



KING EDWARD VI
HANDSWORTH GRAMMAR
SCHOOL FOR BOYS



KING EDWARD VI
ACADEMY TRUST
BIRMINGHAM

Year 13

Pure Mathematics

8 Parametric equations

HGS Maths



Dr Frost Course



Name: _____

Class: _____

Contents

- 8.1) Parametric equations
- 8.2) Using trigonometric identities
- 8.3) Curve sketching
- 8.4) Points of intersection
- 8.5) Modelling with parametric equations

Extract from Formulae booklet
Past Paper Practice
Summary

Prior knowledge check

Prior knowledge check

1 Rearrange to make t the subject:

a $x = 4t - kt$ **b** $y = 3t^2$ **c** $y = 2 - 4 \ln t$ **d** $x = 1 + 2e^{-3t}$

← GCSE Mathematics; Year 1, Chapter 14

2 Write in terms of powers of $\cos x$:

a $4 + 3 \sin^2 x$

b $\sin 2x$

c $\cot x$

d $2 \cos x + \cos 2x$

← Section 7.2

3 State the ranges of the following functions.

a $y = \ln(x + 1), x > 0$

b $y = 2 \sin x, 0 < x < \pi$

c $y = x^2 + 4x - 2, -4 < x < 1$

d $y = \frac{1}{2x + 5}, x > -2$

← Section 2.2

4 A circle has centre $(0, 4)$ and radius 5. Find the coordinates of the points of intersection of the circle and the line with equation $2y - x - 10 = 0$.

← Year 1, Chapter 6

8.1) Parametric equations

Cartesian equations and co-ordinates – these are what you have largely met to this point. They typically are written as $y = f(x)$. The x y axis and (x, y) co-ordinates are all part of a system referred to as cartesian axes, co-ordinates, equations, etc.

Examples:

$$y = 3\cos x - e^{3x} + \ln x$$
$$x^2 + (y - 1)^2 = 64$$

Parametric equations are equations where the x and y co-ordinates are each defined by functions of some other *parameter* (variable).

Examples:

$$x = 3t, y = 2e^{3t}$$
$$x = 2\cos\theta, y = 2\sin\theta$$

 If $x = p(t)$ and $y = q(t)$ can be written as $y = f(x)$, then the domain of f is the range of p ...

 and the range of f is the range of q .

Notes

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = \ln(t + 5), \quad y = \frac{1}{t + 7}, \quad t > -4$$

Find:

- a) A Cartesian equation of the curve in the form $y = f(x)$
- b) The domain and range of $f(x)$

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = \ln t, \quad y = t^3 - 4, \quad t > 0$$

Find:

- a) A Cartesian equation of the curve in the form $y = f(x)$
- b) The domain and range of $f(x)$

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = \frac{3t}{1-t}, \quad y = 5t + \frac{2}{t},$$

Show that the Cartesian equation of the curve is

$$y = \frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{x(x+3)}$$

where a , b and c are constants to be found.

2021 P1 Q13

13. A curve C has parametric equations

$$x = \frac{t^2 + 5}{t^2 + 1} \quad y = \frac{4t}{t^2 + 1} \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Show that all points on C satisfy

$$(x - 3)^2 + y^2 = 4 \quad (3)$$

Your Turn

13. A curve C has parametric equations

$$x = \frac{t^2 + 9}{t^2 + 3} \quad y = \frac{6\sqrt{3}t}{t^2 + 3} \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Show that all points on C satisfy

$$9(x-2)^2 + y^2 = 9$$

(3)

(Total for Question 13 is 3 marks)

8.2) Using trigonometric identities

Fundamental:

- $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$
- $\sin^2 x = 1 - \cos^2 x$
- $\cos^2 x = 1 - \sin^2 x$

Derived:

- $1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x$
- $1 + \cot^2 x = \csc^2 x$

