

Multiplying Algebraic Expressions

Chapter 13: Algebra Play · Topic 2

Key Concept

This method, sometimes called the FOIL method (First, Outer, Inner, Last terms), ensures every possible pairing of terms between the two expressions is correctly multiplied and none are missed. Multiplying algebraic expressions is a foundational skill for expanding brackets in more complex equations and is directly connected to the reverse process of factorisation, where such expanded expressions are broken back down into their original factors.

Quick Revision Notes

- Multiplying binomials: distribute each term of the first expression across every term of the second.
- Example: $(x+2)(x+3) = x^2+3x+2x+6 = x^2+5x+6$.
- The FOIL method (First, Outer, Inner, Last) helps ensure no term pairing is missed.
- Multiplication of expressions is the reverse process of factorisation.

Practice Questions

- 1 Multiply: $(a+3)(a-2)$.
- 2 Expand: $(x-4)(x+4)$.
- 3 Explain the steps of the FOIL method for multiplying two binomials.