

Course Companion

International Baccalaureate • IB Diploma • Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches • SL

Every topic handout in one volume

exercises.lol

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Number and algebra

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches · SL

Scope and prerequisites

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Exact arithmetic and estimation

■ Can we pack without leftovers?

- A supplier packs 72 pencils and 90 pens into identical gift bags. How can we avoid leftovers?
- This lesson studies **prime factor** : A prime number that divides the integer exactly.

■ The method

- Prime factors reveal shared structure.
- Use the smallest common prime powers for the HCF and the largest for the LCM.
- Estimate before calculating; use brackets to preserve the order of operations.

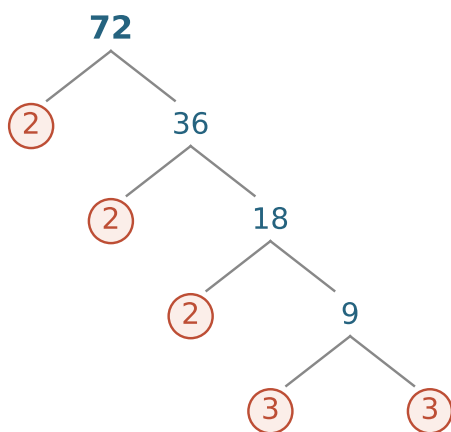
■ A worked case

$$a = \prod p_i^{\alpha_i}, \quad b = \prod p_i^{\beta_i}, \quad \text{HCF}(a, b) = \prod p_i^{\min(\alpha_i, \beta_i)}$$

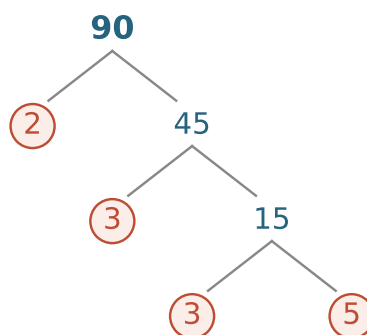
Example:

$72=2^3 \times 3^2$ and $90=2 \times 3^2 \times 5$. Their HCF is $2 \times 9=18$. Make 18 bags with 4 pencils and 5 pens each. Their LCM is $2^3 \times 3^2 \times 5=360$.

Factor trees: $\text{HCF}(72, 90) = 2 \times 3^2 = 18$



$$72 = 2^3 \times 3^2$$



$$90 = 2 \times 3^2 \times 5$$

Factor trees: $72 = 2^3 \times 3^2$ and $90 = 2 \times 3^2 \times 5$, so $\text{HCF} = 2 \times 3^2 = 18$

■ Where it goes wrong

- The HCF divides both numbers; the LCM is a multiple of both.
- They answer different questions.
- A decimal estimate is not an exact fraction.

Not true: The HCF of two positive integers is always larger than either integer. The HCF divides both numbers, so it can never be larger than the smaller one: the HCF of 72 and 90 is 18.

■ Applying it

- For a non-calculator paper, keep fractions exact and show cancellation.
- For a calculator paper, enter the full expression and compare with your estimate.

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.

Key:

- **Prime factor:** A prime number that divides the integer exactly.
- Prime factors reveal shared structure.
- Watch for: the HCF divides both numbers; the LCM is a multiple of both.

■ Write from an HCF of 15

- Find the HCF and LCM of 45 and 75.
- The HCF is smaller than both integers.

Indices, surds and standard form

■ How small is a microscopic length?

- A microscope records a length of 0.000072 metres. A compact representation must keep its size correct.
 - This lesson studies **index** : The power to which a base is raised.
-

■ The method

- For the same positive base, multiplication adds indices and division subtracts them.
 - A negative index means reciprocal; a fractional index represents a root.
 - Standard form has $1 \leq a < 10$.
-

■ A worked case

$$a^m a^n = a^{m+n}, \quad a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}, \quad a^{m/n} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m$$

Example:

$0.000072 = 7.2 \times 10^{-5}$. Also $16^{3/4} = (16^{1/4})^3 = 2^3 = 8$. Simplify $\sqrt{72} = 6\sqrt{2}$, then rationalise $1/\sqrt{2} = \sqrt{2}/2$.

$0.000072 = 7.2 \times 10^{-5}$: the point moves 5 places

5 jumps right

0 . 0 0 0 0 7 2

$$7.2 \times 10^{-5}$$

coefficient 7.2 is between 1 and 10; the power is -5

Moving the point 5 places right gives 7.2, so $0.000072 = 7.2 \times 10^{-5}$

■ Where it goes wrong

- Index laws do not turn a sum into a single power: $2^3+2^4=24$, not 2^7 .
- Do not round a surd when an exact answer is requested.

Not true: For every positive a , a^2+a^3 equals a^5 . Index laws only add powers when the terms are multiplied: $2^2+2^3=12$, but $2^5=32$.

■ Applying it

- Check powers of ten against the original quantity.
 - Use surds for exact geometry, and round only the final length when the question asks for a decimal.
-

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Index:** The power to which a base is raised.
- For the same positive base, multiplication adds indices and division subtracts them.
- Watch for: index laws do not turn a sum into a single power: $2^3+2^4=24$, not 2^7 .

■ Write from 27 to the power $2/3$

- Evaluate 27 to the power $2/3$.
- For a positive number, a squared plus a cubed is not a to the fifth.

Sequences, series and recurrence

■ Does the change add or multiply?

- A saving plan adds ¥30 more each week; a population model grows by 5% each year. Equal differences and equal ratios need different models.
 - This lesson studies **common ratio** : The constant multiplier between consecutive terms of a geometric sequence.
-

■ The method

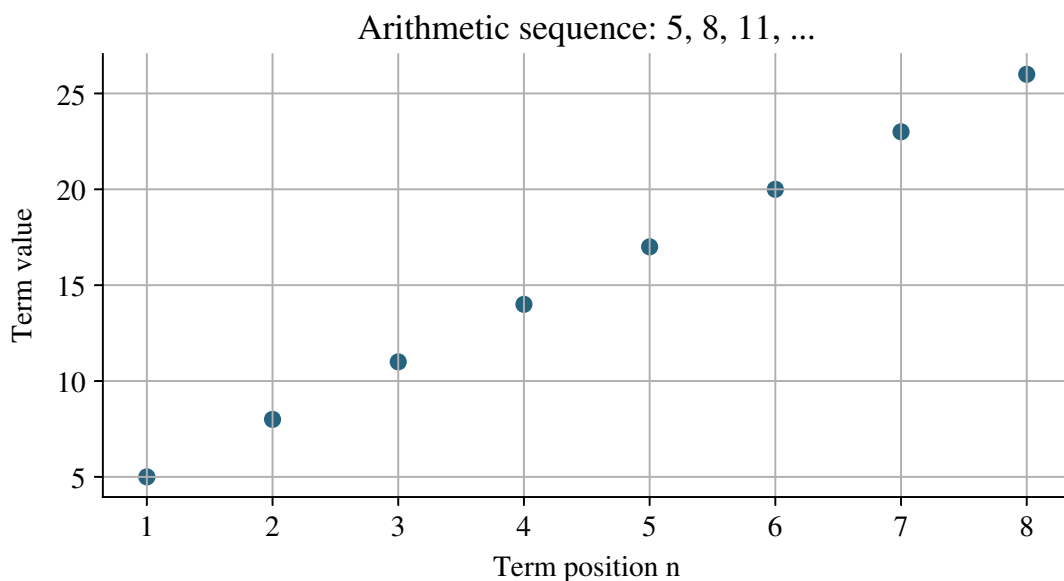
- For an arithmetic progression, $u_n = a + (n-1)d$ and $S_n = n(2a + (n-1)d)/2$.
 - For a geometric progression, $u_n = ar^{n-1}$ and $S_n = a(1-r^n)/(1-r)$.
 - An infinite geometric sum exists only if $|r| < 1$.
-

