

**Q1.** We see the equation as  $[13]_{2024}[X]_{2024} = [4]_{2024}$ . We firstly find the multiplicative inverse of  $[13]$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{2024}$  by Euclid's algorithm. Since

$$\begin{aligned} 2024 &= 13 \cdot 155 + 9 \\ 13 &= 9 \cdot 1 + 4 \\ 9 &= 4 \cdot 2 + 1, \end{aligned}$$

we have  $\gcd(2024, 13) = 1$  and

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= 9 - 2 \cdot 4 \\ &= 9 - 2 \cdot (13 - 1 \cdot 9) \\ &= (-2) \cdot 13 + 3 \cdot 9 \\ &= (-2) \cdot 13 + 3 \cdot (2024 - 155 \cdot 13) \\ &= 3 \cdot 2024 + (-467) \cdot 13. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $[-467]$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $[13]$ . Multiplying  $[13][X] = [4]$  by  $[-467]$  on both sides, we therefore obtain

$$[X] = [-467][4] = [-1868] = [156].$$

All integers congruent to 156 mod 2024 are the solutions to the congruence equation.

**Q2.**

$\circ$	(123)	(132)	(213)	(231)	(312)	(321)
(123)	(123)	(132)	(213)	(231)	(312)	(321)
(132)	(132)	(123)	(312)	(321)	(213)	(231)
(213)	(213)	(231)	(123)	(132)	(321)	(312)
(231)	(231)	(213)	(321)	(312)	(123)	(132)
(312)	(312)	(321)	(132)	(123)	(231)	(213)
(321)	(321)	(312)	(231)	(213)	(132)	(123)

**Q3.** (1) No. For example,  $(213) \circ (132) = (231)$  but  $(132) \circ (213) = (312)$ . (2)  $e = (123)$ . In lectures, it is explained that the identity map on  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  defines the identity element in the group and given the uniqueness of the identity element in a group,  $(123)$  has to be the one. Alternatively, one can check from the table that  $(abc) \circ (123) = (abc) \circ (123) = (abc)$  for all possible  $(abc)$ . (3)  $s \circ s = e$ ,  $r \circ r \circ r = e$  and  $(s \circ r) \circ (s \circ r) = e$ . Of course, any variant of  $(s \circ r) \circ (s \circ r)$ , e.g.  $(r \circ s) \circ (r \circ s) = e$  is also admissible.

**Marking Scheme.** **Q1.** +1 for spotting the answer correctly and +1 for justification. **Q2.** +3 for filling in the table correctly. **Q3.** (1) +1 (+0 without justification) (2) +1 (+0 without justification) (3) +3 (the hardest one +2).