

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
Mathematics: analysis and approaches
MAA

EXERCISES [MAA 3.1-3.3]
3D GEOMETRY – TRIANGLES
Compiled by Christos Nikolaidis

O. Practice questions

3D GEOMETRY

1. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

Let A(2,-3,5) and B(-1,1,5). Find

- (a) the distance between A and B. [2]
- (b) the distance between O and B. [1]
- (c) the coordinates of the midpoint M of the line segment [AB]. [2]
- (d) the coordinates of point C given that B is the midpoint of [AC]. [2]

$$(a) d = \sqrt{(-1-2)^2 + (1+3)^2 + (5-5)^2} = \sqrt{25} = 5$$

$$(b) d = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (1)^2 + (5)^2} = \sqrt{27} = \sqrt{9 \cdot 3} = 3\sqrt{3}$$

$$(c) M = \left(\frac{2-1}{2}, \frac{-3+1}{2}, \frac{5+5}{2} \right) = \left(\frac{1}{2}, -1, 5 \right)$$

$$(d) (-1, 1, 5) = \left(\frac{2+x}{2}, \frac{-3+y}{2}, \frac{5+z}{2} \right)$$

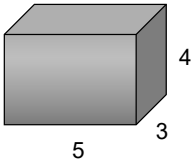
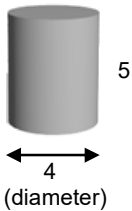
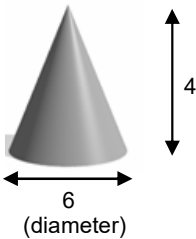
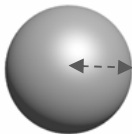
$$\begin{array}{l|l|l} -1 = \frac{2+x}{2} & 1 = \frac{-3+y}{2} & 5 = \frac{5+z}{2} \\ \hline x = -4 & y = 5 & z = 5 \end{array}$$

$$C = (-4, 5, 5)$$

2. [Maximum mark: 16]

[without GDC]

Complete the table

Solid	Volume	Surface area
cuboid 	$5 \times 3 \times 4 = 60$	$5(4) + 5(4) + 3(4) + 3(4) + 5(3) + 5(3) = 94$
cylinder 	$\pi (2)^2 (5) = 20\pi$	$SA = 2\pi rh + 2\pi r^2 = 2\pi(2)(5) + 2\pi(2)^2 = 20\pi + 8\pi = 28\pi$
cone $l = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = 5$ 	$\frac{1}{3}\pi(3)^2(4) = 12\pi$	$SA = \pi r l + \pi r^2 = \pi(3)(5) + \pi(3)^2 = 15\pi + 9\pi = 24\pi$
sphere  radius = 3	$\frac{4}{3}\pi(3)^3 = 36\pi$	$SA = 4\pi r^2 = 4\pi(3)^2 = 36\pi$

for each shape [1+3]

3. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

For a right pyramid of square base of side 8 and vertical height 3 find

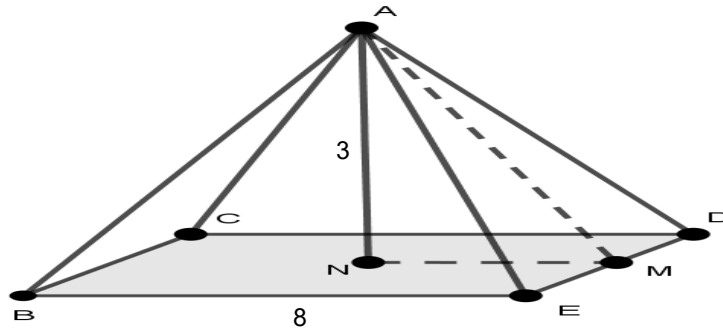
(a) the volume

[2]

(b) the surface area

[5]

$$SA = b^2 + \frac{1}{2}(P_b)(L)$$



$$\overline{NM} = \frac{1}{2} \overline{BE} = 4$$

$$AM = 5$$

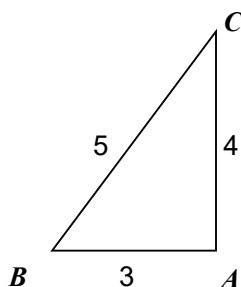
$$(a) V = \frac{1}{3}(8)(8)(3) = 192$$

$$(b) SA = 8^2 + \frac{1}{2}(4 \cdot 8)(5) = 64 + 80 = 144$$

TRIANGLES

4. [Maximum mark: 14] **[without GDC]**

Consider the following right-angled triangle, where $\hat{A} = 90^\circ$



- (a) Complete the tables

$\sin \hat{B}$	$\frac{4}{5}$
$\cos \hat{B}$	$\frac{3}{5}$
$\tan \hat{B}$	$\frac{4}{3}$

