

YOU & MATHS **Reducing to lowest terms** When reduced to lowest terms, a fraction whose numerator is $x^2 - 3x + 2$ equals -1 .
What is the denominator of the fraction?

The fraction in lowest terms can look like this:

$$\frac{(x^2 - 3x + 2)}{\text{something}} = -1,$$

and «something» must allow $x^2 - 3x + 2$ to be simplified, leaving only -1 at the numerator.

Since multiplying or dividing by -1 you get the same result, the denominator in lowest terms will simply be the product $(x^2 - 3x + 2) \cdot (-1)$.

One last thing: you just need to suppose that $(x^2 - 3x + 2) \cdot (-1) \neq 0$, so that it can actually be the denominator of a fraction, and that happens for $x \neq 1$ and $x \neq 2$.