■ A worked case

$$u_n = a + (n-1)d, \quad S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2a + (n-1)d]$$

Example:

For $a=5, d=3, n=8$, $u_8 = 5 + 7 \times 3 = 26$ and $S_8 = 8(10+21)/2 = 124$. For $a=12, r=1/2$, $S_{\infty} = 12/(1-1/2) = 24$. For $u_{n+1} = 2u_n + 1$ with $u_1 = 1$, the next terms are 3, 7, 15.



$$u_n = 5 + 3(n-1): \text{ equal steps of 3 put the terms on a straight line}$$

■ Where it goes wrong

- The first term has index 1, so the exponent is $n-1$.
- A sequence is a list; a series is a sum.
- A geometric sequence can alternate in sign and still converge.

Not true: Every geometric series has a finite sum to infinity. A sum to infinity exists only when $-1 < r < 1$; for $r=2$ the terms grow without limit.

■ Applying it

- Explain whether the context justifies additive or multiplicative change.
 - In finance, distinguish a single deposit from a stream of deposits before choosing a sum formula.
-

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Common ratio:** The constant multiplier between consecutive terms of a geometric sequence.
- For an arithmetic progression, $u_n = a + (n-1)d$ and $S_n = n(2a + (n-1)d)/2$.
- Watch for: the first term has index 1, so the exponent is $n-1$.

■ Write from the 6th term 29

- An arithmetic sequence has first term 4 and common difference 5.
- Find the 6th term. An infinite geometric series needs a common ratio with size below 1.

Percentages, ratio and proportional reasoning

■ Can we recover the original price?

- A coat is reduced by 20% to ¥240. The discount applies to the original price, not to the sale price.
 - This lesson studies **multiplier**: A factor that performs a percentage change in one multiplication.
-

■ The method

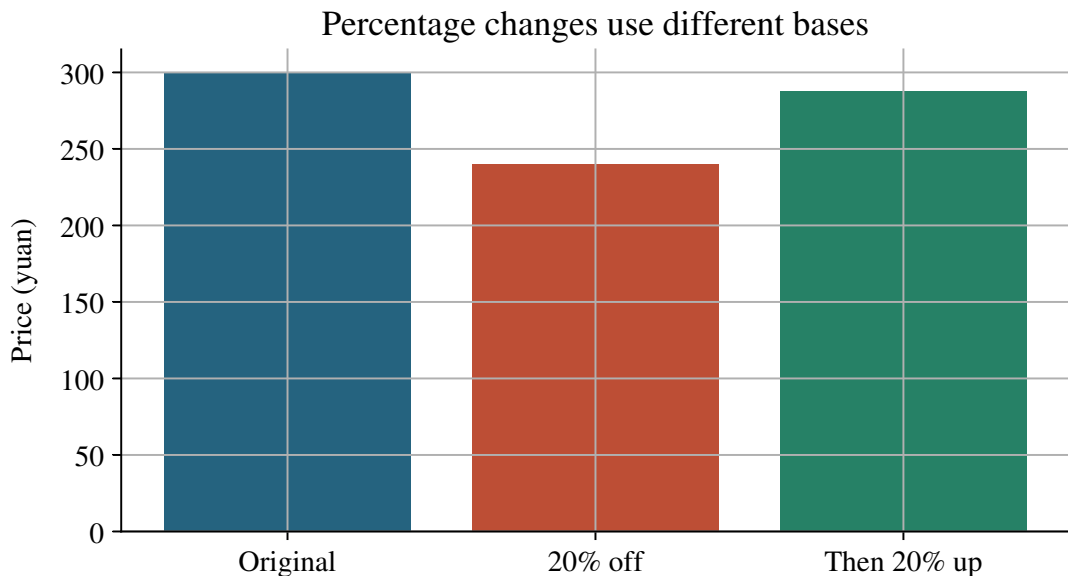
- A $p\%$ increase has multiplier $1+p/100$; a decrease has multiplier $1-p/100$.
 - Reverse a percentage by dividing by the multiplier.
 - In a ratio, first find the total number of parts.
-

■ A worked case

$$P_{\text{new}} = P_{\text{old}} \left(1 + \frac{r}{100}\right)$$

Example:

Let the original price be P . The model is sale price $= 0.8P$. Hence $P = 240/0.8 = 300$. A later 20% increase gives $240 \times 1.2 = 288$, so the two changes do not cancel.



300 → 240 → 288 yuan: 20% off then 20% up does not return to 300, because the second 20% is of 240

■ Where it goes wrong

- A percentage uses a stated base.
- Subtracting the percentages loses that base.
- For compound change, multiply the multipliers; do not add the percentages.

Not true: A 20% decrease followed by a 20% increase restores the starting price. The 20% increase is taken of a smaller amount: $100 \times 0.8 \times 1.2 = 96$, not 100.

■ Applying it

- For direct proportion use $y=kx$; for inverse proportion use $y=k/x$.
- Calculate k from a known pair before using a new value.
- State what you held constant.

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Multiplier:** A factor that performs a percentage change in one multiplication.
- A $p\%$ increase has multiplier $1+p/100$; a decrease has multiplier $1-p/100$.
- Watch for: A percentage uses a stated base.

■ Write from a final price of 192

- A price of 200 falls by 20 percent and then rises by 20 percent.
- Find the final price. The two changes do not cancel.

Functions

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Domains, inverses and composition

■ Which inputs are allowed?

