Proportion

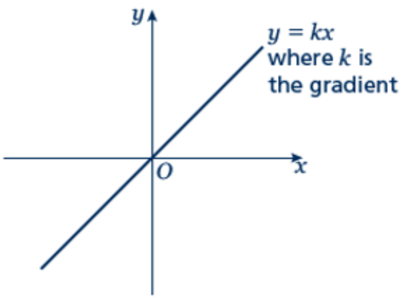
A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 2a. Straight-line graphs, parallel/perpendicular, length and area problems

Key points

Two quantities are in direct proportion when, as one quantity increases, the other increases at the same rate. Their ratio remains the same.

'y is directly proportional to x' is written as $y \propto x$. If $y \propto x$ then $y = kx$, where k is a constant.

When x is directly proportional to y, the graph is a straight line passing through the origin.

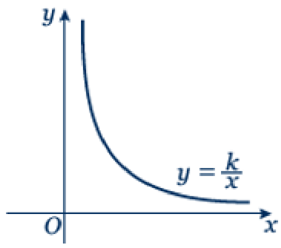


Two quantities are in inverse proportion when, as one quantity increases, the other decreases at the same rate.

'y is inversely proportional to x' is written as $y \propto \frac{1}{x}$.

If $y \propto \frac{1}{x}$ then $y = \frac{k}{x}$, where k is a constant.

When x is inversely proportional to y the graph is the same shape as the graph of $y = \frac{1}{x}$

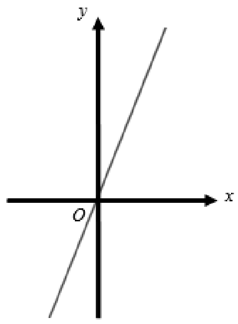


Examples

Example 1 y is directly proportional to x.
When $y = 16$, $x = 5$.

a Find x when $y = 30$.
b Sketch the graph of the formula.

a $y \propto x$ $y = kx$ $16 = k \times 5$ $k = 3.2$ $y = 3.2x$ When $y = 30$, $30 = 3.2 \times x$ $x = 9.375$	**1** Write y is directly proportional to x, using the symbol $\propto$. **2** Write the equation using k. **3** Substitute $y = 16$ and $x = 5$ into $y = kx$. **4** Solve the equation to find k. **5** Substitute the value of k back into the equation $y = kx$. **6** Substitute $y = 30$ into $y = 3.2x$ and solve to find x when $y = 30$.

b 	**7** The graph of $y = 3.2x$ is a straight line passing through (0, 0) with a gradient of 3.2.

Example 2 y is directly proportional to x^2.
When $x = 3$, $y = 45$.
a Find y when $x = 5$.
b Find x when $y = 20$.

a $y \propto x^2$	**1** Write y is directly proportional to x^2, using the symbol $\propto$.
$y = kx^2$ $45 = k \times 3^2$	**2** Write the equation using k. **3** Substitute $y = 45$ and $x = 3$ into $y = kx^2$.
$k = 5$ $y = 5x^2$	**4** Solve the equation to find k. **5** Substitute the value of k back into the equation $y = kx^2$.
When $x = 5$, $y = 5 \times 5^2$ $y = 125$	**6** Substitute $x = 5$ into $y = 5x^2$ and solve to find y when $x = 5$.
b $20 = 5 \times x^2$ $x^2 = 4$ $x = \pm 2$	**7** Substitute $y = 20$ into $y = 5x^2$ and solve to find x when $y = 4$.

Example 3 P is inversely proportional to Q.
When $P = 100$, $Q = 10$.
Find Q when $P = 20$.

$P \propto \frac{1}{Q}$	**1** Write P is inversely proportional to Q, using the symbol $\propto$.
$P = \frac{k}{Q}$	**2** Write the equation using k.
$100 = \frac{k}{10}$	**3** Substitute $P = 100$ and $Q = 10$.
$k = 1000$	**4** Solve the equation to find k.
$P = \frac{1000}{Q}$	**5** Substitute the value of k into $P = \frac{k}{Q}$
$20 = \frac{1000}{Q}$ $Q = \frac{1000}{20} = 50$	**6** Substitute $P = 20$ into $P = \frac{1000}{Q}$ and solve to find Q when $P = 20$.

