

18 Scale factors, angle relationships and triangles

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 16 marks

KEY WORDS perpendicular height
• congruence

• scale factor

• similarity

Objective

- Apply length, area and volume scaling to similar figures
- Use parallel-line angles and triangle sums to find unknowns
- Distinguish similarity from congruence and adequate information

Original public practice; marks below are classroom self-check points, not official criteria.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

For similar figures with length scale k , corresponding lengths scale by k , areas by k^2 and volumes by k^3 . These laws apply when all corresponding dimensions change together. A cylinder with only radius doubled and fixed height has four times the volume, not eight times. State which dimensions are scaled before choosing the power.

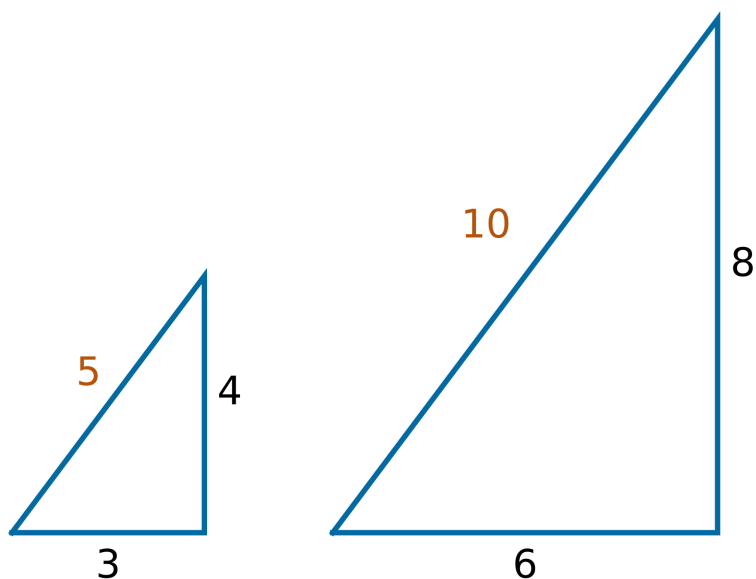
Use the correct geometric measure: triangle area is half base times perpendicular height; cylinder volume is base area times height. Surface area adds exposed faces, while volume measures enclosed space. A slant length is not automatically the perpendicular height required by an area formula. Attach square or cubic units to the result.

Vertical angles are equal. For parallel lines cut by a transversal, corresponding and alternate interior angles are equal, and same-side interior angles sum to 180° . A triangle's interior angles sum to 180° ; its exterior angle equals the sum of the two remote interior angles. These rules depend on stated or marked parallelism, not the drawing's appearance.

Similar triangles share corresponding angles and proportional corresponding sides; congruent triangles also have equal corresponding lengths. Two angles establish similarity but not size equality. Maintain correspondence when writing a ratio. A side-side-angle arrangement does not universally guarantee congruence, whereas side-angle-side includes the angle between the two sides.

A scale factor k changes every corresponding length. $A_2 = k^2 A_1$ and $V_2 = k^3 V_1$ for similar shapes. If $k = 3/2$ and $A_1 = 24 \text{ cm}^2$, $A_2 = (3/2)^2(24 \text{ cm}^2) = 54 \text{ cm}^2$. Changing only one dimension does not justify these similarity rules.

Length $\times 2$; area $\times 4$ for similar triangles



Doubling every length multiplies the area by 4

Worked example. Two similar solids have edge ratio 2:3, so surface-area ratio is 4:9 and volume ratio 8:27. A triangular garden with base 12 m and perpendicular height 5 m has area 30 m^2 . If a triangle has interior angles 48° and 67° , its third is 65° and the adjacent exterior angle is $115^\circ = 48^\circ + 67^\circ$.

2 Practice

2.1 Similar solids have length scale 3. Volume scale:

[1]

- A 27
- B 9
- C 3

2.2 Triangle angles 35° and 85° leave:

[1]

- A 60°
- B 120°
- C 50°

2.3 Area scale for length scale 4 is _____. [1]

2.4 Two equal corresponding angles prove equal triangle sizes. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

Use the data stated in each original task.

3.1 Similar containers have surface areas 96 and 216 square centimetres. The smaller volume is 160 cubic centimetres. Find the larger volume. [3]

3.2 A right triangle has hypotenuse 13 cm and one leg 5 cm. Find the other leg, its area, and the sine of the angle opposite the 5 cm leg. [3]

3.3 Two interior angles of a triangle are 42° and 73° . Find the third angle and its adjacent exterior angle. Would those angles alone determine all side lengths? [3]

3.4 Two parallel lines are cut by a transversal. One corresponding angle is 68° . Find its matching corresponding angle and the adjacent angle on the second line. Explain which given condition justifies each step. [3]

Solutions

Accept equivalent correct methods and supported interpretations. The marks check reasoning; they are not an official grade.

2.1 A – Volume uses k^3 . B is the area factor; C is the length factor. Volume requires the cube.

Correct response linked to the given case.

2.2 A – $180-35-85=60$. B is the sum of the known angles, not the missing one; C would make the total 170° , not 180° .

Correct response linked to the given case.

2.3 16 – Area uses 4^2 .

Correct response linked to the given case.

2.4 False – They prove similarity, not equal scale.

Correct response linked to the given case.

3.1 $k = \sqrt{A_2/A_1} = \sqrt{216/96} = 3/2$. Volume uses the cube: $V_2 = k^3 V_1 = (3/2)^3(160 \text{ cm}^3) = 540 \text{ cm}^3$. Using area ratio directly would give the wrong volume.

Sound conclusion or proposed method. Relevant supporting steps or textual evidence
. Accurate conditions, checks or qualification.

3.2 $b = \sqrt{c^2 - a^2} = \sqrt{(13 \text{ cm})^2 - (5 \text{ cm})^2} = 12 \text{ cm}$. $A = ab/2 = (5 \text{ cm})(12 \text{ cm})/2 = 30 \text{ cm}^2$. $\sin \theta = a/c = (5 \text{ cm})/(13 \text{ cm}) = 5/13$.

Sound conclusion or proposed method. Relevant supporting steps or textual evidence.
Accurate conditions, checks or qualification.

3.3 Third angle is $180-42-73 = 65$ degrees. Its adjacent exterior angle is $180-65 = 115$ degrees, also $42+73$. Angles establish shape, not scale; similar triangles can have different side lengths.

Sound conclusion or proposed method. Relevant supporting steps or textual evidence.
Accurate conditions, checks or qualification.

3.4 Parallelism gives the matching corresponding angle 68° . The adjacent pair forms a straight angle, so the other is $180^\circ-68^\circ=112^\circ$. Equal corresponding angles require the stated parallel lines; the straight-angle sum uses adjacency on one line. A similar-looking sketch without parallelism would not justify the first equality.

Sound conclusion or proposed method. Relevant supporting steps or textual evidence.
Accurate conditions, checks or qualification.