

## Section 2: The quadratic formula

### Crucial points

1. **Remember how to calculate the discriminant and what information it gives you**

Remember that the discriminant of a quadratic equation gives you useful information about the nature of its solutions, so it is often useful to work out the discriminant before you try to solve the equation.

2. **Learn the quadratic formula**

You will need to use the quadratic formula very often, in many different areas of mathematics, so make sure that you know it.

3. **When solving problems, make sure your answer makes sense**

Always look at your answers to problems in the light of the original question. If there are two solutions, do they both make sense, or should one be discarded? Think carefully about the meaning of a negative solution, since this may or may not be a valid solution.