

# Transformations

*Short-answer problems about transformations.*

**Question 1** What is your name?

**Free Response:**

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**Question 2** To specify a translation, we need a vector. Equivalently, we need a magnitude (or length) and a direction.

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**Question 3** To specify a rotation, we need a center and an angle (assuming an agreement about the direction of rotation).

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**Question 4** To specify a reflection, we need a line.

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**Question 5** A transformation that does nothing is call the identitytransformation.  
(Hint: Two words.)

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Sometimes a sequence of transformations can be described as a single translation, rotation, or reflection.

**Question 6** What kind of transformation is a translation followed by a translation? Explain. Be sure to consider any special cases.

**Free Response:** **Hint:** Usually a translation. If the vectors are opposites of each other, the result is the identity transformation (which can be thought of as a translation by a vector of magnitude 0).

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**Question 7** What kind of transformation is a rotation followed by a rotation? Explain. Be sure to consider any special cases.

**Free Response:** **Hint:** Usually a rotation. If the angles sum to a multiple of  $360^\circ$ , then the result is a translation. If the centers of rotation are also the same, the result is the identity transformation (which can be thought of as a rotation of  $0^\circ$ ).

**Question 8** What kind of transformation is a reflection followed by another reflection? Explain. Be sure to consider any special cases.

**Free Response:** **Hint:** You are doing this for homework.

**Question 9** Will the letter *F* look like an *F* after a reflection? What about after a sequence of two reflections? What about after a sequence of 73 or 124 reflections? Explain your reasoning.

**Free Response:** **Hint:** Ignoring which side is up, after a reflection the *F* will look like a “backwards *F*”. More generally, after an odd number of reflections, the *F* will look like a backwards *F*. After an even number of reflections, the *F* will look like a typical *F*.

**Question 10** How will your answer to the previous problem change if you use a capital *D*? Explain.

**Free Response:** **Hint:** Ignoring which side is up, the *D* will always look like a *D*. Because of its line symmetry, a reflection doesn’t appear to reverse its “orientation.”

**Question 11** Given a figure and its image after a translation, how do find the direction and distance of the translation? How many points and images do you need?

**Free Response:** **Hint:** Draw a vector from any point to its image. The vector provides both the direction and the distance. Any point and its image will do.

**Question 12** Given a figure and its image after a reflection, how do you find the line of reflection? How many points and images do you need?

**Free Response:** **Hint:** Draw a segment from a point to its image. The perpendicular bisector of that segment is the line of reflection. Any point and its image will do.

**Question 13** Given a figure and its image after a rotation, how do you find the center and the angle of the rotation? How many points and images do you need?

**Free Response:** **Hint:** Draw a segment from a point  $P$  to its image  $P'$ . The center of rotation is somewhere on the perpendicular bisector of that segment. Draw a segment from a second point  $Q$  to its image  $Q'$ . The center of rotation is also somewhere on the perpendicular bisector of that segment. As long as the segments  $\overline{PP'}$  and  $\overline{QQ'}$  are not parallel, the two perpendicular bisectors will intersect at a point  $C$ , which is the unique center of the rotation.

To find the angle of rotation, measure  $\angle PCP'$  or  $\angle QCQ'$ .

Two points and their images are enough, (as long as the segments  $\overline{PP'}$  and  $\overline{QQ'}$  are not parallel).