$\sin \hat{C}$	$\frac{3}{5}$
$\cos \hat{C}$	$\frac{4}{5}$
$\tan \hat{C}$	$\frac{3}{4}$

[6]

- (b) Confirm that the **sine rule** holds. (It is known that $\sin \hat{A} = 1$)

$$\frac{a}{\sin \hat{A}} = \frac{5}{1} = 5$$

$$\frac{b}{\sin \hat{B}} = \frac{4}{\frac{4}{5}} = 5$$

$$\frac{c}{\sin \hat{C}} = \frac{3}{\frac{3}{5}} = 5$$

[2]

- (c) Confirm that all three versions of the **cosine rule** hold.
(the first version is given below; it is known that $\cos \hat{A} = 0$)

LHS	RHS
5^2	$3^2 + 4^2 - 2(3)(4)\cos \hat{A} = 9 + 16 - 0 = 25$
3^2	$5^2 + 4^2 - 2(5)(4)(\frac{4}{5}) = 25 + 16 - 32 = 9$
4^2	$5^2 + 3^2 - 2(5)(3)(\frac{3}{5}) = 25 + 9 - 18 = 16$

[4]

- (d) Find the area of the triangle, by using all the three versions of the formula

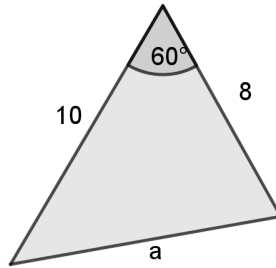
$$Area = \frac{1}{2}ab \sin \hat{C} \quad (\text{the first version is given below})$$

$Area = \frac{1}{2} \times 3 \times 4 \times \sin \hat{A} = 6$
$Area = \frac{1}{2} (5)(4)(\frac{3}{5}) = 6$
$Area = \frac{1}{2} (5)(3)(\frac{4}{5}) = 6$

[2]

5. [Maximum mark: 4] [with / without GDC]

Use the **cosine rule** to find the size of the side a .



$$\cos 60 \neq \cos 45$$

$$\cos 60 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$a^2 = 10^2 + 8^2 - 2(10)(8)\cos 60$$

$$a^2 = 164 - \frac{160\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$a \approx 7.13$$

$$\text{By full GDC, } a \approx 9.17$$

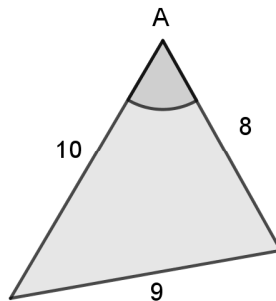
$$a^2 = 164 - 80 = 84$$

$$a = \sqrt{84} = \sqrt{21} \sqrt{4} = 2\sqrt{21}$$

6. [Maximum mark: 5] [with GDC]

(a) Use the **cosine rule** to find the cosine of the angle A. [4]

(b) Hence find the size of the angle A. [1]



7. [Maximum mark: 4] [with / without GDC]

Use the **sine rule** to find the size of the side a .



$$\frac{\sin 30}{10} = \frac{\sin 45}{a}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}a = 5\sqrt{2}$$

$$a = 10\sqrt{2}$$

8. [Maximum mark: 6] [with GDC]

(a) Use **the sine rule** to find the sine of the angle A. [4]

(b) Hence find the **two possible** values of the angle A. [2]

Ambiguous



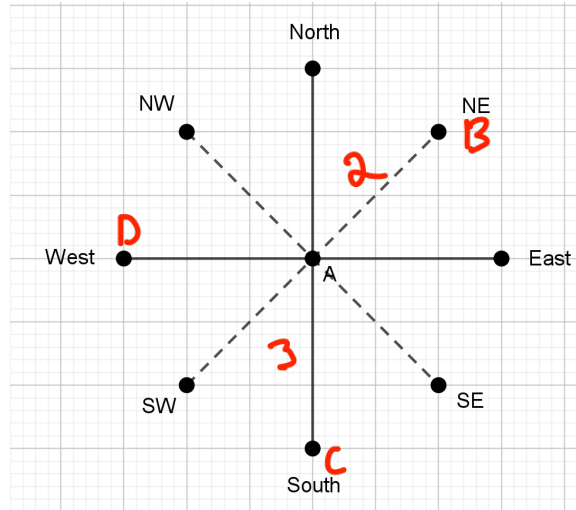
$$\frac{\sin 30}{6} = \frac{\sin \hat{A}}{10}$$

$$5 = 6 \sin \hat{A}$$

$$\hat{A} = \arcsin\left(\frac{5}{6}\right) \approx 56.4 \text{ or } 180 - 56.4 \approx 124$$

