Sample problems for Test 1

Any problem may be altered or replaced by a different one!

Problem 1 Find a quadratic polynomial $p(x)$ such that $p(1) = 1$, $p(2) = 3$, and $p(3) = 7$.

Problem 2 Let A be a square matrix such that $A^3 = O$.

(i) Prove that the matrix A is not invertible.
(ii) Prove that the matrix $A + I$ is invertible.

Problem 3 Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(i) Evaluate the determinant of the matrix A.
(ii) Find the inverse matrix A^{-1}.

Problem 4 Solve the following equation:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & x \\ 4 & 9 & x^2 \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

Problem 5 Determine which of the following subsets of $\mathbb{R}^3$ are subspaces. Briefly explain.

(i) The set S_1 of vectors $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $xyz = 0$.
(ii) The set S_2 of vectors $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $x + y + z = 0$.
(iii) The set S_3 of vectors $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $y^2 + z^2 = 0$.
(iv) The set S_4 of vectors $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $y^2 - z^2 = 0$.

Problem 6 Let V denote the solution set of a system

$$\begin{cases} x_2 + 2x_3 + 3x_4 = 0, \\ x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 + 4x_4 = 0. \end{cases}$$

Find a finite spanning set for this subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$.