

Chapter 02

POLYNOMIALS

Example:

Check $(x-2)$ is a factor of $x^3 + 3x^2 - 4x - 12$.

Solution:

$$\text{Let } g(x) = x - 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x = 2}$$

$$\text{Let } f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 4x - 12$$

$$\text{If } x = 2$$

$$f(2) = (2)^3 + 3(2)^2 - 4(2) - 12$$

$$= \cancel{8} + \cancel{12} - \cancel{8} - \cancel{12}$$

$$f(2) = 0$$

$\therefore (x-2)$ is a factor of $x^3 + 3x^2 - 4x - 12$.