9. [Maximum mark: 10] **[with GDC]**

Point A is at the center of the following diagram.



Bill and Chris and Dianna are located at point A and start moving,

Bill to the **NE** at point **B**

Chris to the **South** at point **C**

Dianna to the **West** at point **D**

- Write down the size of angle BAC. [1]
- Write down the bearing of the course of each person. [3]
- Find the bearing of the course from B to A. [2]
- Given that $AB = 2$ km and $AC = 3$ km, Find the distance between B and C. [3]

(a) 135°

(b) Bill: 45° , Chris: 180° , Dianna: 270°

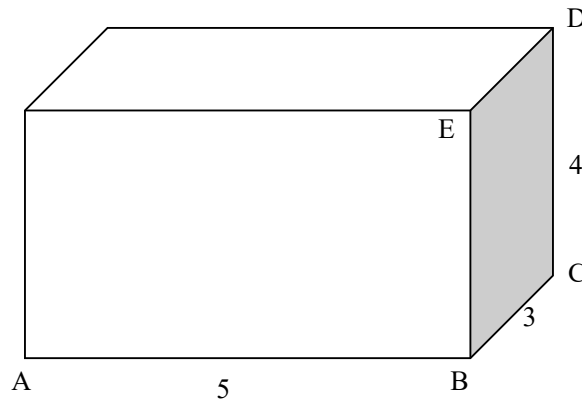
(c) $180 + 90\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 225^\circ$

(d) $BC^2 = 2^2 + 3^2 - 2(2)(3)\cos(135)$

$BC = 4.64$ km

10. [Maximum mark: 14] **[with GDC]**

Consider the following cuboid of dimensions $5 \times 3 \times 4$, as shown.



- (a) Find the length AC. [3]
- (b) Find the length AD. [3]
- (c) Find the angle of elevation from A to E. [3]
- (d) Find the angle of elevation from A to D. [3]
- (e) Find the angle of depression from E to A. [2]

$$(a) \sqrt{5^2 + 3^2} \approx 5.83 = AC$$

$$(b) AD = \sqrt{(5.83)^2 + 4^2} \approx 7.07$$

$$(c) \tan \hat{EAB} = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\hat{EAB} \approx 38.7^\circ$$

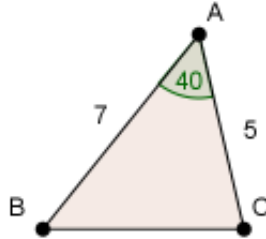
$$(d) \tan \hat{DAC} = \frac{4}{5.83} \approx 34.4^\circ$$

7
9

$$(e) \tan \hat{E} = \frac{4}{5} \approx 38.7^\circ$$

In each of the following triangles one of the angles has size 40° , two of the sides have lengths 5 and 7 respectively.

(a) For the following triangle



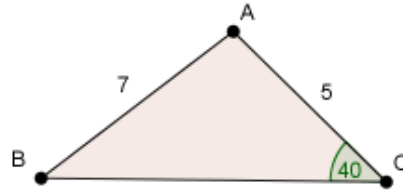
(ii) Find BC

(iii) Find the size of \hat{B} and **hence** the size of \hat{C} .

[7]

[illegible]

- (b) For the following triangle

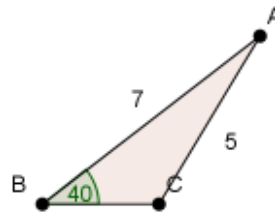
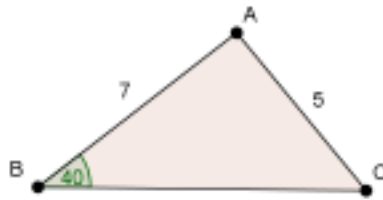


find the size of \hat{B} and **hence** the size of \hat{A} .

