

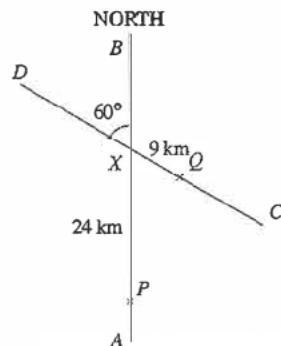
# 14 Applications of Trigonometry

## 14A Two-dimensional applications

### 14A.1 HKCEE MA 1981(2/3) I 11

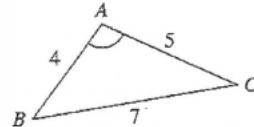
$AB$  and  $CD$  are two straight roads intersecting at  $X$ .  $AB$  runs North and makes an angle of  $60^\circ$  with  $CD$ . At noon, two people  $P$  and  $Q$  are respectively 24 km and 9 km from  $X$  as shown in the figure.  $P$  walks at a speed of 4.5 km/h towards  $B$  and  $Q$  walks at a speed of 6 km/h towards  $D$ .

- Calculate the distance between  $P$  and  $Q$  at noon.
- What are the distances of  $P$  and  $Q$  from  $X$  at 4 p.m.?
- Calculate the bearing of  $Q$  from  $P$  at 4 p.m. to the nearest degree.



### 14A.2 HKCEE MA 1982(3) -I - 2

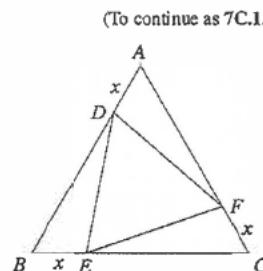
In the figure,  $AB = 4$ ,  $AC = 5$  and  $BC = 7$ . Calculate  $\angle A$  to the nearest degree.



### 14A.3 HKCEE MA 1985(A/B) I 13

In the figure,  $ABC$  is an equilateral triangle.  $AB = 2$ .  $D, E, F$  are points on  $AB, BC, CA$  respectively such that  $AD = BE = CF = x$ .

- By using the cosine formula or otherwise, express  $DE^2$  in terms of  $x$ .
- Show that the area of  $\triangle DEF = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}(3x^2 - 6x + 4)$ .

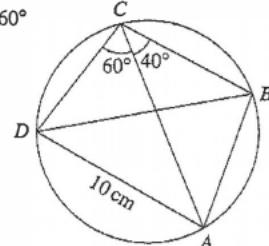


(To continue as 7C.1.)

### 14A.4 HKCEE MA 1989 -I - 6

In the figure,  $ABCD$  is a cyclic quadrilateral with  $AD = 10\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle ACD = 60^\circ$  and  $\angle ACB = 40^\circ$ .

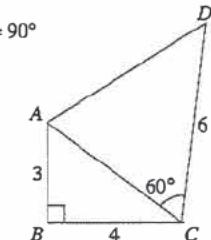
- Find  $\angle ABD$  and  $\angle BAD$ .
- Find the length of  $BD$  in cm, correct to 2 decimal places.



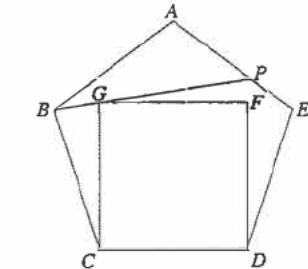
### 14A.5 HKCEE MA 1997 I 5

In the figure,  $ABC$  is a right angled triangle.  $AB = 3$ ,  $BC = 4$ ,  $CD = 6$ ,  $\angle ABC = 90^\circ$  and  $\angle ACD = 60^\circ$ . Find

- $AC$ ,
- $AD$ ,
- the area of  $\triangle ACD$ .



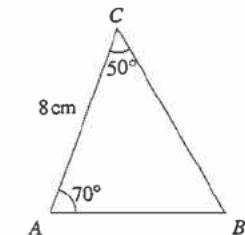
(Continued from 11A.11.)