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Practice

Hint

Substitute the values given for P and h into the formula to calculate k.

1 Paul gets paid an hourly rate. The amount of pay (£P) is directly proportional to the number of hours (h) he works.
When he works 8 hours he is paid £56.
If Paul works for 11 hours, how much is he paid?

2 x is directly proportional to y.
$x = 35$ when $y = 5$.

a Find a formula for x in terms of y.

b Sketch the graph of the formula.

c Find x when $y = 13$.

d Find y when $x = 63$.

3 Q is directly proportional to the square of Z.
$Q = 48$ when $Z = 4$.

a Find a formula for Q in terms of Z.

b Sketch the graph of the formula.

c Find Q when $Z = 5$.

d Find Z when $Q = 300$.

4 y is directly proportional to the square of x.
$x = 2$ when $y = 10$.

a Find a formula for y in terms of x.

b Sketch the graph of the formula.

c Find x when $y = 90$.

5 B is directly proportional to the square root of C.
$C = 25$ when $B = 10$.

a Find B when $C = 64$.

b Find C when $B = 20$.

6 C is directly proportional to D.
$C = 100$ when $D = 150$.
Find C when $D = 450$.

7 y is directly proportional to x.
$x = 27$ when $y = 9$.
Find x when $y = 3.7$.

8 m is proportional to the cube of n.
$m = 54$ when $n = 3$.
Find n when $m = 250$.

Extend

9 s is inversely proportional to t.

a Given that $s = 2$ when $t = 2$, find a formula for s in terms of t.

b Sketch the graph of the formula.

c Find t when $s = 1$.

10 a is inversely proportional to b.
$a = 5$ when $b = 20$.

a Find a when $b = 50$.

b Find b when $a = 10$.

11 v is inversely proportional to w.
$w = 4$ when $v = 20$.

a Find a formula for v in terms of w.

b Sketch the graph of the formula.

c Find w when $v = 2$.

12 L is inversely proportional to W.
$L = 12$ when $W = 3$.
Find W when $L = 6$.

13 s is inversely proportional to t.
$s = 6$ when $t = 12$.

a Find s when $t = 3$.

b Find t when $s = 18$.

14 y is inversely proportional to x^2.
$y = 4$ when $x = 2$.
Find y when $x = 4$.

15 y is inversely proportional to the square root of x.
$x = 25$ when $y = 1$.
Find x when $y = 5$.

16 a is inversely proportional to b.
$a = 0.05$ when $b = 4$.

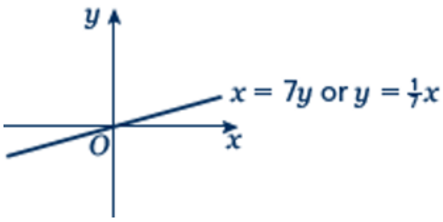
a Find a when $b = 2$.

b Find b when $a = 2$.

Answers

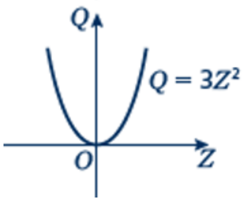
1 £77

2 **a** $x = 7y$ **b**



c 91 **d** 9

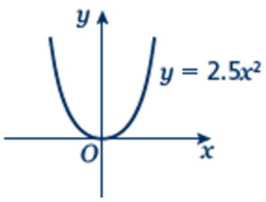
3 **a** $Q = 3Z^2$ **b**



c 75 **d** ±10

4 **a** $y = 2.5x^2$ **b**

c ±6



5 **a** 16 **b** 100

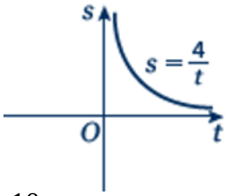
6 300

7 11.1

8 5

9 **a** $s = \frac{4}{t}$ **b**

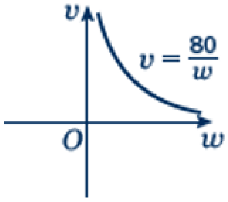
c 4



10 **a** 2 **b** 10

11 **a** $v = \frac{80}{w}$ **b**

c 40



12 6

13 **a** 24 **b** 4

14 1

15 1

16 **a** 0.1 **b** 0.1