[5]

[illegible]

- (c) For each of the following triangles (ambiguous case)



find the size of \hat{C} and **hence** the size of \hat{A} .

[6]

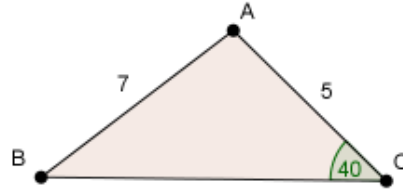
$$\hat{C} \cong 64.1^\circ \text{ or } 180 - 64.1 \cong 116^\circ$$

$$\hat{A} = 180 - 40 - 64.1 \text{ or } 180 - 40 - 116 \cong 24.1^\circ$$

$$\hat{A} \cong 75.9^\circ \text{ or } \cong 24.1^\circ$$

A series of horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page.

(d) For the following triangle



- (i) Use the cosine rule to directly find the side BC.
- (ii) **Hence** find the area of the triangle.

[5]

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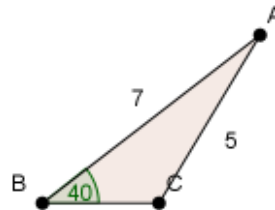
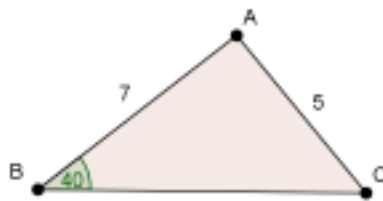
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(e) For the following triangles (ambiguous case)



- (i) Use the cosine rule to directly find the side BC of each triangle.
- (ii) **Hence** find the area of each triangle.

[7]

Area doesn't change!?

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A. Exam style questions (SHORT)

12. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

The following diagram shows triangle ABC.

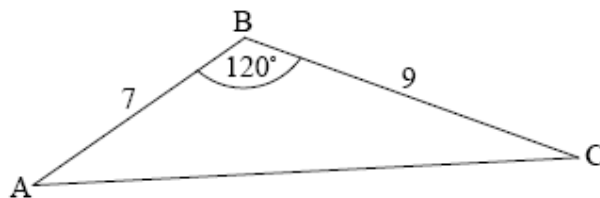


diagram not to scale

$AB = 7$ cm, $BC = 9$ cm and $\hat{A}BC = 120^\circ$.

- (a) Find AC. [3]
 (b) Find $\hat{B}AC$. [3]

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13. [Maximum mark: 4] **[with GDC]**

A triangle has sides of length 4, 5, 7 units. Find, to the nearest tenth of a degree, the size of the largest angle.

$$7^2 = 5^2 + 4^2 - 2(5)(4)\cos \hat{C}$$

$$\cos \hat{C} = \frac{5^2 + 4^2 - 7^2}{2(5)(4)} = -0.2$$

$$\hat{C} \approx 102^\circ = \text{Largest}$$

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14. [Maximum mark: 4] **[with GDC]**

The following diagram shows a triangle with sides 5 cm, 7 cm, 8 cm.

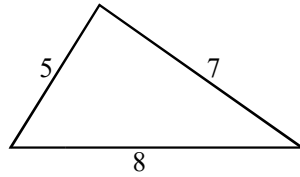


Diagram not to scale

- (a) Find the size of the smallest angle, in degrees; [2]
 (b) Find the area of the triangle. [2]

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15. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In the triangle PQR, PR = 5 cm, QR = 4 cm and PQ = 6 cm. Calculate

- (a) the size of \hat{PQR} ; [4]
 (b) the area of triangle PQR. [2]

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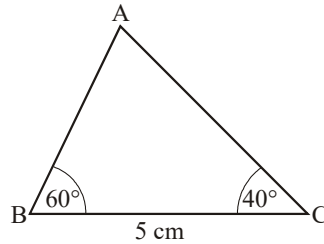
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16. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

The following diagram shows a triangle ABC, where $BC = 5 \text{ cm}$, $\hat{B} = 60^\circ$, $\hat{C} = 40^\circ$.



- (a) Calculate AB. [3]
 (b) Find the area of the triangle. [3]

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17. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

The diagram below shows triangle PQR. The length of [PQ] is 7 cm, the length of [PR] is 10 cm, and \hat{PQR} is 75° .

