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11e Find the coordinates of the focus of the parabola  $x^2 = 16(y - 2)$ .

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State Mean:  $x^2 = 16(y - 2) \quad \text{which is of the form } (x - h)^2 = 4a(y - k)$   $\therefore \text{ vertex } (0, 2), \text{ and } a = 4,$ As parabola is concave up, focus is (0, 6)

## **Board of Studies: Notes from the Marking Centre**

A significant number of candidates had difficulty with this part. In better responses, candidates wrote down the focal length a = 4 and vertex (0,2) of the parabola and then found the coordinates of the focus (0,6). In weaker responses, the most common error was to assume that the focus of every parabola is (0,a). In better responses, candidates usually included a diagram rather than relying on a formula such as S(h,a+k).

Source: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc\_exams/

<sup>\*</sup> These solutions have been provided by projectmaths and are not supplied or endorsed by the Board of Studies