



1. The equation $x^2 + (p - 3)x - 3p = 0$ has two distinct real roots. (8 marks)
Find the possible values of p .

Mark scheme:

$$b^2 - 4ac$$

(M1) Use of discriminant

$$(p - 3)^2 - 4(1)(-3p)$$

(A1) Correct substitution into discriminant

$$(p + 3)^2$$

(A1) Correct discriminant

$$(p + 3)^2 > 0$$

(R1) Knowing the discriminant must be positive

Attempt to solve

(M1)

Correct working

(A1)

$$k \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } k \neq 2$$

(A2) k is all reals except 2