- A square-root model returns a real output only for some inputs. Its formula alone does not specify a complete function.
 - This lesson studies **domain** : The set of allowed inputs to a function.
-

■ The method

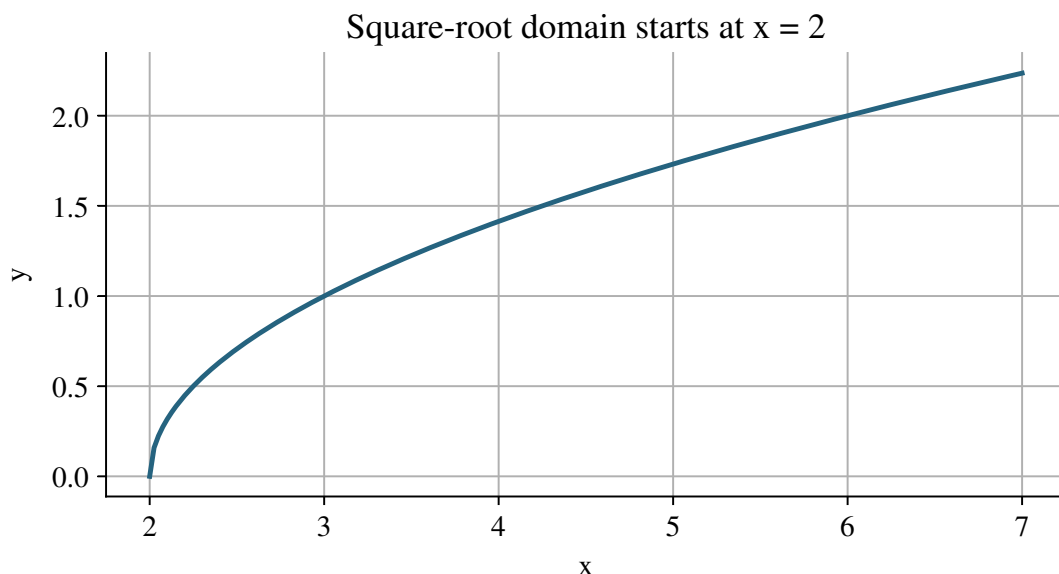
- State the domain and range.
 - For an inverse, first ensure the function is one-to-one on its domain.
 - Composition fg means apply g first, then f ; the intermediate output must be an allowed input to f .
-

■ A worked case

$$f(g(x)) = (f \circ g)(x), \quad f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$$

Example:

For $f(x)=\sqrt{x-2}$, $x \geq 2$ and the range is $y \geq 0$. From $y=\sqrt{x-2}$, $x=y^2+2$. Thus f inverse(x)= x^2+2 with $x \geq 0$. For $g(x)=x+3$, $fg(1)=f(4)=\sqrt{2}$.



$y = \sqrt{x - 2}$ exists only for $x \geq 2$, so its domain starts at 2 and its range starts at 0

■ Where it goes wrong

- Squaring can introduce extraneous solutions.
- Restricting a parabola's domain is essential before claiming an inverse.
- A horizontal translation inside f has the opposite sign to the graph's movement.

Not true: Every quadratic function on all real numbers has an inverse function. A quadratic on all real numbers is many-to-one ($f(1)=f(-1)$ for x^2), so its domain must be restricted first.

■ Applying it

- Check $f(f^{-1}(x))=x$ on the inverse domain.
 - Use a sketch to test whether a horizontal line meets the original graph more than once.
-

■ In your course

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- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Domain:** The set of allowed inputs to a function.

- State the domain and range.
- Watch for: squaring can introduce extraneous solutions.

■ Write from an inverse value of 5

- For $f(x)=3x-1$, find the inverse image of 14.
- A quadratic on all real numbers is not one-to-one, so it needs a restricted domain before it has an inverse.

Exponentials, logarithms and modelling

■ Why does a decay model stay positive?

- A medicine concentration falls by the same percentage each hour. A constant subtraction would eventually predict a negative amount.
 - This lesson studies **half-life** : The time for a decaying quantity to fall to half its initial value.
-

■ The method

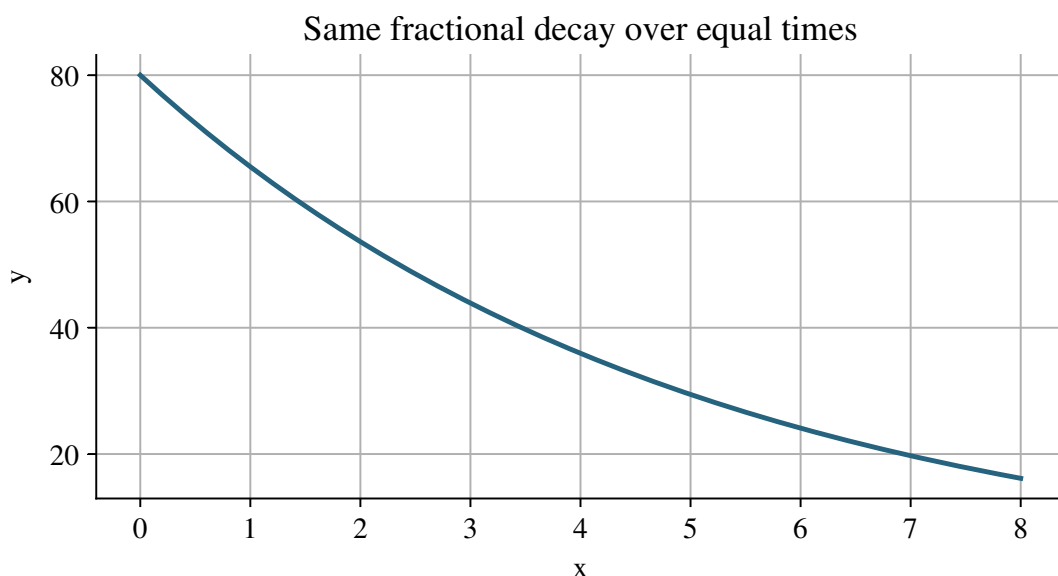
- For $y=Ae^{kt}$, k is a proportional rate.
 - Taking logs gives $\ln y = \ln A + kt$.
 - Logarithms require positive arguments, and $\log(x+y)$ is not $\log x + \log y$.
-

■ A worked case

$$y = Ae^{kt}, \quad \ln y = \ln A + kt$$

Example:

If $y=80e^{(-0.2t)}$, $y=40$ gives $e^{(-0.2t)}=1/2$. Hence $t=\ln 2/0.2 \approx 3.466$. For $3^x=20$, $x=\ln 20/\ln 3$. Plotting $\ln y$ against t linearises this exponential model.



$y = 80e^{(-0.2x)}$ loses the same fraction, about 18%, in every unit of x

■ Where it goes wrong

- A fitted exponential is a model, not a guarantee.
- Specify the time units and range of use.
- A negative k describes decay; a negative starting amount usually contradicts the context.

Not true: For positive x and y , $\ln(x+y) \neq \ln x + \ln y$. The log of a sum has no simple law; the product rule is $\ln(xy) = \ln x + \ln y$.

■ Applying it

- Compare actual observations with the model.
 - Systematic departures may indicate changing conditions.
 - In a report, explain what the rate and initial value mean, rather than giving a bare equation.
-

■ In your course

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Key:

- **Half-life:** The time for a decaying quantity to fall to half its initial value.
- For $y = Ae^{kt}$, k is a proportional rate.
- Watch for: A fitted exponential is a model, not a guarantee.

