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2. One of the terms in the binomial expansion of $(3 + ax)^6$, where a is a constant, is $540x^4$

(a) Find the possible values of a.

(4)

(b) Hence find the term independent of x in the expansion of

$$\left(\frac{1}{81} + \frac{1}{x^6}\right)(3 + ax)^6$$

(3)

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Question 2 continued

Q2

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3. $f(x) = 6x^3 + 17x^2 + 4x - 12$

(a) Use the factor theorem to show that $(2x + 3)$ is a factor of $f(x)$.

(2)

(b) Hence, using algebra, write $f(x)$ as a product of three linear factors.

(4)

(c) Solve, for $\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \pi$, the equation

$$6\tan^3\theta + 17\tan^2\theta + 4\tan\theta - 12 = 0$$

giving your answers to 3 significant figures.

(2)

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