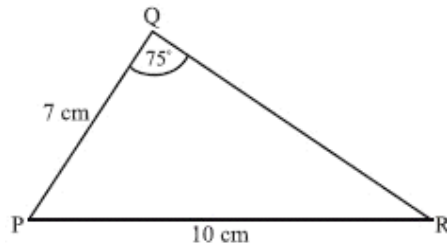


diagram not to scale

- (a) Find \hat{PRQ} [3]
 (b) Find the area of triangle PQR. [3]

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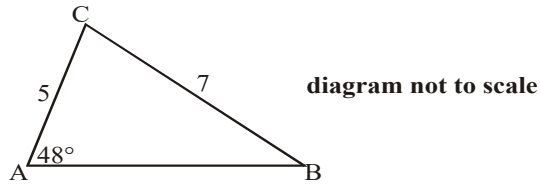
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18. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In triangle ABC, $AC = 5$, $BC = 7$, $\hat{A} = 48^\circ$, as shown in the diagram.



Find \hat{B} , giving your answer correct to the nearest degree.

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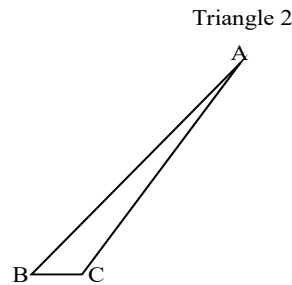
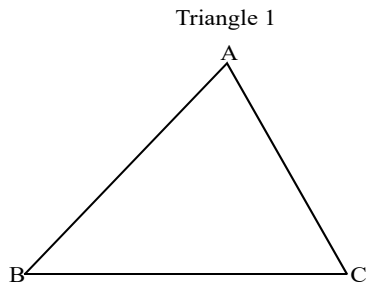
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- 19*. [Maximum mark: 4] **[with GDC]**

The diagrams below show two triangles both satisfying the conditions

$AB = 20$ cm, $AC = 17$ cm, $\hat{A} = 50^\circ$.



Diagrams not to scale

Calculate

- (a) the size of \hat{ACB} in **Triangle 2**.

[2]

- (b) the area of **Triangle 1**.

[2]

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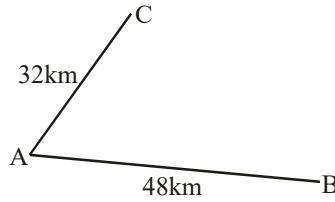
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20. [Maximum mark: 4] **[with GDC]**

Town A is 48 km from town B and 32 km from town C as shown in the diagram.



Given that town B is 56 km from town C, find the size of angle \hat{CAB} to the nearest degree.

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21*. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

Two boats A and B start moving from the same point P. Boat A moves in a straight line at 20 km h^{-1} and boat B moves in a straight line at 32 km h^{-1} . The angle between their paths is 70° . Find the distance between the boats after 2.5 hours.

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22. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

The following diagram shows the triangle ABC.

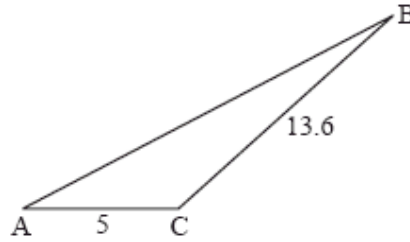


diagram not to scale

The angle at C is obtuse, $AC = 5$ cm, $BC = 13.6$ cm and the area is 20 cm^2 .

- (a) Find \hat{ACB} . [3]
 (b) Find AB. [3]

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23. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In a triangle ABC, $AB = 4$ cm, $AC = 3$ cm and the area of the triangle is 4.5 cm^2 .

Find the **two** possible values of the angle \hat{BAC} .

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24. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

In triangle PQR, PQ is 10 cm, QR is 8 cm and angle PQR is acute. The area of the triangle is 20 cm^2 . Find the size of angle \hat{PQR} .

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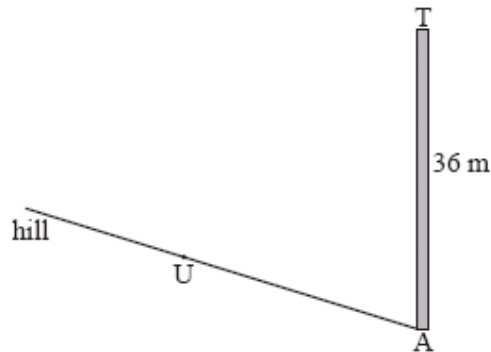
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25. [Maximum mark: 7] **[with GDC]**

There is a vertical tower TA of height 36 m at the base A of a hill. A straight path goes up the hill from A to a point U. This information is represented by the following diagram.



