

Question 12**(3 marks)**

The Richter magnitude, M , of an earthquake is determined from the logarithm of the amplitude, A , of waves recorded by seismographs.

$$M = \log_{10} \frac{A}{A_o}, \text{ where } A_o \text{ is a reference value.}$$

An earthquake in a town in New Zealand in November 2015 was estimated at 5.5 on the Richter scale, while the earthquake just north of Hayman Island measured 3.4 on the same scale. How many times larger was the amplitude of the waves in New Zealand compared to those at Hayman Island?