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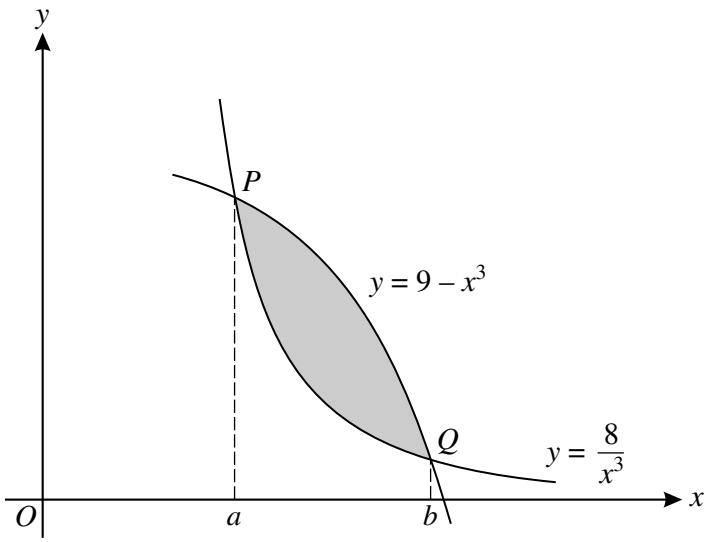

The diagram shows parts of the curves $y = 9 - x^3$ and $y = \frac{8}{x^3}$ and their points of intersection P and Q. The x-coordinates of P and Q are a and b respectively.

(i) Show that $x = a$ and $x = b$ are roots of the equation $x^6 - 9x^3 + 8 = 0$. Solve this equation and hence state the value of a and the value of b. [4]

(ii) Find the area of the shaded region between the two curves. [5]

(iii) The tangents to the two curves at $x = c$ (where $a < c < b$) are parallel to each other. Find the value of c. [4]