2. Reciprocal Identities

- $\csc x = \frac{1}{\sin x}$
- $\sec x = \frac{1}{\cos x}$
- $\cot x = \frac{1}{\tan x}$

Addition:

- $\sin(A \pm B) = \sin A \cos B \pm \cos A \sin B$
- $\cos(A \pm B) = \cos A \cos B \mp \sin A \sin B$
- $\tan(A \pm B) = \frac{\tan A \pm \tan B}{1 \mp \tan A \tan B}$

5. Double Angle Identities

- $\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cos x$

Cosine (3 forms!):

- $\cos 2x = \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x$
- $\cos 2x = 2 \cos^2 x - 1$
- $\cos 2x = 1 - 2 \sin^2 x$

Tangent:

- $\tan 2x = \frac{2 \tan x}{1 - \tan^2 x}$

Notes

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = \cos t, \quad y = \sin 2t, \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Find:

- a) A Cartesian equation of the curve in the form $y = f(x)$
- b) The valid domain and range of $f(x)$

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = 4 \cos t, \quad y = \cos 2t - 1, \quad 0 \leq t \leq \pi$$

Find a Cartesian equation of the curve in the form

$y = f(x)$, $-k \leq x \leq k$, stating the value of the constant k

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = \cot t + 1, \quad y = \operatorname{cosec}^2 t - 3, \quad 0 < t < \pi$$

Find a Cartesian equation of the curve in the form $y = f(x)$ and state the domain of x for which the curve is defined

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = \sqrt{5} \sin 2t, \quad y = 10 \sin^2 t, \quad 0 \leq t < \pi$$

Find a Cartesian equation of the curve

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = 2 \sin t, \quad y = \sin \left(t + \frac{\pi}{6} \right), \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} < t < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Find a Cartesian equation of the curve in the form $y = f(x)$ and state the domain of x for which the curve is defined

Worked Example

A curve has parametric equations

$$x = \tan t, \quad y = 5 \sin(t - \pi), \quad 0 < t < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Find a Cartesian equation of the curve

4.

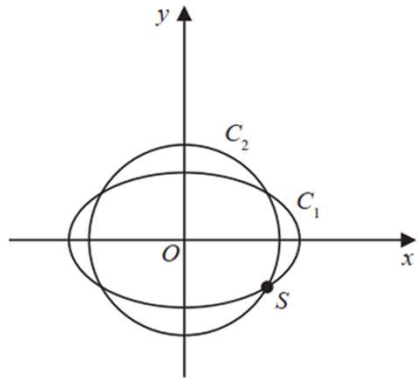


Figure 2

The curve C_1 with parametric equations

$$x = 10\cos t, \quad y = 4\sqrt{2}\sin t, \quad 0 \leq t < 2\pi$$

meets the circle C_2 with equation

$$x^2 + y^2 = 66$$

at four distinct points as shown in Figure 2.

Given that one of these points, S , lies in the 4th quadrant, find the Cartesian coordinates of S .

(6)

Your Turn

4.

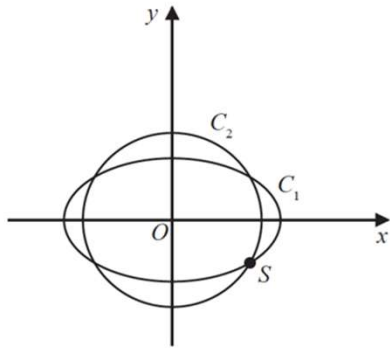


Figure 2

The curve C_1 with parametric equations

$$x = 22 \cos t, \quad y = 2\sqrt{5} \sin t, \quad 0 \leq t < 2\pi,$$

meets the circle C_2 with equation

$$x^2 + y^2 = 130$$

at four distinct points as shown in Figure 2.

