

## Section 2: The inverse of a $3 \times 3$ matrix

### Crucial points

- 1. Remember the place signs when finding cofactors**  
Note that the place signs do not tell you the signs of the cofactors. They tell you whether or not you need to change the sign of the minor to obtain the cofactor.
- 2. Use the matrix facility on your calculator to check**  
If your calculator handles matrices, you should be able to use it to find a determinant or an inverse of a  $3 \times 3$  matrix.
- 3. Check inverses by multiplying the matrix by its inverse**  
Remember that multiplying a matrix by its inverse gives the identity matrix. If it doesn't, you have made a mistake!