■ **Write from the solution 4**

- Solve 3 to the power $x = 81$.
- The log of a sum is not the sum of the logs.

■ **Write from the solution 3**

- Solve 5 to the power $x = 125$.
- Both sides as powers of 5: $x = 3$ – matching bases beat log rules here.

■ **Write from a half-life of 10 days**

- 200 g of a substance decays to 50 g in 20 days.
- Two halvings in 20 days, so the half-life is 10 days – count the halvings, not the subtraction.

Geometry and trigonometry

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Angle reasoning, similarity and mensuration

■ Does volume scale like length?

- A model has lengths one third of the real object. How much smaller are its area and volume?
- This lesson studies **scale factor** : The multiplier that relates corresponding lengths in similar shapes.

■ The method

- For similar shapes with length scale factor k , areas scale by k^2 and volumes by k^3 .
- State angle reasons explicitly.
- A circle's tangent is perpendicular to the radius at the contact point.

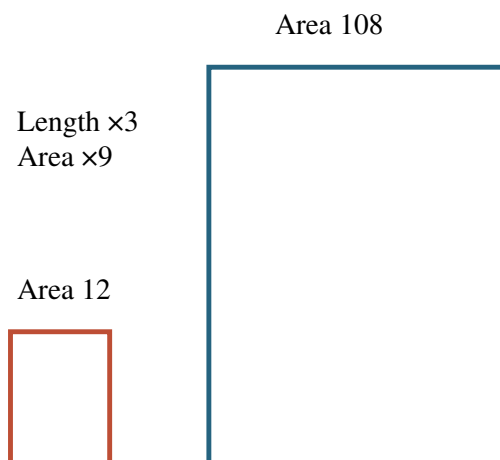
■ A worked case

$$\frac{A_2}{A_1} = k^2, \quad \frac{V_2}{V_1} = k^3$$

Example:

If model-to-real length factor is 3, a model area of 12 cm^2 gives $12 \times 3^2 = 108 \text{ cm}^2$ and a model volume of 8 cm^3 gives $8 \times 3^3 = 216 \text{ cm}^3$. A cylinder with $r=3, h=5$ has volume $\pi r^2 h = 45\pi$.

A length scale factor is squared for area



Length scale factor 3 gives area scale factor $3^2 = 9$: $12 \times 9 = 108$

■ Where it goes wrong

- Equal angles alone establish similarity, not equal size.
- Use corresponding lengths in the same order.
- Convert linear units before calculating area or volume, or square/cube the conversion factor correctly.

Not true: Doubling every length of a solid doubles its volume. Volume scales by the cube of the length factor: doubling every length multiplies the volume by 8.

■ Applying it

- A geometric proof should name the relevant theorem, identify the equal angle or ratio, and draw the conclusion.
 - A scale drawing is evidence only when the task permits measurement.
-

■ In your course

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Key:

- **Scale factor:** The multiplier that relates corresponding lengths in similar shapes.

- For similar shapes with length scale factor k , areas scale by k^2 and volumes by k^3 .
- Watch for: equal angles alone establish similarity, not equal size.

■ Write from a volume factor of 8

- Two similar solids have length scale factor 2.
- Find the area factor and the volume factor. Doubling lengths does not double the volume.

Right triangles and non-right triangles

■ Which side does the ladder need?

- A ladder reaches a height of 4 m while its foot is 3 m from a wall. Which sides are known, and which angle do we need?
 - This lesson studies **hypotenuse** : The side opposite the right angle in a right-angled triangle.
-

■ The method

- In a right triangle $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$; $\sin\theta = \text{opposite}/\text{hypotenuse}$, $\cos\theta = \text{adjacent}/\text{hypotenuse}$ and $\tan\theta = \text{opposite}/\text{adjacent}$.
 - For other triangles, use the sine or cosine rule, or $\text{area} = ab \sin C/2$.
-

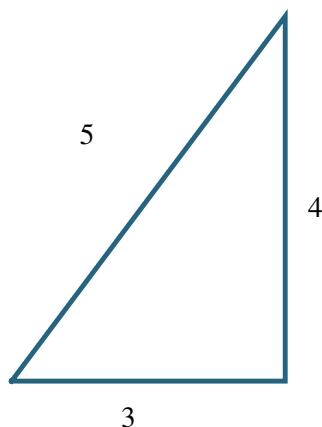
■ A worked case

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2, \quad \tan \theta = \frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{adjacent}}$$

Example:

The ladder length is $c = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = 5$ m. Its angle to the ground satisfies $\tan\theta = 4/3$, so $\theta \approx 53.1^\circ$. With two sides 6 and 8 enclosing 60° , $c^2 = 6^2 + 8^2 - 2 \times 6 \times 8 \cos 60^\circ = 52$.

Label the known sides before choosing a rule



Label the sides first: here 3, 4 and hypotenuse 5, so $\sin = 4/5$, $\cos = 3/5$, $\tan = 4/3$ at the bottom-left angle

■ Where it goes wrong

- Label sides relative to the chosen angle.
- Pythagoras needs a right angle.
- A calculator angle mode error can produce a plausible but wrong result.
- Keep unrounded values for later steps.

Not true: Pythagoras applies to every triangle, including triangles without a right angle. Pythagoras needs a right angle; for other triangles use the cosine rule.

■ Applying it

- Use a plan or elevation for a three-dimensional problem before applying a triangle rule.
 - Explain why the chosen triangle contains the required length or angle.
-

■ In your course

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Key:

- **Hypotenuse:** The side opposite the right angle in a right-angled triangle.
- In a right triangle $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$; $\sin\theta = \text{opposite/hypotenuse}$, $\cos\theta = \text{adjacent/hypotenuse}$ and $\tan\theta = \text{opposite/adjacent}$.
- Watch for: label sides relative to the chosen angle.

■ Write from a hypotenuse of 13

- A right triangle has legs 5 and 12.
- Find the hypotenuse and the area. Pythagoras needs a right angle.

Radians, identities and trigonometric equations

■ How far does the rim travel?

- A rotating wheel sweeps an arc. Radians let its angle connect directly to the distance travelled along the rim.
 - This lesson studies **radian** : The angle subtended by an arc whose length equals the radius.
-

■ The method

- For θ in radians, arc length $s = r\theta$ and sector area $A = r^2\theta/2$.
 - Use $\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$ and angle identities to simplify or solve.
 - List every solution in the stated interval.
-

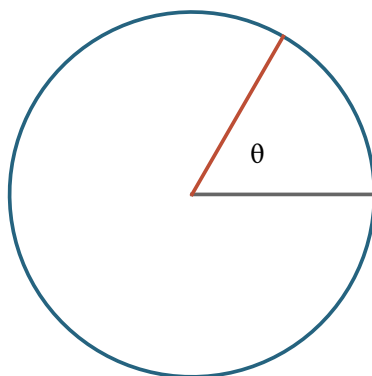
■ A worked case

$$s = r\theta, \quad A = \frac{1}{2}r^2\theta, \quad \sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$$

Example:

For $r=4$ and $\theta=\pi/3$, $s=4\pi/3$ and $A=8\pi/3$. Solving $\sin x=1/2$ on $0 \leq x < 2\pi$ gives $x=\pi/6$ and $5\pi/6$. For $\sin 2x=1/2$, solve first on $0 \leq 2x < 4\pi$ before dividing by 2.