### 14A.6 HKCEE MA 2000 I 13

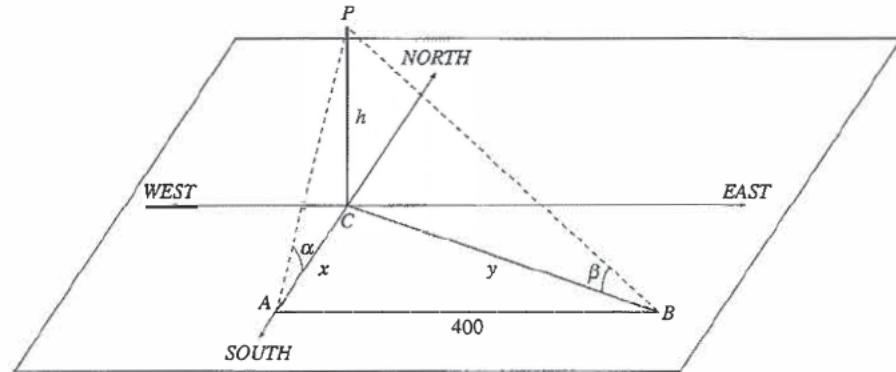
In the figure,  $ABCDE$  is a regular pentagon and  $CDFG$  is a square.  $BG$  produced meets  $AE$  at  $P$ .

- Find  $\angle BCG$ ,  $\angle ABP$  and  $\angle APB$ .
- Using the fact that  $\frac{AP}{\sin \angle ABP} = \frac{AB}{\sin \angle APB}$ , or otherwise, determine which line segment,  $AP$  or  $PE$ , is longer.



### 14A.7 HKCEE MA 2001 I 9

In the figure, find  $AB$  and the area of  $\triangle ABC$ .

**14B Three-dimensional applications****14B.1 HKCEE MA 1980(1/1\*3) – I – 9**

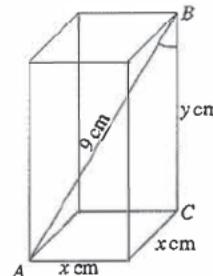
In the figure,  $PC$  represents a vertical object of height  $h$  metres. From a point  $A$ , south of  $C$ , the angle of elevation of  $P$  is  $\alpha$ . From a point  $B$ , 400 metres east of  $A$ , the angle of elevation of  $P$  is  $\beta$ .  $AC$  and  $BC$  are  $x$  metres and  $y$  metres respectively.

- (i) Express  $x$  in terms of  $h$  and  $\alpha$ .  
(ii) Express  $y$  in terms of  $h$  and  $\beta$ .
- If  $\alpha = 60^\circ$  and  $\beta = 30^\circ$ , find the value of  $h$  correct to 3 significant figures.

**14B.2 HKCEE MA 1982(1/2/3) I 8**

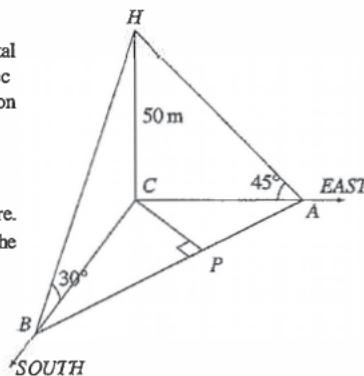
The figure represents the framework of a cuboid made of iron wire. It has a square base of side  $x$  cm and a height of  $y$  cm. The length of the diagonal  $AB$  is 9 cm. The total length of wire used for the framework (including the diagonal  $AB$ ) is 69 cm.

- Find all the values of  $x$  and  $y$ .
- Hence calculate  $\angle ABC$  to the nearest degree for the case in which  $y > x$ .

**14B.3 HKCEE MA 1983(A/B) I – 13**

In the figure,  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are three points on the same horizontal ground.  $HC$  is a vertical tower 50 m high.  $A$  and  $B$  are respectively due east and due south of the tower. The angles of elevation of  $H$  observed from  $A$  and  $B$  are respectively  $45^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$ .

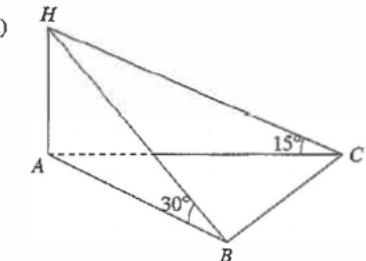
- Find the distance between  $A$  and  $B$ .
- $P$  is a point on  $AB$  such that  $CP \perp AB$ .
  - Find the distance between  $C$  and  $P$  to the nearest metre.
  - Find the angle of elevation of  $H$  observed from  $P$  to the nearest degree.

**14B.4 HKCEE MA 1984(A/B) – I 13**

In the figure,  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  lie in a horizontal plane.  $HA$  is a vertical pole. The angles of elevation of  $H$  from  $B$  and  $C$  are  $30^\circ$  and  $15^\circ$  respectively.