The path makes a 4° angle with the horizontal.

The point U on the path is 25 m away from the base of the tower.

The top of the tower is fixed to U by a wire of length x m.

(a) Complete the diagram, showing clearly all the information above.

[3]

(b) Find x .

[4]

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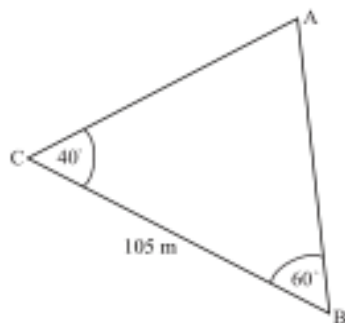
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27. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

The following diagram shows $\triangle ABC$, where $BC = 105$ m, $\hat{ACB} = 40^\circ$, $\hat{ABC} = 60^\circ$



Find the area of the triangle.

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28. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In the triangle ABC, $\hat{A} = 30^\circ$, $BC = 3$ and $AB = 5$. Find the two possible values of \hat{B} .

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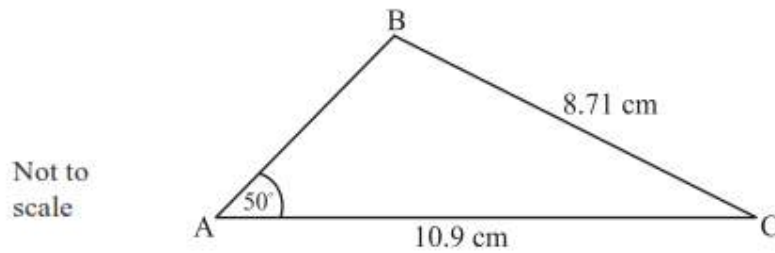
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29. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In the **obtuse-angled** triangle ABC, $AC = 10.9\text{ cm}$, $BC = 8.71\text{ cm}$ and $\hat{BAC} = 50^\circ$.



Find the area of triangle ABC.

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30. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

Triangle ABC has $\hat{C} = 42^\circ$, $BC = 1.74\text{ cm}$, and area 1.19 cm^2 .

- (a) Find AC. [3]
- (b) Find AB. [3]

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31*. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In the triangle ABC , $\hat{A} = 30^\circ$, $a = 5$ and $c = 7$. Find the difference in area between the two possible triangles for ABC .

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32*. [Maximum mark: 7] **[with GDC]**

In a triangle ABC , $\hat{A} = 30^\circ$, $AB = 6\text{ cm}$, $AC = 3\sqrt{2}\text{ cm}$. Find the possible areas of the triangle.

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33*. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In a triangle ABC , $\hat{A}BC=30^\circ$, $AB = 6\text{ cm}$, $AC = 3\sqrt{2}\text{ cm}$. Find the possible lengths of $[BC]$.

METHOD A: Use Sine rule.

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METHOD B: Use Cosine rule.

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34*. [Maximum mark: 7] **[with GDC]**

In a triangle ABC , $\hat{A} = 35^\circ$, $BC = 4\text{ cm}$ and $AC = 6.5\text{ cm}$. Find the possible values of \hat{B} and the corresponding values of AB .

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35*. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

- Triangle ABC has $AB = 8\text{ cm}$, $BC = 6\text{ cm}$, $\hat{BAC} = 20^\circ$. Find the smallest possible area of $\triangle ABC$.

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36*. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

In triangle ABC, $\hat{A}BC = 31^\circ$, $AC = 3\text{ cm}$, $BC = 5\text{ cm}$. Calculate the possible lengths of AB .

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37*. [Maximum mark: 7] **[with GDC]**

Consider triangle ABC with $\hat{B}AC = 37.8^\circ$, $AB = 8.75$ and $BC = 6$. Find AC .

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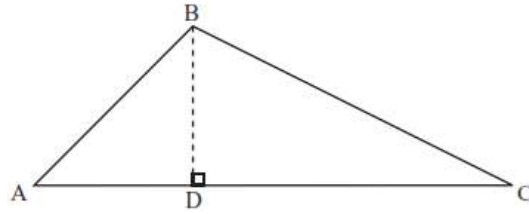
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40*. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

In triangle ABC , $BC = a$, $AC = b$, $AB = c$ and $[BD]$ is perpendicular to $[AC]$.



