

6. **Theorem 6.** For each integer  $a$ , if 4 divides  $(a - 1)$  then 4 divides  $(a^2 - 1)$ .

**Definition 6.** A nonzero integer  $n$  **divides** an integer  $b$ , denoted  $n \mid b$ , provided that  $(\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}) [nk = b]$ .

**Remarks.**

- Note 5 divides 10, also written  $5 \mid 10$ , since  $10 = 5 \cdot 2$  and  $2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- The expression “4 divides  $(a - 1)$ ” can be written as  $4 \mid (a - 1)$ .
- Note  $4 \mid a - 1$  is wrong (and makes absolutely no sense) since  $4 \mid a$  is a statement while 1 is a number (you cannot take a statement minus a number).

6.1. Circle True or False (but not both). No justification needed.

TRUE     FALSE .     $(-5) \mid 10$       True since  $10 = (-5)(-2)$  and  $-2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

TRUE     FALSE .     $10 \mid 5$

6.2. Write Theorem 6 symbolically. (You can use any appropriate universe(s).) Box answer.

$$\boxed{(\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}) [4 \mid (a - 1) \Rightarrow 4 \mid (a^2 - 1)]}$$

6.3. On the next 2 pages of lined paper prove Theorem 6.

*Proof.* Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $4 \mid (a - 1)$ . We will show that  $4 \mid (a^2 - 1)$ .

Since  $4 \mid (a - 1)$ , by the definition of divides, there is  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$4k = a - 1 . \tag{6.1}$$

Solving equation (6.1) for  $a$  gives

$$a = 4k + 1 . \tag{6.2}$$

Using equation (6.2), followed by algebra, we get

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 - 1 &= (4k + 1)^2 - 1 \\ &= 4^2k^2 + 2(4k) + 1 - 1 \\ &= 4(4k^2 + 2k) \\ &= 4j \end{aligned}$$

where  $j = 4k^2 + 2k$ . Note  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$  since  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and by the closure properties of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . We have just shown that  $a^2 - 1 = 4j$  for some  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ . So by definition of divides we get that  $4 \mid (a^2 - 1)$ , which is what we wanted to show.

Consequently, we have shown for each integer  $a$ , if  $4 \mid (a - 1)$  then  $4 \mid (a^2 - 1)$ . □