

Assignment-2

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$P(5, -3)$ and $Q(3, y)$ are the points of trisection of the line segment joining $A(7, -2)$ and $B(1, -5)$. Then y equals

Solution: Given $P(5, -3)$, $A(7, -2)$, $B(1, -5)$ and $Q(3, y)$

Also given that P and Q are the points of trisection of AB .

Let Q divide the line segment AB in the ratio $k : 1$. That implies P divides line segment AB in the ratio $1 : k$.

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow P &= \frac{kA + B}{k + 1} \\ \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} &= \frac{k \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}}{k + 1}\end{aligned}$$

Let's solve x coordinate

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow 5 &= \frac{7k + 1}{k + 1} \\ \Rightarrow 5k + 5 &= 7k + 1 \\ \Rightarrow k &= 2\end{aligned}$$

Therefore Q divides AB in the ratio $2 : 1$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{B + \frac{1}{2}A}{1 + \frac{1}{2} + 1}$$

Let's solve y coordinate of Q

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow y &= \frac{(-5) + (-2) \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{3}{2}} \\ \Rightarrow y &= \frac{-12}{3}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore $y = -4$

