

**Advanced Higher Maths**  
**SQA 2016 Exemplar**  
**Question 9**



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Prove by contradiction, that if  $x$  is irrational then  $\sqrt{x}$  is irrational.

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Method:

Assume that  $x$  is irrational but  $\sqrt{x}$  is rational.

Express  $\sqrt{x}$  as a fully simplified fraction.

Square both sides, to show that  $x$  must be rational.

This contradicts  $x$  being irrational and concludes the proof.