A radius fixes distance from the centre



radius $\times$ angle gives arc length

Arc length = $r\theta$ when θ is in radians

■ Where it goes wrong

- A calculator's inverse sine gives one principal value.
- It does not give every solution.
- Dividing by $\sin x$ can discard solutions where $\sin x=0$; check that case first.

Not true: The principal inverse sine value is always the only solution in a full turn. Sine takes most values twice in a full turn: $\sin x=0.5$ gives 30° and 150° .

■ Applying it

- Choose an identity that reduces the equation to one trigonometric function.
- Keep exact familiar angles where possible, and check each solution against the original equation.

■ In your course

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Key:

- **Radian:** The angle subtended by an arc whose length equals the radius.
- For θ in radians, arc length $s=r\theta$ and sector area $A=r^2\theta/2$.

- Watch for: A calculator's inverse sine gives one principal value.

■ **Write from an arc length of 4**

- A sector has radius 10 and angle 0.4 radians.
- Find the arc length and the sector area. A principal inverse sine value is not the only solution in a full turn.

■ **Write from an arc of 3**

- A sector has radius 6 and angle 0.5 radians.
- Arc length $s = r \theta = 3$ – the radian definition doing its work.

■ **Write from a sector area of 12**

- A sector has radius 4 and angle 1.5 radians.
- Area = $r^2 \theta \text{ over } 2 = 12$ – half the square of the radius scaled by the angle.

Statistics and probability

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Data summaries, histograms and interpretation

■ Can one average tell the whole story?

- Two groups have the same median but different spread. One summary cannot describe both location and consistency.
- This lesson studies **frequency density** : Frequency divided by class width, used as histogram height.

■ The method

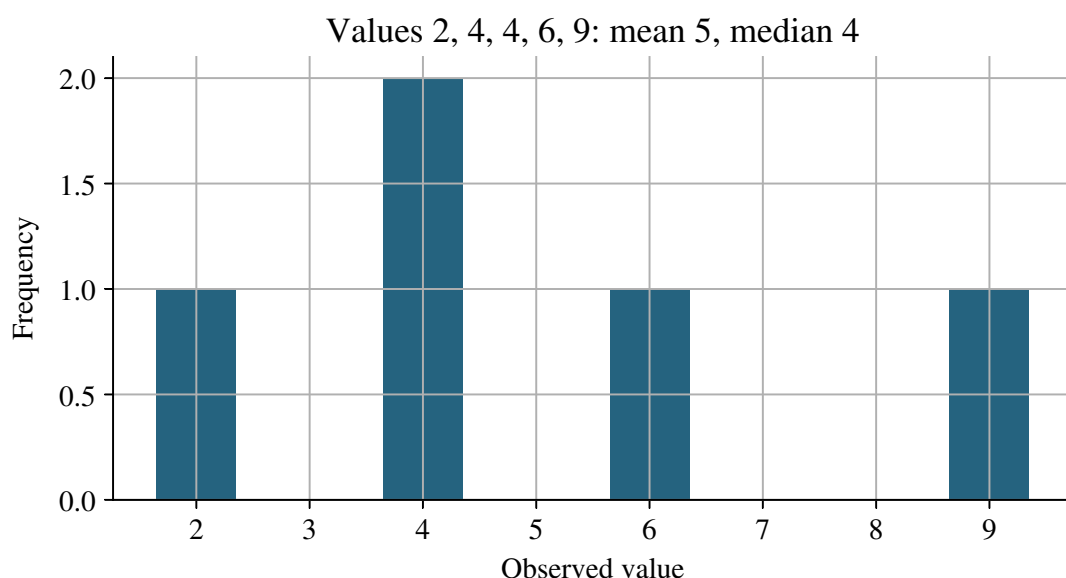
- Compare an appropriate average and spread in context.
- A histogram uses area for frequency, so height=frequency/class width.
- Grouped estimates assume representative values within intervals.

■ A worked case

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}, \quad \text{density} = \frac{\text{frequency}}{\text{class width}}$$

Example:

A class from 10 to 20 with frequency 30 has density $30/10=3$. A class from 20 to 40 with frequency 20 has density $20/20=1$. Its wider bar must not be mistaken for a larger density. For values 2,4,4,6,9, the median is 4 and mean is 5.



For 2, 4, 4, 6, 9: mean = $25 \div 5 = 5$, median = 4

■ Where it goes wrong

- The tallest histogram bar need not contain the most observations.
- A grouped mean is an estimate.
- Correlation does not prove causation, and extrapolation extends beyond the observed range.

Not true: A histogram bar's height always equals its frequency, even with unequal class widths. With unequal class widths the height is frequency density; frequency is the area of the bar.

■ Applying it

- Choose a display that fits the data type.
- Give both a numerical comparison and what it means for the population; do not infer more precision than the sample supports.

■ In your course

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Key:

- **Frequency density:** Frequency divided by class width, used as histogram height.
- Compare an appropriate average and spread in context.
- Watch for: the tallest histogram bar need not contain the most observations.

■ Write from a mean of 6

- A class has frequency 24 and width 6. The data values 3, 5, 5, 8 and 9 are a separate list.
- Find the frequency density and the mean. Histogram height is density when widths differ.

Probability, trees and conditional reasoning

■ What changes after the first draw?

- A bag has 3 red and 2 blue counters. Taking two without replacement changes the chance of the second colour.
 - This lesson studies **conditional probability** : The probability of an event after restricting the sample space to a stated condition.
-