- (a) Show that $BD = c \sin A$. [1]
- (b) Show that $CD = b - c \cos A$. [2]
- (c) **Hence**, by using Pythagoras' Theorem in the triangle BCD , prove the cosine rule for the triangle ABC . [3]

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41.** [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

In triangle ABC , $BC = a$, $AC = b$, $AB = c$ and $\hat{A}BC = 60^\circ$.

Use the cosine rule to show that $c = \frac{1}{2}a \pm \sqrt{b^2 - \frac{3}{4}a^2}$.

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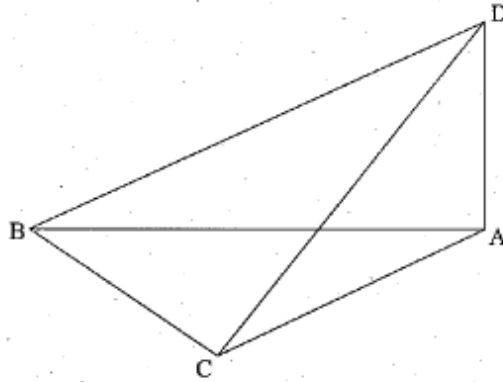
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42.** [Maximum mark: 7] *[with GDC]*

The following three dimensional diagram shows the four points A,B,C and D.

A, B, C are in the same horizontal plane and AD is vertical. The angle ABC is 45° , and BC = 50m. The angle of elevation from point B to point D is 30° , while the angle of elevation from point C to point D is 20° .

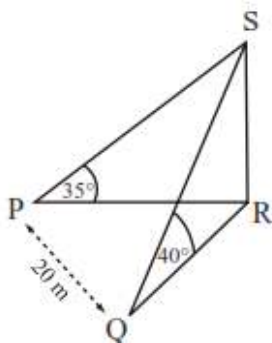


Using the cosine rule in the triangle ABC, or otherwise, find AD.

[illegible]

43.** [Maximum mark: 7]

[with GDC]

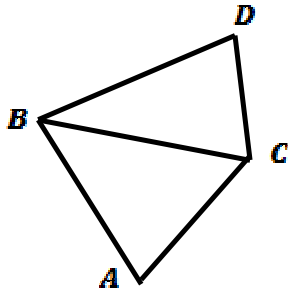


The above 3-dimensional diagram shows the points P and Q which are respectively west and south-west of the base R of a vertical flagpole RS on horizontal ground. The angles of elevation of the top S of the flagpole from P and Q are respectively 35° and 40° , and $PQ = 20\text{ m}$.

Determine the height of the flagpole.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Consider the following diagram



$$D\hat{B}C = 30^\circ$$

(d) Find (i) the bearing from B to A . (ii) Find the bearing from A to B .

[illegible]

**Diagram
not to scale**

A triangle with vertices A, B, and C. Vertex A is at the top, B is at the bottom left, and C is at the bottom right. The interior angle at vertex B is labeled 45° . The side BC is labeled with the number 6. The side AC is labeled with the expression $7\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$.

- The point D is on (AB), between A and B, such that $\sin \widehat{BDC} = \frac{6}{7}$.

- (c) Show that $\frac{\text{Area of } \triangle BDC}{\text{Area of } \triangle BAC} = \frac{BD}{BA}$. [2]

[illegible]

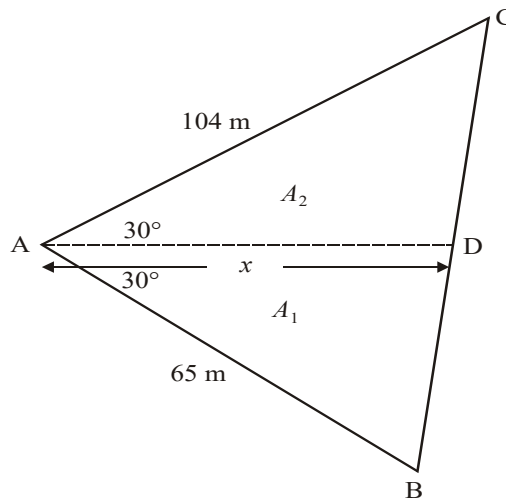
49. [Maximum mark: 18] **[with GDC]**

A farmer owns a triangular field ABC. One side of the triangle, [AC], is 104 m, a second side, [AB], is 65 m and the angle between these two sides is 60° .