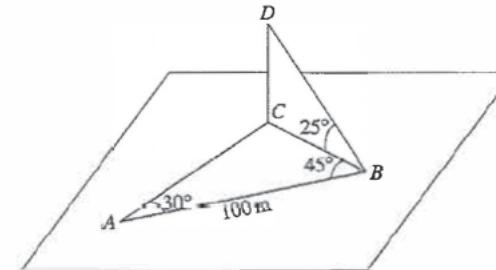
(In this question, give your answers correct to 2 decimal places.)

- (i) Find, in m, the length of the pole  $HA$ .  
(ii) Find, in m, the length of  $AB$ .
- If  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  lie on a circle with  $AC$  as diameter,
  - find, in m, the distance between  $B$  and  $C$ ;
  - find, in  $m^2$ , the area of  $\triangle ABC$ .

**14B.5 HKCEE MA 1985(A/B) – I – 8**

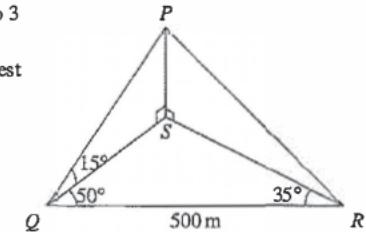
In the figure,  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are three points in a horizontal plane.  $AB = 100$  m,  $\angle CAB = 30^\circ$ ,  $\angle ABC = 45^\circ$ .

- Find  $BC$  and  $AC$ , in metres, correct to 1 decimal place.
- $D$  is a point vertically above  $C$ . From  $B$ , the angle of elevation of  $D$  is  $25^\circ$ .
  - Find  $CD$ , in metres, correct to 1 decimal place.
  - $X$  is a point on  $AB$  such that  $CX \perp AB$ .
    - Find  $CX$ , in metres, correct to 1 decimal place.
    - Find the angle of elevation of  $D$  from  $X$ , correct to the nearest degree.

**14B.6 HKCEE MA 1986(A/B) I 10**

In the figure,  $Q$ ,  $R$  and  $S$  are three points on the same horizontal plane.  $QR = 500$  m,  $\angle SQR = 50^\circ$  and  $\angle QRS = 35^\circ$ .  $P$  is a point vertically above  $S$ . The angle of elevation of  $P$  from  $Q$  is  $15^\circ$ .

- Find the distance, in metres, from  $P$  to the plane, correct to 3 significant figures.
- Find the angle of elevation of  $P$  from  $R$ , correct to the nearest degree.

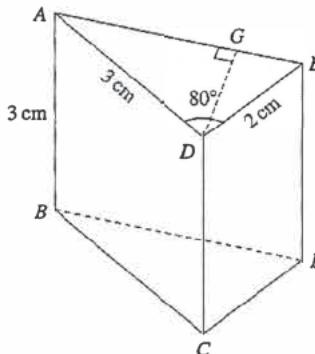


**14B.7 HKCEE MA 1987(A/B) I - 11**

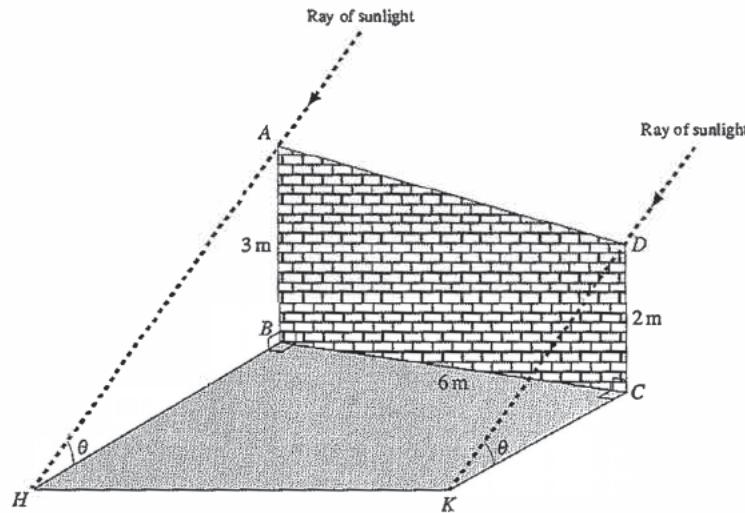
In this question, you should give your answers in cm or degrees, correct to 3 decimal places.