Given that one of these points, S , lies in the 4th quadrant, find the Cartesian coordinates of S to 3 significant figures.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

8.3) Curve sketching

Make tables such as:

t	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
x						
y						

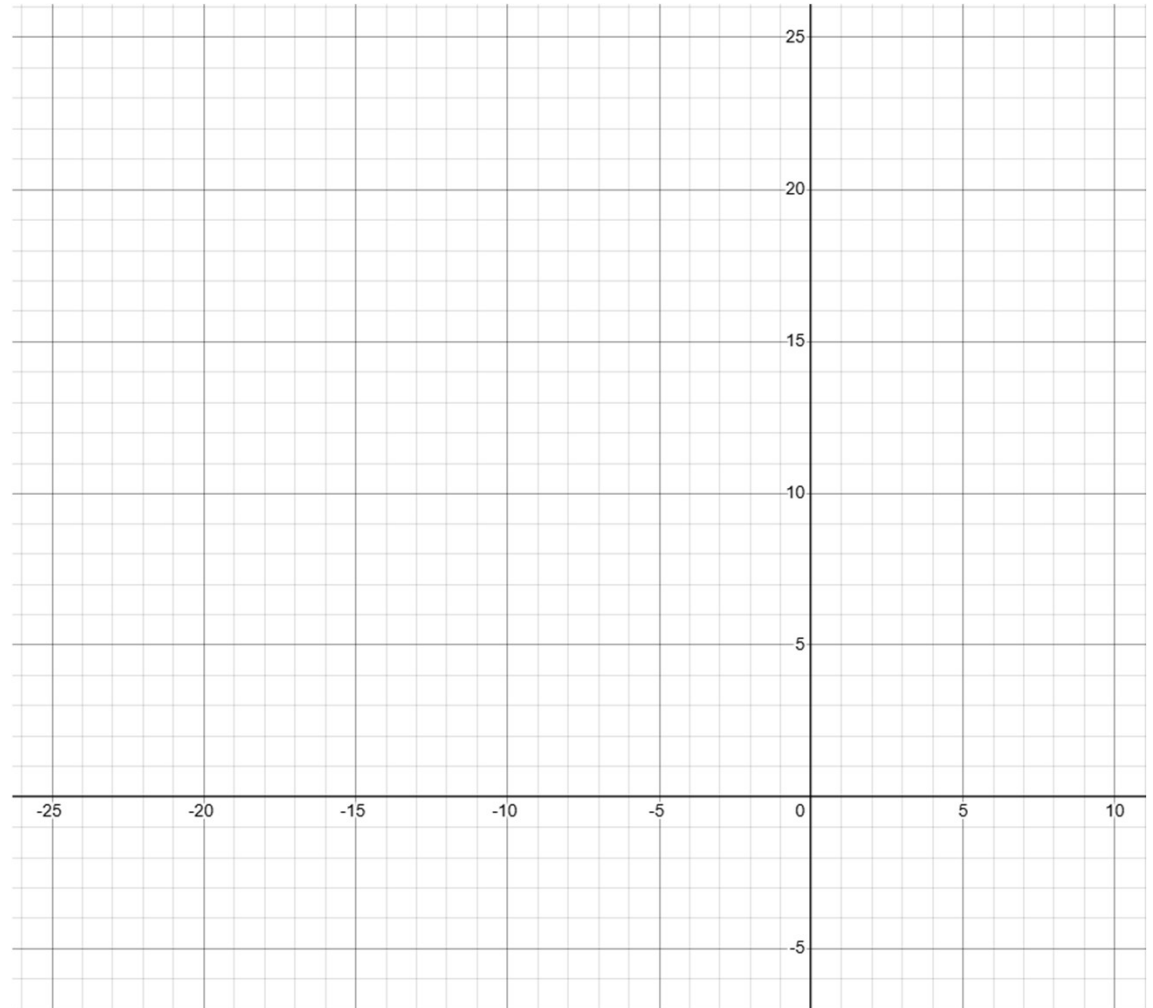
Then plot points (x, y)

