5. (a) Find, in terms of a, the first 3 terms, in ascending powers of x, of the binomial expansion of

$$(2 + ax)^6$$

where a is a non-zero constant. Give each term in simplest form.

(3)

$$f(x) = \left(3 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 (2 + ax)^6$$

Given that the constant term in the expansion of $f(x)$ is 576

(b) find the value of a.

(4)

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Question 5 continued

(Total for Question 5 is 7 marks)

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6. **In this question you must show all stages of your working.**

Solutions relying entirely on calculator technology are not acceptable.

Using the laws of logarithms, solve

$$\log_4(12 - 2x) = 2 + 2\log_4(x + 1)$$

(5)

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