The figure shows a solid in which  $ABCD$ ,  $DCFE$  and  $ABFE$  are rectangles.  $DG$  is the perpendicular from  $D$  to  $AE$ .  $AB = 3\text{ cm}$ ,  $AD = 3\text{ cm}$  and  $DE = 2\text{ cm}$ .  $\angle ADE = 80^\circ$ .

- Find  $AE$ .
- Find  $\angle DAE$ .
- Find  $DG$ .
- Find  $BD$ .
- Find the angle between the line  $BD$  and the face  $ABFE$ .



**14B.8 HKCEE MA 1988 – I – 13**

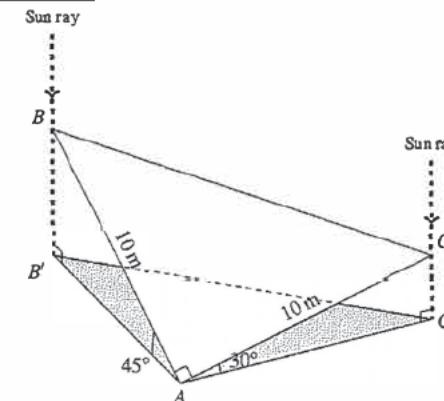


In the figure,  $ABCD$  is a wall in the shape of a trapezium with  $AB$  and  $DC$  vertical. Rays of sunlight coming from the back of the wall cast a shadow  $HKCK$  on the horizontal ground such that the edges  $HB$  and  $KC$  of the shadow are perpendicular to  $BC$ . Suppose the angle of elevation of the sun is  $\theta$ ,  $AB = 3\text{ m}$ ,  $CD = 2\text{ m}$  and  $BC = 6\text{ m}$ .

- Express  $HB$  and  $KC$  in terms of  $\theta$ .
- (i) Find the area  $S_1$  of the wall.  
(ii) Find, in terms of  $\theta$ , the area  $S_2$  of the shadow. Hence show that  $\frac{S_1}{S_2} = \tan \theta$ .
- If  $\theta = 30^\circ$ , find the length of the edge  $HK$ , leaving your answer in surd form.

**14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY**

**14B.9 HKCEE MA 1989 – I – 10**

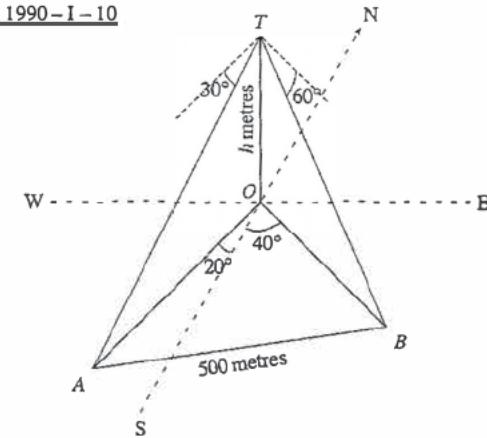


Answers in this question should be given correct to at least 3 significant figures or in surd form.

In the figure, a triangular board  $ABC$ , right angled at  $A$  with  $AB = AC = 10\text{ m}$ , is placed with the vertex  $A$  on the horizontal ground.  $AB$  and  $AC$  make angles of  $45^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$  with the horizontal respectively. The sun casts a shadow  $AB'C'$  of the board on the ground such that  $B'$  and  $C'$  are vertically below  $B$  and  $C$  respectively.

- Find the lengths of  $AB'$  and  $AC'$ .
- Find the lengths of  $BC$ ,  $BB'$  and  $CC'$ .
- Using the results of (b), or otherwise, find the length of  $B'C'$ .
- Find  $\angle B'AC'$ . Hence find the area of the shadow.

**14B.10 HKCEE MA 1990 – I – 10**



In the figure,  $OT$  represents a vertical tower of height  $h$  metres. From the top  $T$  of the tower, two landmarks  $A$  and  $B$ , 500 metres apart on the same horizontal ground, are observed to have angles of depression  $30^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$  respectively. The bearings of  $A$  and  $B$  from the tower  $OT$  are  $S20^\circ W$  and  $S40^\circ E$  respectively.