■ The method

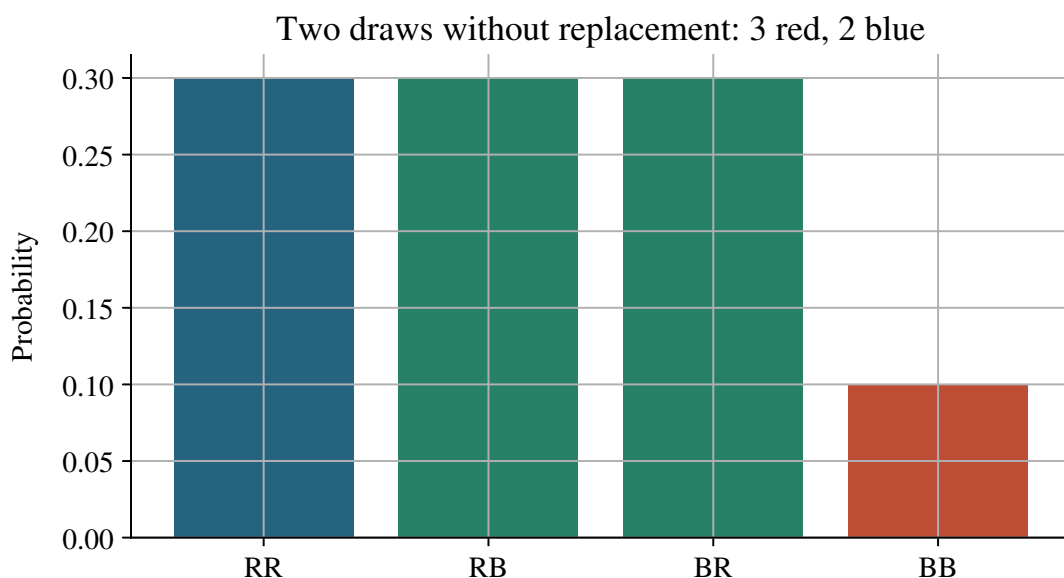
- Multiply along a tree branch and add disjoint branches.
 - With replacement, the composition stays fixed.
 - Conditional probability is $P(A \text{ given } B) = P(A \cap B) / P(B)$, for $P(B) > 0$.
-

■ A worked case

$$P(A | B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}, \quad P(B) > 0$$

Example:

Without replacement, $P(\text{two red}) = 3/5 \times 2/4 = 3/10$. $P(\text{one of each}) = 3/5 \times 2/4 + 2/5 \times 3/4 = 3/5$.
 If $P(A \cap B) = 0.12$ and $P(B) = 0.3$, $P(A \text{ given } B) = 0.4$.



Without replacement: $P(RR) = \frac{3}{5} \times \frac{2}{4} = 0.3$ and $P(BB) = \frac{2}{5} \times \frac{1}{4} = 0.1$

■ Where it goes wrong

- Mutually exclusive means no overlap; independent means that knowing one event does not change the other's probability.
- Two disjoint events with positive probability are not independent.

Not true: Mutually exclusive events with positive probabilities must be independent. Mutually exclusive events with positive probabilities are dependent: if one happens, the other cannot, so $P(A \text{ and } B) = 0 \neq P(A)P(B)$.

■ Applying it

- A two-way table makes the restricted denominator visible.
- Before using a product $P(A)P(B)$, justify independence from the context or the supplied information.

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Conditional probability:** The probability of an event after restricting the sample space to a stated condition.
- Multiply along a tree branch and add disjoint branches.
- Watch for: mutually exclusive means no overlap; independent means that knowing one event does not change the other's probability.

■ Write from a conditional probability of 0.30

- P of A and B is 0.18 and P of B is 0.60.
- Find P of A given B. Two disjoint events with positive probability are not independent.

Binomial, normal and Poisson models

■ What makes a count predictable?

- A quality inspector counts defective items. The number is random, but a model can describe its likely range.
 - This lesson studies **expected value** : The probability-weighted mean of a random variable.
-

■ The method

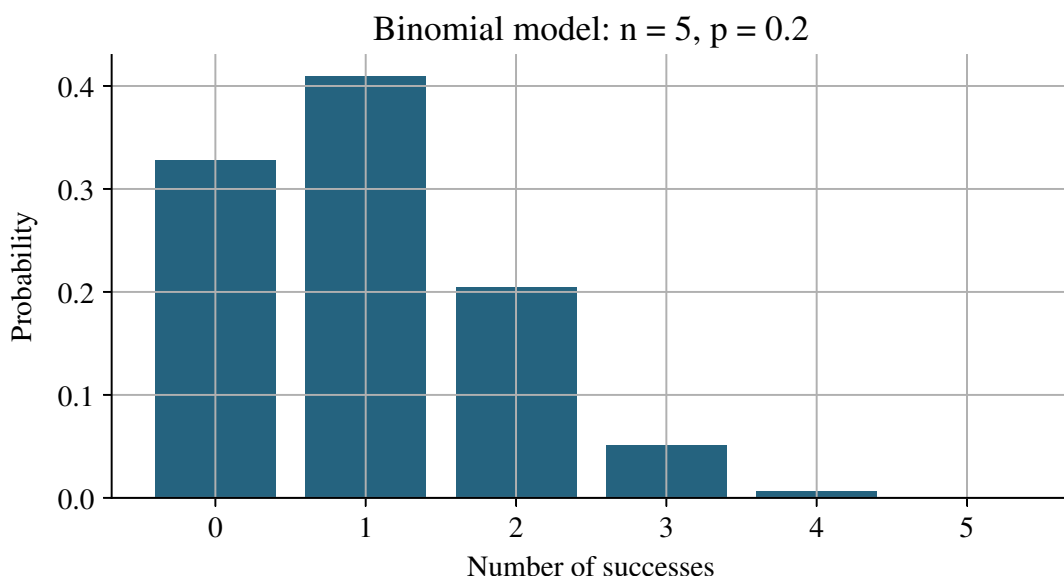
- A binomial model needs fixed n, independent trials, two outcomes and constant p.
 - $E(X)=np$ and $\text{Var}(X)=np(1-p)$.
 - For a normal model use $z=(x-\mu)/\sigma$.
 - A Poisson model describes counts with a constant rate and appropriate independence assumptions.
-

■ A worked case

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}, \quad X \sim B(n, p)$$

Example:

For X binomial(5,0.2), $P(X=0)=0.8^5=0.32768$, $E(X)=1$ and $\text{Var}(X)=0.8$. For a normal quantity with $\mu=100, \sigma=15$, the value 130 has $z=2$. A Poisson mean of 3 per hour gives mean 6 over two hours.



$X \sim B(5, 0.2)$: $P(X = 1) \approx 0.41$ is the largest bar; $P(X = 5)$ is tiny

■ Where it goes wrong

- Not every count is binomial: changing p or dependence can invalidate it.
- For a continuous variable, the probability of one exact value is zero.
- Continuity correction matters when approximating a discrete distribution by a normal one.

Not true: Every count of successes has a binomial distribution regardless of dependence. The binomial model needs independent trials with a fixed probability; dependent trials break it.

■ Applying it

- Write the event as an inequality before using calculator distribution functions.
- Distinguish $P(X < k)$, $P(X \leq k)$ and a tail complement.
- State assumptions in context.

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.

Key:

- **Expected value:** The probability-weighted mean of a random variable.
- A binomial model needs fixed n , independent trials, two outcomes and constant p .