(a) Use the cosine rule to calculate the length of the third side of the field. [3]

(b) Given that $\sin 60^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$, find the area of the field in the form $p\sqrt{3}$ where $p \in \mathbb{Z}$. [3]

Let D be a point on [BC] such that [AD] bisects the 60° angle. The farmer divides the field into two parts A_1 and A_2 by constructing a straight fence [AD] of length x metres, as shown on the diagram below.



(c) (i) Show that the area of A_1 is given by $\frac{65x}{4}$.

(ii) Find a similar expression for the area of A_2 .

(iii) **Hence**, find the value of x in the form $q\sqrt{3}$, where $q \in \mathbb{Z}$. [7]

(d) (i) Explain why $\sin \hat{ADC} = \sin \hat{ADB}$.

(ii) Use the result of part (i) and the sine rule to show that $\frac{BD}{DC} = \frac{5}{8}$. [5]

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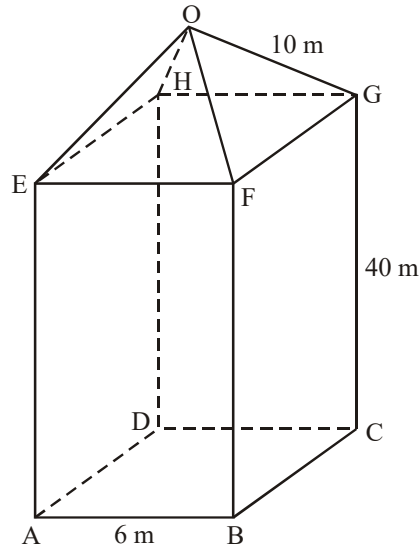
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50. [Maximum mark: 14] **[with GDC]**

An office tower is in the shape of a cuboid with a square base. The roof of the tower is in the shape of a square based right pyramid.

The diagram shows the tower and its roof with dimensions indicated. The diagram is **not** drawn to scale.



- (a) Calculate, correct to three significant figures,
- (i) the size of the angle between OF and FG; [3]
 - (ii) the shortest distance from O to FG; [2]
 - (iii) the total surface area of the four triangular sections of the roof; [3]
 - (iv) the size of the angle between the slant height of the roof and the plane EFGH; [2]
 - (v) the height of the tower from the base to O. [2]

A parrot's nest is perched at a point, P, on the edge, BF, of the tower. A person at the point A, outside the building, measures the angle of elevation to point P to be 79° .

- (b) Find, correct to three significant figures, the height of the nest from the base of the tower. [2]

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[illegible]

51*. [Maximum mark: 16] **[with GDC]**

In the diagram below, the points $O(0, 0)$ and $A(8, 6)$ are fixed. The angle \widehat{OPA} varies as the point $P(x, 10)$ moves along the horizontal line $y = 10$.

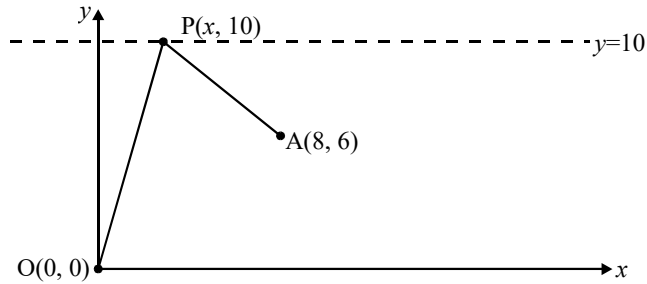


Diagram to scale

- (a) (i) Show that $AP = \sqrt{x^2 - 16x + 80}$.
 (ii) Write down a similar expression for OP in terms of x . [2]
 (b) Hence, show that $\cos \widehat{OPA} = \frac{x^2 - 8x + 40}{\sqrt{\{(x^2 - 16x + 80)(x^2 + 100)\}}}$, [3]
 (c) Find, in degrees, the angle \widehat{OPA} when $x = 8$. [2]
 (d) Find the positive value of x such that $\widehat{OPA} = 60^\circ$. [4]

Let the function f be defined by

$$f(x) = \cos \widehat{OPA} = \frac{x^2 - 8x + 40}{\sqrt{\{(x^2 - 16x + 80)(x^2 + 100)\}}}, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 15. \quad [4]$$

- (e) Consider the equation $f(x) = 1$.
 (i) Explain, in terms of the position of the points O, A, and P, why this equation has a solution.
 (ii) Find the **exact** solution to the equation. [5]

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[illegible]