- Find the lengths of  $OA$  and  $OB$  in terms of  $h$ .
- Express the length of  $AB$  in terms of  $h$ . Hence, or otherwise, find the value of  $h$ .
- Find  $\angle OAB$ , correct to the nearest degree. Hence write down
  - the bearing of  $B$  from  $A$ ,
  - the bearing of  $A$  from  $B$ .

14B.11 HKCEE MA 1992 – I – 15

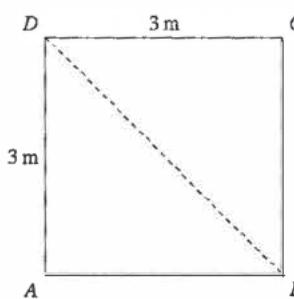


Figure (1)

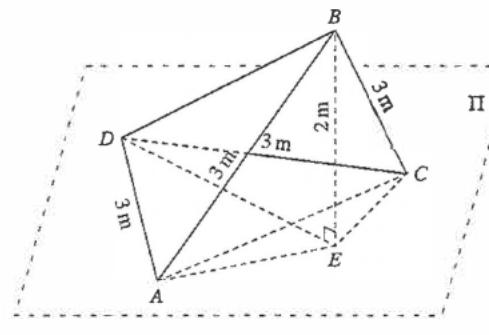


Figure (2)

In Figure (1),  $ABCD$  is a thin square metal sheet of side three metres. The metal sheet is folded along  $BD$  and the edges  $AD$  and  $CD$  of the folded metal sheet are placed on a horizontal plane  $\Pi$  with  $B$  two metres vertically above the plane  $\Pi$ .  $E$  is the foot of the perpendicular from  $B$  to the plane  $\Pi$ . (See Figure (2).)

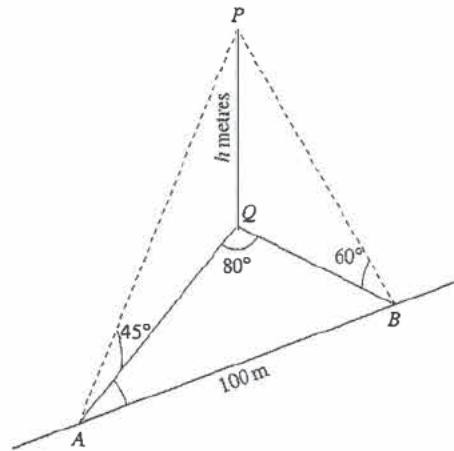
- (a) Find the lengths of  $BD$ ,  $ED$  and  $AE$ , leaving your answers in surd form.

(b) Find  $\angle ADE$ .

(c) Find the angle between  $BD$  and the plane  $\Pi$ .

(d) Find the angle between the planes  $ABD$  and  $CBD$ .

**14B.12 HKCEE MA 1993 – I – 12**

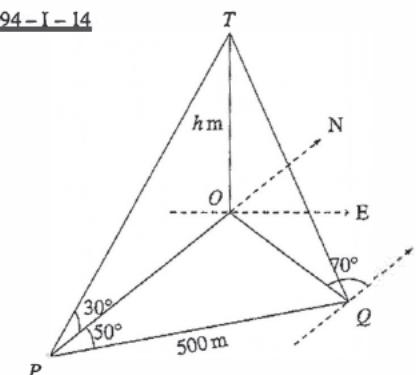


In the figure,  $PQ$  is a vertical television tower  $h$  metres high.  $A$  and  $B$  are two points 100 m apart on a straight road in front of the tower with  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $Q$  on the same horizontal ground and  $\angle AQB = 80^\circ$ . The angles of elevation of  $P$  from  $A$  and  $B$  are  $45^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$  respectively.

- (a) (i) Express the lengths of  $AQ$  and  $BQ$  in terms of  $h$ .  
(ii) Find  $h$  and  $\angle QAB$ .

(b) A person walks from  $A$  along the road towards  $B$ . At a certain point  $R$  between  $A$  and  $B$ , the person finds that the angle of elevation of  $P$  is  $50^\circ$ . How far away is  $R$  from  $A$ ?

14B.13 HKCEE MA 1994 – I – 14



In the figure,  $OT$  is a vertical tower of height  $h$  metres and  $O, P$  and  $Q$  are points on the same horizontal plane. When a man is at  $P$ , he finds that the tower is due north and that the angle of elevation of the top  $T$  of the tower is  $30^\circ$ . When he walks a distance of 500 metres in the direction N $50^\circ$ E to  $Q$ , he finds that the bearing of the tower is N $70^\circ$ W.