- Watch for: not every count is binomial: changing p or dependence can invalidate it.
- **Write from a z-score of 1.5**
- A value 95 comes from a distribution with mean 80 and standard deviation 10.
 - Find the z-score. A binomial count needs independent trials.
- **Write from an expected count of 5**
- A binomial model has $n = 20$ trials with $p = 0.25$.
 - The expected count is $np = 5$ – probability-weighted, never guaranteed.
- **Write from a z-score of 1**
- A value 62 comes from a distribution with mean 55 and standard deviation 7.
 - The z-score is $7 \div 7 = 1$ – one standard deviation above the mean.

Calculus

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Mathematics: Analysis
and Approaches · SL

Scope and prerequisites

This handout covers selected SL topics for the course first assessed in 2021; it is not the whole syllabus.

Prerequisites: read the stated quantities and units, and use arithmetic and the model conditions below.

The examples are original and fictional: they are not real measurements or real student investigations.

Derivatives and stationary points

■ What is the slope at one point?

- A curved road has different slopes at different positions. An average gradient cannot describe every point.
 - This lesson studies **derivative** : The instantaneous rate of change, also the gradient of a tangent.
-

■ The method

- For $y = ax^n$, $dy/dx = anx^{n-1}$.
 - A stationary point satisfies $dy/dx = 0$.
 - Check the sign change of the derivative, or the second derivative when it is nonzero, to classify it.
-

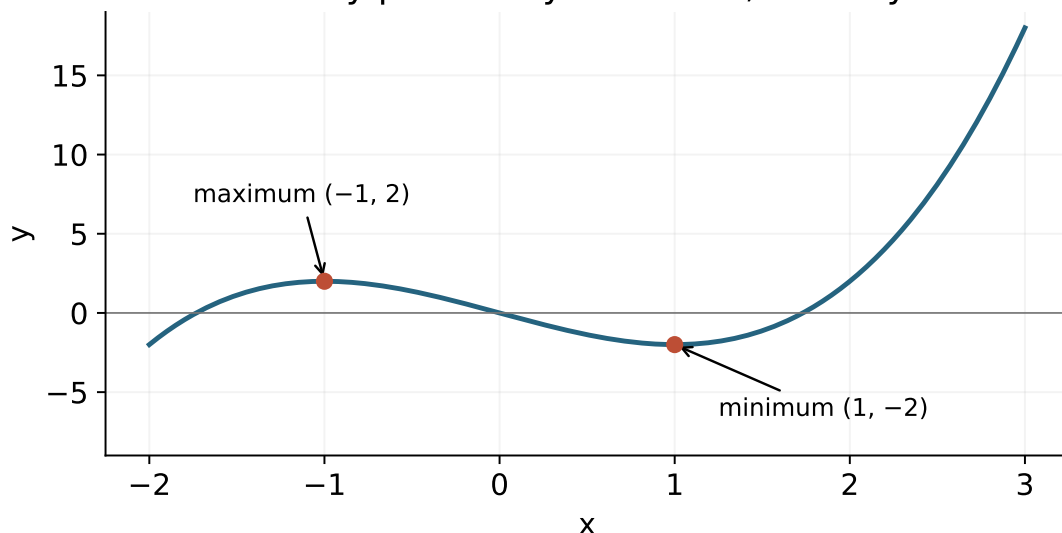
■ A worked case

$$\frac{d}{dx}(ax^n) = anx^{n-1}, \quad f'(x) = 0$$

Example:

For $y = x^3 - 3x$, $dy/dx = 3x^2 - 3$. At $x = 1$, the gradient is 0 and $y = -2$. The second derivative is $6x$, positive at $x = 1$, so this is a local minimum. At $x = -1$, $y = 2$ and the second derivative is negative, giving a local maximum.

Stationary points of $y = x^3 - 3x$, where $y' = 0$



$$y' = 3x^2 - 3 = 0 \text{ at } x = \pm 1: \text{ maximum } (-1, 2), \text{ minimum } (1, -2)$$

■ Where it goes wrong

- A zero derivative does not always mean a maximum or minimum: $y=x^3$ is stationary at 0 but continues increasing.
- An endpoint can also produce an extreme value on a restricted domain.

Not true: Every point with zero derivative is a local maximum or minimum. A zero derivative can also be a point of inflection: $y=x^3$ at $x=0$ is neither a maximum nor a minimum.

■ Applying it

- At GCSE/IGCSE use only the polynomial scope allowed by the tier; do not add chain, product or quotient rules there.
- At advanced level, connect the derivative to rates and optimization with a valid domain.

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Derivative:** The instantaneous rate of change, also the gradient of a tangent.
- For $y = ax^n$, $dy/dx = anx^{n-1}$.
- Watch for: A zero derivative does not always mean a maximum or minimum: $y = x^3$ is stationary at 0 but continues increasing.

■ Write from a derivative of 6

- For $y = x^2 - 4x$, find the derivative at $x = 5$ and the y-coordinate of the stationary point.
- A zero derivative is not always a local maximum or minimum.

Integrals, area and accumulation

■ How much change has accumulated?

- A velocity graph tells us motion at an instant. How can we recover the displacement accumulated over time?
 - This lesson studies **antiderivative** : A function whose derivative equals the given integrand.
-

■ The method

- For $n \neq -1$, the integral of ax^n is $ax^{n+1}/(n+1) + C$.
 - A definite integral is signed accumulation.
 - Split at sign changes when total area or distance is required.
-

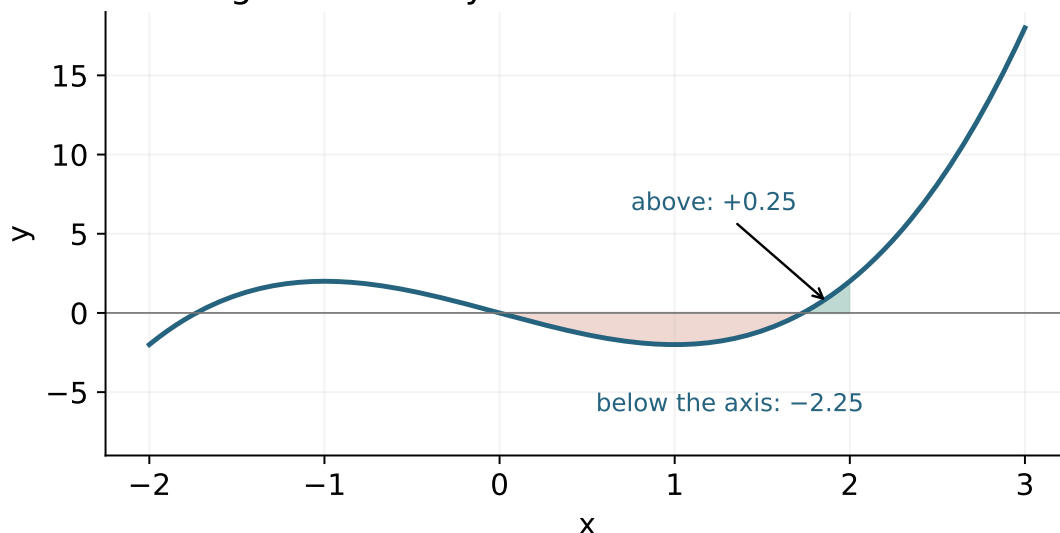
■ A worked case

$$\int ax^n dx = \frac{ax^{n+1}}{n+1} + C \quad (n \neq -1)$$

Example:

For $v(t) = 3t^2 - 3$ over $0 \leq t \leq 2$, displacement = $[t^3 - 3t]_0^2 = 2$. Since v changes sign at $t = 1$, distance = $-[t^3 - 3t]_0^1 + [t^3 - 3t]_1^2 = 2 + 4 = 6$. The constants cancel only for a definite integral.