Worked Example

Draw the curve given by the parametric equations

$$x = 3t, \quad y = t^2, \quad -5 \leq t \leq 1$$

t	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1
x							
y							

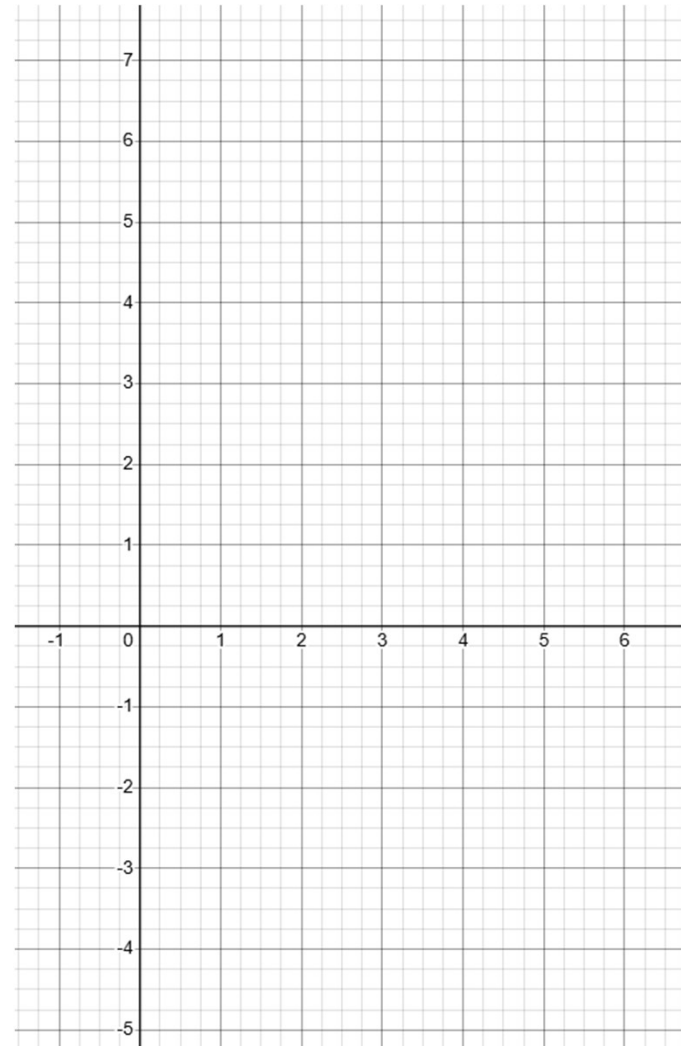


Worked Example

Draw the curve given by the parametric equations

$$x = 2 - t, \quad y = t^2 - 3, \quad -3 \leq t \leq 2$$

t	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
x						
y						

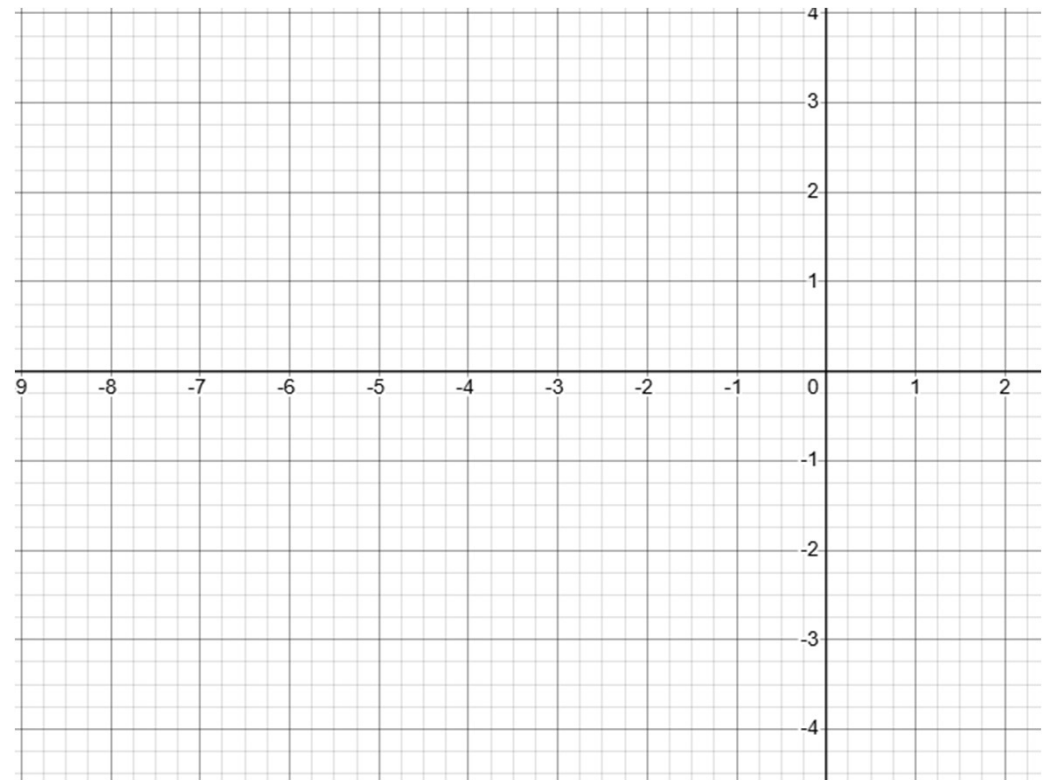


Worked Example

Draw the curve given by the parametric equations

$$x = 2 \cos t - 3, \quad y = 4 \sin t, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$$

t	0	$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	$\frac{3\pi}{4}$	π	$\frac{5\pi}{4}$	$\frac{3\pi}{2}$	$\frac{7\pi}{4}$	2π
x									
y									



8.4) Points of intersection

We can find where a parametric curve crosses a particular axis or where curves cross each other. **The key is to first find the value of the parameter t .**

Worked Example

A curve C is given by the parametric equations

$$x = t^2, \ y = 2t, \ t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Find the coordinates of the point(s) of intersection between the curve C and the line $x + y - 8 = 0$

Worked Example

A curve C is given by the parametric equations

$$x = \cos t - \sin t, \quad y = \left(t + \frac{\pi}{6}\right)^2, \quad -\frac{\pi}{3} < t < \frac{3\pi}{2}$$

- a) Find the point where the curve intersects the line $y = \pi^2$.
- b) Find the coordinates of the points where the curve cuts the y -axis.

