TG 5 Use vectors and the diagram of the unit circle to derive the formula for the expansion of $\cos (\alpha-\beta)$ where $0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Let $\underset{\sim}{p}=\cos \alpha \underset{\sim}{i}+\sin \alpha \underset{\sim}{j}$ and
$\underset{\sim}{q}=\cos \beta \underset{\sim}{i}+\sin \beta \underset{\sim}{j}$
Now, $\cos (\alpha-\beta)=\frac{\underset{\sim}{p \cdot q}}{|\underset{\sim}{p}||\underset{\sim}{q}|}$
$=\underset{\sim}{p \cdot q} \underset{\sim}{q}$, as $|\underset{\sim}{p}|=1$ and $|\underset{\sim}{q}|=1$.
$=\cos \alpha \times \cos \beta+\sin \alpha \times \sin \beta$


* These solutions have been provided by projectmaths and are not supplied or endorsed by NESA.

Looking for Mathematics Extension 1 Topic Revision?
Go to our MathsFit page for downloads @ \$2.95 each

