1. Compute the distance $d(P_1, P_2)$ between the points $P_1(5, 6)$ and $P_2(3, -1)$.

 $d(P_1, P_2) = \sqrt{(5-3)^2 + (6-(-1))^2} = \sqrt{2^2 + 7^2} = \sqrt{53}$

2. Find an equation of the circle that has center C(-2, 1) and radius 4.

The equation is given by $(x + 2)^2 + (y - 1)^2 = 16$.

3. Find an equation of the circle that has center C(-2, 1) and goes through the point D(-2, -3).

One can go through a lot of work on this one, or one can recognize the fact that since the x-coordinate is the same, and realize that d(C, D) = 4. The equation of the circle is given by $(x + 2)^2 + (y - 1)^2 = 16$.

4. If x > -2, rewrite |x + 3| without using the absolute value symbol.

If x > -2, then the quantity x + 3 > 0, therefore, |x + 3| = x + 3.

5. Solve the equation $(2x - 3)(x^2 - 3x - 4) = 0$.

Using the product of zeros rule, we have 2x - 3 = 0 or $x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0$. The first equation yields $x = \frac{3}{2}$, and using the quadratic formula on the second gives x = 4 and x = -1.