

**YOU & MATHS** **GCF of polynomials in  $a$**  Find three polynomials  $A(a)$ ,  $B(a)$ , and  $C(a)$  such that the following are satisfied: the greatest common factor of  $A(a)$  and  $B(a)$  is  $a^2$ ; the greatest common factor of  $B(a)$  and  $C(a)$  is 5;  $A(a)$  and  $C(a)$  have no common factors.

$A(a)$  must be a multiple of  $a^2$ , so for example  $A(a) = a^2(a - 1)$ .

Then  $B(a)$  must be a multiple of  $a^2$  but not of  $a - 1$ . Also  $B(a)$  must be a multiple of 5, so for example  $B(a)$  could be  $5a^2$ .

$C(a)$  must also be a multiple of 5, and not a multiple of  $a^2$  or of  $a - 1$ , so  $C(a)$  could be, for example,

$$C(a) = 5 \cdot (a + 3).$$

In conclusion, for example, we could choose:

$$A(a) = a^2(a - 1) = a^3 - a^2,$$

$$B(a) = 5a^2,$$

$$C(a) = 5(a + 3) = 5a + 15.$$