

**9 (a)** Find the first three terms, in ascending powers of  $x$ , of the binomial expansion of

$$(1+x)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

**[2 marks]**

**9 (b)** A student substitutes  $x = 2$  into the expansion of  $(1+x)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  to find an approximation for  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$

Explain the mistake in the student's approach.

**[1 mark]**

**9 (c)** By substituting  $x = -\frac{1}{4}$  in your expansion for  $(1+x)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  find an approximation for  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$

Give your answer to three significant figures.

**[3 marks]**