- a) Find  $OQ$  and  $OP$ .

b) Find  $h$ .

c) Find the angle of elevation of  $T$  from  $Q$ , giving your answer correct to the nearest degree.

d) (i) If he walks a further distance of 400 metres from  $Q$  in a direction  $N\theta^\circ E$  to a point  $R$  (not shown in the figure) on the same horizontal plane, he finds that the angle of elevation of  $T$  is  $20^\circ$ . Find  $\angle OQR$  and hence write down the value of  $\theta$  to the nearest integer.

(ii) If he starts from  $Q$  again and walks the same distance of 400 metres in another direction to a point  $S$  on the same horizontal plane, he finds that the angle of elevation of  $T$  is again  $20^\circ$ . Find the bearing of  $S$  from  $O$ , giving your answer correct to the nearest degree.

14B.14 HKCEE MA 1995 – I – 15

The figure shows a triangular road sign  $ABC$  attached to a vertical pole  $OAB$  standing on the horizontal ground. The plane  $ABC$  is vertical with  $OA = 2\text{ m}$ ,  $AB = 0.6\text{ m}$ ,  $AC = 0.7\text{ m}$  and  $BC = 0.8\text{ m}$ .  $D$  is a point on the horizontal ground vertically below  $C$  and is due north of the foot  $O$  of the pole.

The sun is due west. When its angle of elevation is  $30^\circ$ , the shadow of the road sign on the horizontal ground is  $A'B'C'$ .

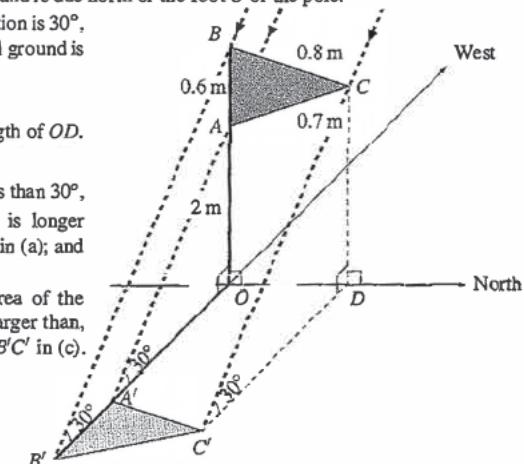
- (a) Find the lengths of  $OA'$  and  $A'B'$ .

(b) Calculate  $\angle BAC$  and hence find the length of  $OD$ .

(c) Find the area of the shadow  $A'B'C'$ .

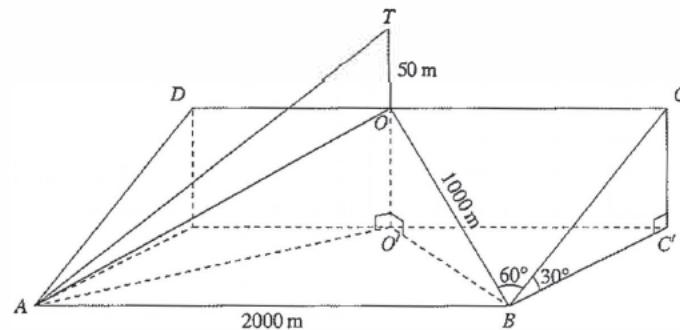
(d) If the angle of elevation of the sun is less than  $30^\circ$

  - state whether the shadow of  $AB$  is longer than, shorter than, or equal to  $A'B'$  in (a); and hence
  - state with reasons whether the area of the shadow of the road sign  $ABC$  is larger than, smaller than, or equal to that of  $A'B'C'$  in (c).



**14B.15 HKCEE MA 1996 – I – 15**

In the figure, the rectangular plane  $ABCD$  is a hillside with inclination  $30^\circ$ .  $C'$  and  $O'$  are vertically below  $C$  and  $O$  respectively so that  $A, B, C', O'$  are on the same horizontal plane.  $BO$  is a straight path on the hillside which makes an angle  $60^\circ$  with  $BC$ , and  $OT$  is a vertical tower.  $AB = 2000$  m,  $BO = 1000$  m and  $OT = 50$  m.