Worked Example

A curve C is given by the parametric equations

$$x = 1 - \frac{1}{3}t, \quad y = 3^t - 1, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Find the coordinates of the x and y intercepts

Worked Example

A curve C is given by the parametric equations

$$x = e^{3t}, \quad y = e^t + 1, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

A straight line l passes through the points A and B where $t = \ln 3$ and $t = \ln 4$ respectively.

Find an equation for l in the form $ax + by + c = 0$

2018 P1 Q14

14. A curve C has parametric equations

$$x = 3 + 2 \sin t, \quad y = 4 + 2 \cos 2t, \quad 0 \leq t < 2\pi$$

(a) Show that all points on C satisfy $y = 6 - (x - 3)^2$ (2)

(b) (i) Sketch the curve C .

(ii) Explain briefly why C does not include all points of $y = 6 - (x - 3)^2$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$ (3)

The line with equation $x + y = k$, where k is a constant, intersects C at two distinct points.

(c) State the range of values of k , writing your answer in set notation. (5)

8.5) Modelling with parametric equations

Worked Example

A plane's position at time t seconds after take-off can be modelled with the following parametric equations:

$$x = (v \cos \theta)t \text{ m}, \quad y = (v \sin \theta)t \text{ m}, \quad t > 0$$

where v is the speed of the plane, θ is the angle of elevation of its path, x is the horizontal distance travelled and y is the vertical distance travelled, relative to a fixed origin.

