

19 Circle equations, arcs and unit-circle trigonometry

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS circle equation • arc length • tangent • radian

Objective

- Recover circle centre and radius by completing the square
- Convert central angles and calculate arc length and sector area
- Use tangent, inscribed-angle and unit-circle relationships

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

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

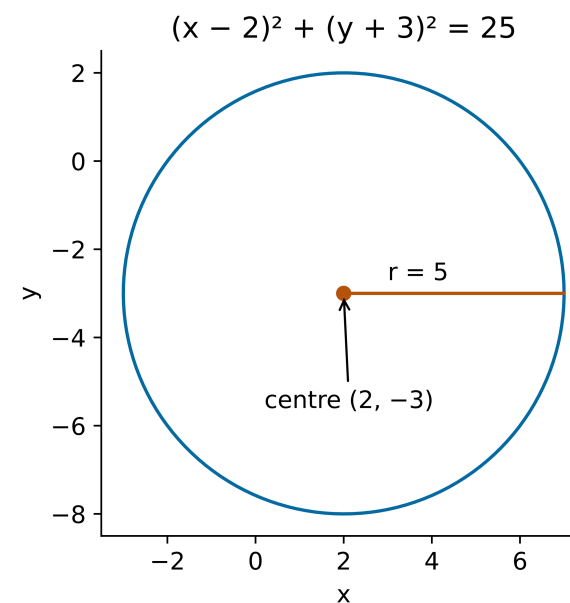
A circle with centre (h,k) and radius r satisfies $(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2$. For an expanded equation, complete the square in x and y and add the balancing constants to the other side. The resulting right side must be positive for a real nondegenerate circle. Keep the radius distinct from its square.

A central angle θ in radians gives arc length $r\theta$ and sector area $r^2\theta/2$. In degrees, use the fraction $\theta/360$ of the full circumference or area. A full turn is 2π radians= 360° . The formulas $r\theta$ and $r^2\theta/2$ require radians; inserting degrees without conversion gives a wrong scale.

A tangent at a circle point is perpendicular to the radius there. An inscribed angle is half the central angle subtending the same arc; an angle subtending a diameter is a right angle. Identify the actual shared arc and centre before applying these statements. A chord is not a tangent and need not be perpendicular to a radius unless further conditions establish it.

On the unit circle, a point at angle θ has coordinates $(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$, so $\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$. Signs depend on quadrant. For acute complementary angles, $\sin \theta = \cos(90^\circ - \theta)$. Use special triangles for exact values: at 30° the sine is $1/2$ and cosine $\sqrt{3}/2$; at 45° both are $\sqrt{2}/2$.

Complete both squares in a circle equation. $x^2 + y^2 + 6x - 8y = 0$ becomes $(x+3)^2 + (y-4)^2 = 25$. The centre is $(-3, 4)$ and radius is 5. Arc length is $s = r\theta$ only for radian angle θ .



Read the centre from the signs inside the brackets, and the radius as $\sqrt{25} = 5$

Worked example. $x^2 + y^2 - 4x + 6y - 12 = 0$ becomes $(x-2)^2 + (y+3)^2 = 25$, giving centre $(2, -3)$, radius 5. For radius 6 and central angle $\pi/3$, arc length is 2π and sector area 6π . An inscribed angle on that same 60° arc is 30° . At 150° , cosine is $-\sqrt{3}/2$ and sine $1/2$ because the point is in quadrant II.

2 Practice

2.1 Centre and radius of $(x+1)^2 + (y-4)^2 = 9$: [1]

- A $(-1, 4)$, 3
- B $(1, -4)$, 9
- C $(-1, 4)$, 9

2.2 Radius 4 with central angle $\pi/2$ gives arc length: [1]

- A 2π
- B 8π
- C $\pi/8$

2.3 180 degrees equals _____ radians. [1]

2.4 The angle between a tangent and its radius at contact is 90 degrees. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

Use the data stated in each original task.

3.1 Find the centre and radius of $x^2 + y^2 - 8x + 2y + 8 = 0$. Does $(7, -1)$ lie on it? [3]

3.2 A sector has radius 8 cm and angle 135° . Find its angle in radians, arc length and area. An inscribed angle elsewhere on the circle intercepts this same arc; find it. [3]

3.3 A unit-circle point is in quadrant III and has $y = -1/2$. Find its x -coordinate and one angle between 0° and 360° . [3]