- Find  $BC$  and  $CC'$ .
- Find the inclination of  $BO$  with the horizontal.
- Find  $AT$ .
- There are cable cars going directly from  $A$  to  $T$ . A man wants to go to  $T$  from  $B$  and he can do this by taking either one of the following two routes:

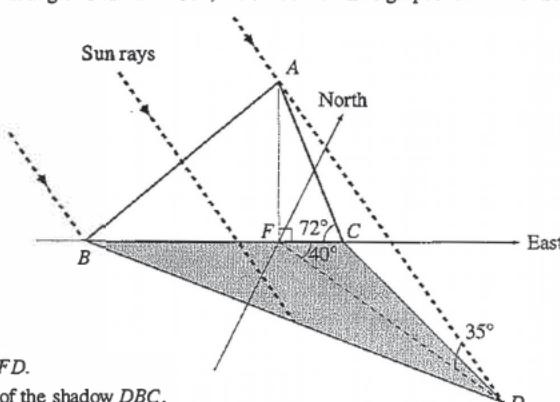
Route I: Walking uphill along  $BO$  at an average speed of  $0.3$  m/s and taking a lift in the tower for  $1$  minute from  $O$  to  $T$ .

Route II: Walking along  $BA$  at an average speed of  $0.8$  m/s and taking a cable car from  $A$  to  $T$  at an average speed of  $3.2$  m/s.

Determine which route takes a shorter time.

**14B.16 HKCEE MA 1998 – I – 17**

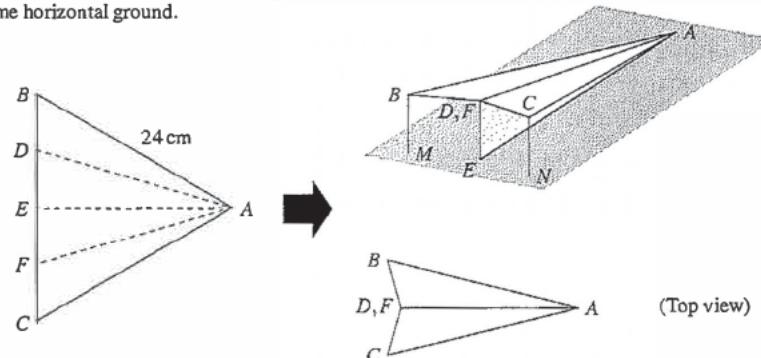
In the figure, triangular sign post  $ABC$  stands vertically on the horizontal ground along the east west direction.  $AC = 4$  m,  $BC = 6$  m,  $\angle ACB = 72^\circ$  and  $F$  is the foot of the perpendicular from  $A$  to  $BC$ . When the sun shines from N $50^\circ$ W with an angle of elevation  $35^\circ$ , the shadow of the sign post on the horizontal ground is  $DBC$ .



- Find  $AF$  and  $FD$ .
- Find the area of the shadow  $DBC$ .
- Suppose the sun shines from N $x^\circ$ W, where  $50 < x < 90$ , but its angle of elevation is still  $35^\circ$ . State with reasons whether the area of the shadow of the sign post on the horizontal ground is greater than, smaller than or equal to the area obtained in (b).

**14B.17 HKCEE MA 1999 – I – 18**

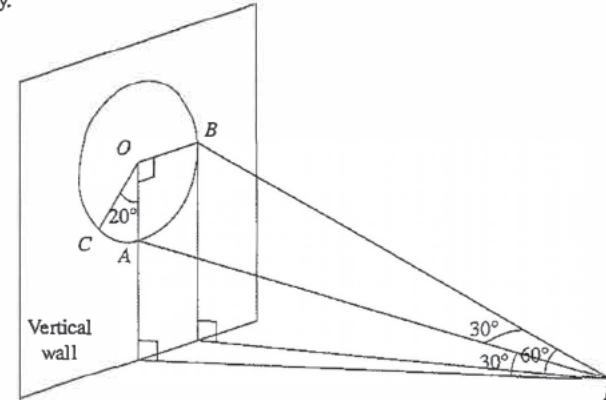
In the figure, a paper card  $ABC$  in the shape of an equilateral triangle of side  $24$  cm is folded to form a paper aeroplane.  $D, E$  and  $F$  are points on edge  $BC$  so that  $BD = DE = EF = FC$ . The aeroplane is formed by folding the paper card along the lines  $AD, AE$  and  $AF$  so that  $AD$  and  $AF$  coincide. It is supported by two vertical sticks  $BM$  and  $CN$  of equal length so that  $A, B, D, F, C$  lie on the same plane and  $A, E, M, N$  lie on the same horizontal ground.