When the plane has travelled 500m horizontally, it has climbed 125m.

Given that the plane's speed is 40 m s^{-1}

- find the parametric equations for the plane's motion.
- find the vertical height of the plane after 20 seconds.
- show that the plane's motion is a straight line.
- explain why the domain of t , $t > 0$, is not realistic.

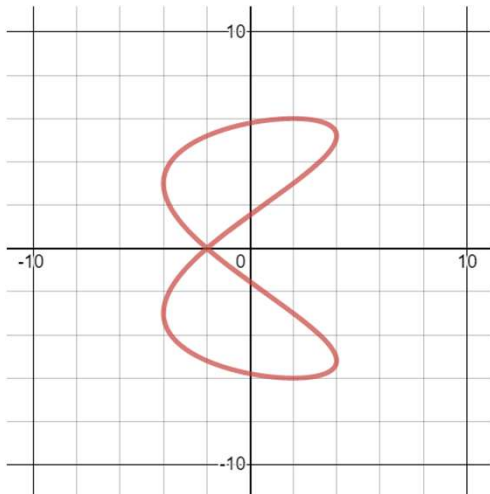
Worked Example

The motion of a figure skater relative to a fixed origin, O , at time t minutes is modelled using the parametric equations

$$x = 4 \cos 10t, \quad y = 6 \sin\left(5t - \frac{\pi}{3}\right), \quad t \geq 0$$

where x and y are measured in metres.

- a) Find the coordinates of the figure skater at the beginning of his motion.
- b) Find the coordinates of the point where the figure skater intersects his own path.
- c) Find the coordinates of the points where the path of the figure skater crosses the y -axis.
- d) Determine how long it takes the figure skater to complete one complete figure-of-eight motion.



Worked Example

A stone is thrown from the top of a 50 m high cliff with an initial speed of 5 ms^{-1} at an angle of 30° above the horizontal. Its position after t seconds can be described using the parametric equations

$$x = \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2}t \text{ m}, \quad y = \left(-4.9t^2 + \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2}t + 50\right) \text{ m}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq k$$

where x is the horizontal distance, y is the vertical distance from the ground and k is a constant.

Given that the model is valid from the time the stone is thrown to the time it hits the ground,

- find the value of k
- find the horizontal distance travelled by the stone once it hits the ground

2022 P2 Q16 adapted

Figure 6 shows a sketch of the curve C with parametric equations

$$x = 2 \tan t + 1 \quad y = 2 \sec^2 t + 3 \quad -\frac{\pi}{4} \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{3}$$

The line l is the normal to C at the point P where $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$

(a) Using parametric differentiation, show that an equation for l is

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{17}{2}$$

(b) Show that all points on C satisfy the equation

$$y = \frac{1}{2}(x-1)^2 + 5$$

The straight line with equation

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + k \quad \text{where } k \text{ is a constant}$$

intersects C at two distinct points.

(c) Find the range of possible values for k .

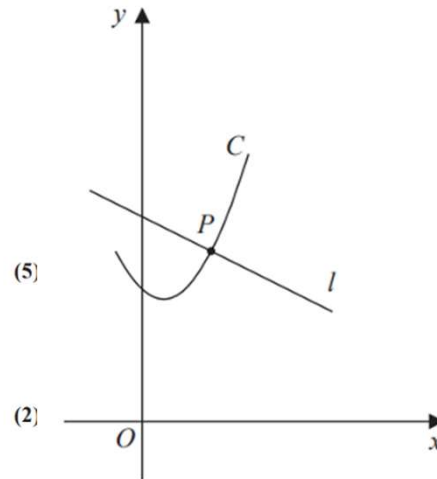


Figure 6

Your Turn

16.

