$$\sin^2 x = 2$$

$$\sin x = \pm \sqrt{2}$$

↑  
no solution

10.  $\sin x - \sqrt{2} = -\sin x$

$$2 \sin x - \sqrt{2} = 0$$

$$\sin x = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{4} + a\pi n$$

$$x = \frac{3\pi}{4} + a\pi n$$

11.  $\cos x(\cos x - 1) = 0$  on  $[0, 2\pi)$

$$\cos x = 0$$

$$\cos x - 1 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}$$

$$\cos x = 1$$

$$x = 0$$

12.  $3 \tan^3 x = \tan x$  on  $[0, 2\pi)$

$$3 \tan^3 x - \tan x = 0$$

$$\tan x (3 \tan^2 x - 1) = 0$$

$$\tan x = 0$$

$$3 \tan^2 x - 1 = 0$$

$$x = 0, \pi$$

$$\tan^2 x = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\tan x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\tan x = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\tan x = \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{5\pi}{6}, \frac{7\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}$$

### Answer Key:

1)  $\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{4\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3}$     2)  $0 + 2\pi n, \pi + 2\pi n$     3)  $\frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi n, \frac{4\pi}{3} + 2\pi n, 0 + 2\pi n$     4)  $\frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}$

5)  $0 + 2\pi n, \pi + 2\pi n, \frac{3\pi}{2} + 2\pi n$     6)  $\frac{\pi}{3} + 2\pi n, \frac{5\pi}{3} + 2\pi n$     7)  $0 + 2\pi n, \pi + 2\pi n, \frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi n$

8)  $\frac{3\pi}{4} + 2\pi n, \frac{7\pi}{4} + 2\pi n$     9)  $0, \pi$     10)  $\frac{\pi}{4} + 2\pi n, \frac{3\pi}{4} + 2\pi n$     11)  $0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}$

12)  $0, \pi, \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{5\pi}{6}, \frac{7\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}$