

#3. When subtraction and addition appear in an expression without parentheses, it is agreed that the operations are performed in order of appearance from left to right. Taking this into account, answer the following questions.

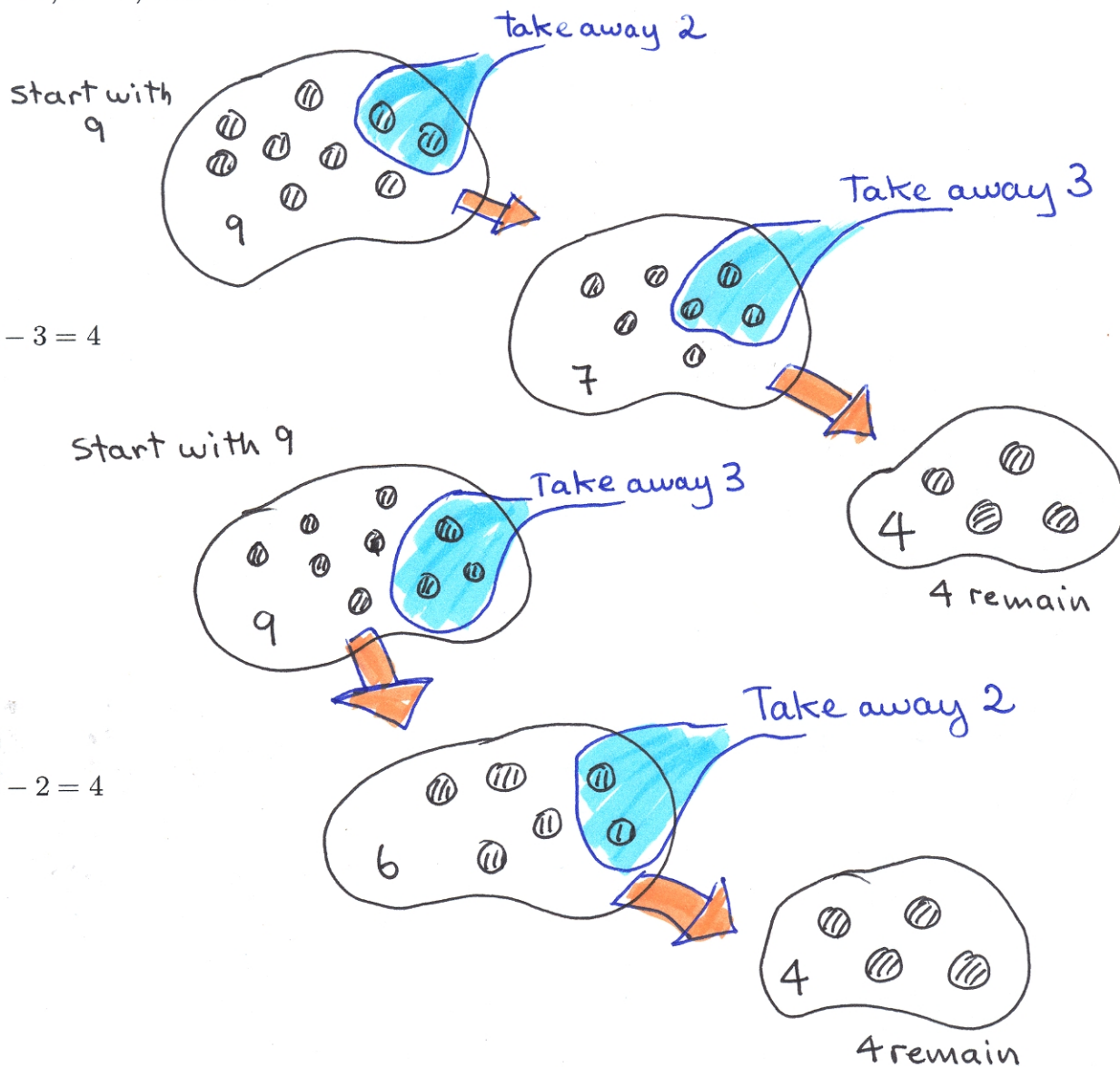
(Do not use the same model for both.)

(a) Use an appropriate model for subtraction to explain why

$$a - b - c = a - c - b.$$

We use the take-away model, and execute the operations from left to right.

Set  $a = 7$ ,  $b = 2$ , and  $c = 3$ .



Since the two expressions give the same result, this shows that  $a - b - c = a - c - b$ .