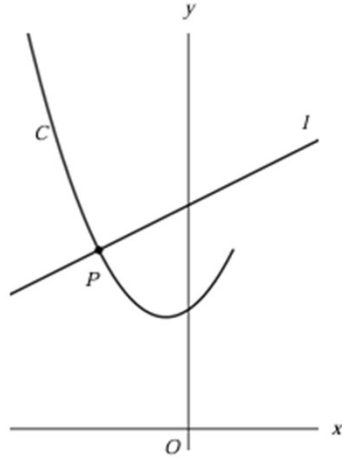


Figure 6

Figure 6 shows a sketch of the curve C with parametric equations

$$x = 3 \cot t - 1 \quad y = 3 \operatorname{cosec}^2 t + 2 \quad \frac{\pi}{4} \leq t < \theta$$

The line l is the normal to C at the point P where $t = \frac{3\pi}{4}$

(a) Using parametric differentiation, show that an equation for l is

$$y = \frac{1}{2}x + 10 \quad (5)$$

(b) Show that all points on C satisfy the equation

$$y = \frac{1}{3}(x+1)^2 + 5 \quad (2)$$

The straight line with equation

$$y = \frac{1}{2}x + k \quad \text{where } k \text{ is a constant}$$

intersects C at two distinct points.

(c) Find the range of possible values for k . (5)

(Total for Question 16 is 12 marks)

Extract from Formulae book

Trigonometric identities

$$\sin(A \pm B) = \sin A \cos B \pm \cos A \sin B$$

$$\cos(A \pm B) = \cos A \cos B \mp \sin A \sin B$$

$$\tan(A \pm B) = \frac{\tan A \pm \tan B}{1 \mp \tan A \tan B} \quad (A \pm B \neq (k + \frac{1}{2})\pi)$$

$$\sin A + \sin B = 2 \sin \frac{A+B}{2} \cos \frac{A-B}{2}$$

$$\sin A - \sin B = 2 \cos \frac{A+B}{2} \sin \frac{A-B}{2}$$

$$\cos A + \cos B = 2 \cos \frac{A+B}{2} \cos \frac{A-B}{2}$$

$$\cos A - \cos B = -2 \sin \frac{A+B}{2} \sin \frac{A-B}{2}$$

Logarithms and exponentials

$$\log_a x = \frac{\log_b x}{\log_b a}$$

$$e^{x \ln a} = a^x$$

Past Paper Questions

A2 SAMs Paper 1

Parametric Equations

5. A curve C has parametric equations

$$x = 2t - 1, \quad y = 4t - 7 + \frac{3}{t}, \quad t \neq 0$$

Show that the Cartesian equation of the curve C can be written in the form

$$y = \frac{2x^2 + ax + b}{x + 1}, \quad x \neq -1$$

where a and b are integers to be found.

(3)



Exams

- Formula Booklet
- Past Papers
- Practice Papers
- past paper Qs by topic

Past paper practice by topic. Both new and old specification can be found via this link on hgsmaths.com

(3 marks)			
2	$y = \frac{x+1}{5x^2-3x+1}$	AI	1.1P
	$y = \frac{(x+1)}{(5x-2)(x+1)+0}$ Attempts to write as a single fraction	MI	1.1
	Attempts to substitute $= \frac{5}{x+1}$ into $y \Rightarrow y = 4 \left(\frac{5}{x+1} \right) - 3 + \frac{(x+1)}{e}$	MI	1.1
Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs

Summary of Key Points

Summary of key points

- 1** A curve can be defined using parametric equations $x = p(t)$ and $y = q(t)$. Each value of the parameter, t , defines a point on the curve with coordinates $(p(t), q(t))$.
- 2** You can convert between parametric equations and Cartesian equations by using substitution to eliminate the parameter.
- 3** For parametric equations $x = p(t)$ and $y = q(t)$ with Cartesian equation $y = f(x)$:
 - the domain of $f(x)$ is the range of $p(t)$
 - the range of $f(x)$ is the range of $q(t)$
- 4** You can use parametric equations to model real-life situations. In mechanics you will use parametric equations with time as a parameter to model motion in two dimensions.