

**1** Simplify each of the following.

**(a)**  $(2a^2)^3 \times \frac{3}{4}a^{-1}$

**[2]**

**(b)** 
$$\frac{4x^2 - 9}{(2x^2 + 5x - 12)(2x + 3)}$$

**[2]**