STEP Mathematics Paper II 1987 fma

4. $ze^{i\theta}$ is a rotation by θ anticlockwise about the origin of the point represented by z the required condition is that $(\beta-\gamma)=(\alpha-\gamma)e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}}$ similarly, $(\alpha-\gamma)=(\beta-\gamma)e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}}$ is the condition for a clockwise triangle.

so for an equilateral triange (in any order) we must have
$$\left((\beta - \gamma) - (a - \gamma)e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}}\right)\left((\beta - \gamma) - (a - \gamma)e^{-\frac{i\pi}{3}}\right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\beta - \gamma)^2 - (a - \gamma)(\beta - \gamma)\left(e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}} + e^{-\frac{i\pi}{3}}\right) + (a - \gamma)^2e^0 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (\beta - \gamma)^2 - (a - \gamma)(\beta - \gamma) + (a - \gamma)^2 + 0 \text{ since } e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}} + e^{-\frac{i\pi}{3}} = 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 - a\beta - \beta\gamma - \gamma a = 0$$

Let a, β, γ be the roots of $z^3 + az^2b\bar{z}c = 0$ then $(a + \beta + \gamma) = -a$ and $a\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma a = b$ $a^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 - a\beta - \beta\gamma - \gamma a = 0 \Rightarrow a^2 - 3b = 0$ which is thus the required condition.