Signed area of $y = x^3 - 3x$ from 0 to 2 is -2



$$\int_0^2 (x^3 - 3x) dx = -2.25 + 0.25 = -2: \text{ area below the axis counts as negative}$$

■ Where it goes wrong

- The integral of $1/x$ is $\ln|x|+C$, not the power rule with $n=-1$.
- Signed area can be zero even when the total enclosed area is positive.

Not true: A definite integral always equals the total positive area, even when the graph crosses the axis. Area below the axis counts as negative, so a definite integral can be smaller than the total area, or even zero.

■ Applying it

- Identify what the integral means and include the correct units.
- A rate measured per second integrates to the underlying quantity, not to another rate.
- Differentiate an antiderivative to check it.

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Antiderivative:** A function whose derivative equals the given integrand.

- For $n \neq -1$, the integral of ax^n is $ax^{(n+1)}/(n+1)+C$.
- Watch for: the integral of $1/x$ is $\ln|x|+C$, not the power rule with $n=-1$.

■ **Write from a displacement of minus 3**

- Velocity is $v = 2t$ minus 4. Consider the motion from $t = 0$ to $t = 3$.
- Find the displacement and the total distance. A signed integral is not automatically the positive area.

■ **Write from a total distance of 5**

- The same motion: where does $v = 2t$ minus 4 change sign, and what is the total distance?
- At $t = 2$; the areas are 4 (below) and 1 (above), so distance $= 4 + 1 = 5$ against a displacement of minus 3.

■ **Write from a value of 16**

- Evaluate the definite integral of $6x$ squared from 0 to 2.
- The antiderivative $2x$ cubed gives 16 minus 0 – evaluate at both ends, then subtract.

School-supervised mathematical exploration

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches · SL

Scope and prerequisites

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Prerequisites: read the stated quantities and units, and use arithmetic and the model conditions below.

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Planning a mathematical exploration

■ What makes an investigation mathematical?

- A student wants to predict queue waiting time at the school canteen. A useful exploration needs a question, data and mathematics the student can explain.
- This lesson studies **assumption** : A condition adopted to make a mathematical model possible and whose effect should be evaluated.

■ The method

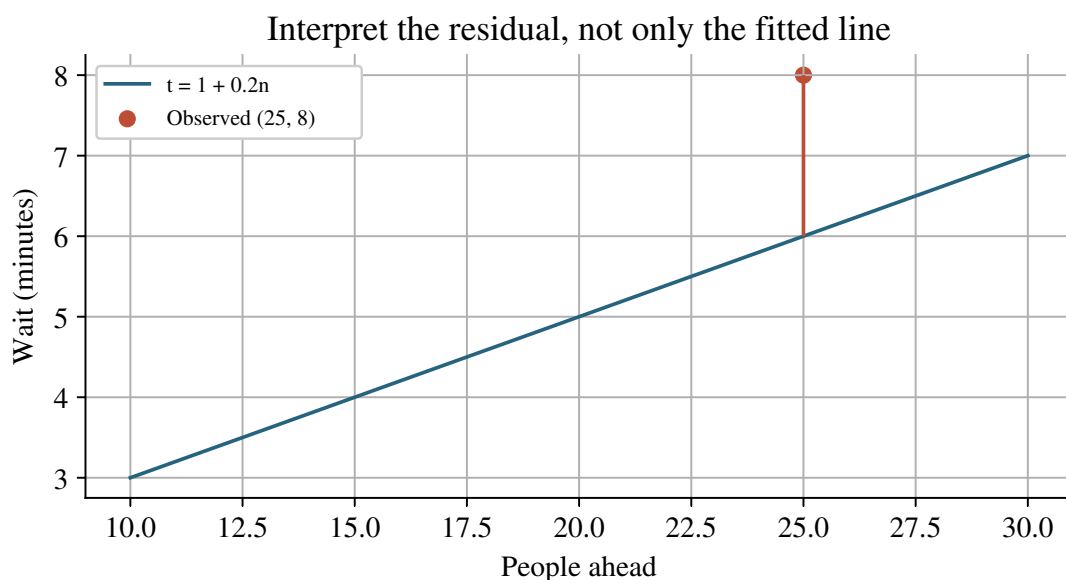
- Frame a focused question with measurable variables and a feasible method.
- Keep a dated record of decisions, sources and mathematical reasoning.
- Use technology to support analysis, and explain every important output in your own words.

■ A worked case

$$\hat{t} = 1 + 0.2n, \quad e = t - \hat{t}$$

Example:

A pilot records mean waiting times of 3,5,7 minutes when 10,20,30 people are ahead. A first model is $t=1+0.2n$. At $n=25$ it predicts 6 minutes. An actual wait of 8 gives residual 2; investigate varying service rates rather than hiding the mismatch.



At $n = 25$ the model predicts 6 minutes but 8 was observed: residual 2

■ Where it goes wrong

- Do not copy a sample exploration, invent data or manufacture personal engagement.
- A prediction is not evidence until it is compared with observations.
- Consent and privacy matter when collecting school data.

Not true: The school-supervised mathematical exploration can be replaced by a timed written mock exam. The exploration is an extended piece of written work assessed on its own criteria; a timed exam tests something different.

■ Applying it

- The school supervises topic approval, checkpoints, authenticity and assessment.
- For the current 2021 course use the current school's guide and criteria; the 2029 inquiry criteria belong to a different assessment version.

■ In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Assumption:** A condition adopted to make a mathematical model possible and whose effect should be evaluated.
- Frame a focused question with measurable variables and a feasible method.
- Watch for: do not copy a sample exploration, invent data or manufacture personal engagement.

■ Write from a predicted wait of 5

- A model says $\text{wait} = 2 \text{ plus } 0.3n$. At $n = 10$ the observed wait is 8.
- Find the prediction and the residual. A timed mock does not replace the exploration.

■ Write from a zero residual

- At $n = 5$ the observed wait equals the model's prediction exactly.
- What is the residual, and does it certify the model? Zero – one perfect point certifies nothing; the PATTERN of all residuals does.

■ Write from a proportionality check

- When n doubles from 10 to 20, the observed wait doubles from 5 to 10.
- Which fits, linear or proportional? Proportional – $\text{wait} = 0.5 n$, a line through the origin; plot before trusting any trend.