Read each problem **very carefully** before starting to solve it. Each problem is worth 5 points. It is necessary to show **all** your work. Correct answers without explanations are worth 0 points. GOOD LUCK!!

1. Solve the following polynomial equations:

(a)
$$x^3 - 3x^2 - 4x + 12 = 0$$
.

(b)
$$6x^3 = 13x^2 + 5x$$
.

2. (a) Simplify the following rational expression $\frac{x^3 + 4x^2 - 21x}{x^4 - 27x} =$

(b) Perform the operation and simplify:

$$\frac{x^3 + x^2 - 20x}{x^2 + 2x - 15} \div \frac{x^2 - 16}{x^3 - 27} =$$