- Find the distance between the tips,  $B$  and  $C$ , of the wings of the aeroplane.
- Find the inclination of the wings of the aeroplane to the horizontal ground.
- Find the length of the stick  $CN$ .

**14B.18 HKCEE MA 2000 – I – 17**

The figure shows a circle with centre  $O$  and radius  $10$  m on a vertical wall which stands on the horizontal ground.  $A, B$  and  $C$  are three points on the circumference of the circle such that  $A$  is vertically below  $O$ ,  $\angle AOB = 90^\circ$  and  $\angle AOC = 20^\circ$ . A laser emitter  $D$  on the ground shoots a laser beam at  $B$ . The laser beam then sweeps through an angle of  $30^\circ$  to shoot at  $A$ . The angles of elevation of  $B$  and  $A$  from  $D$  are  $60^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$  respectively.



- Let  $A$  be  $h$  m above the ground.
  - Express  $AD$  and  $BD$  in terms of  $h$ .
  - Find  $h$ .
- Another laser emitter  $E$  on the ground shoots a laser beam at  $A$  with angle of elevation  $25^\circ$ . The laser beam then sweeps through an angle of  $5^\circ$  to shoot at  $C$ . Find  $\angle ACE$ .

**14B.19 HKCEE MA 2001 – I – 16**

Figure (1) shows a piece of pentagonal cardboard  $ABCDE$ . It is formed by cutting off two equilateral triangular parts, each of side  $x$  cm, from an equilateral triangular cardboard  $AFG$ .  $AB$  is 6 cm long and the area of  $BCDE$  is  $5\sqrt{3}$  cm $^2$ .

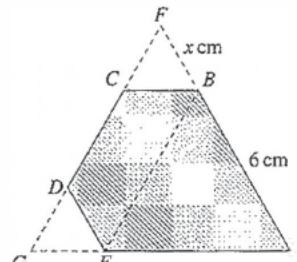


Figure (1)

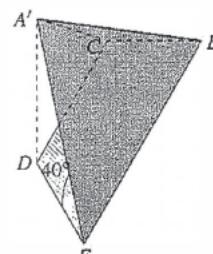
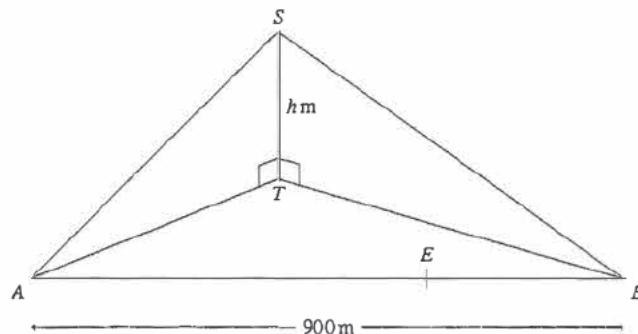


Figure (2)

- (a) Show that  $x^2 - 12x + 20 = 0$ . Hence find  $x$ .
- (b) The triangular part  $ABE$  is folded up along the line  $BE$  until the vertex  $A$  comes to the position  $A'$  (as shown in Figure (2)) such that  $\angle A'ED = 40^\circ$ .
  - (i) Find the length of  $A'D$ .
  - (ii) Find the angle between the planes  $BCDE$  and  $A'BE$ .
  - (iii) If  $A', B, C, D, E$  are the vertices of a pyramid with base  $BCDE$ , find the volume of the pyramid.

**14B.20 HKCEE MA 2002 – I – 14**

In the figure,  $AB$  is a straight track 900 m long on the horizontal ground.  $E$  is a small object moving along  $AB$ .  $ST$  is a vertical tower of height  $h$  m standing on the horizontal ground. The angles of elevation of  $S$  from  $A$  and  $B$  are  $20^\circ$  and  $15^\circ$  respectively.  $\angle TAB = 30^\circ$ .



- (a) Express  $AT$  and  $BT$  in terms of  $h$ . Hence find  $h$ .
- (b) (i) Find the shortest distance between  $E$  and  $S$ .
- (ii) Let  $\theta$  be the angle of elevation of  $S$  from  $E$ . Find the range of values of  $\theta$  as  $E$  moves along  $AB$ .

**14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY**

**14B.21 HKCEE MA 2003 – I – 14**

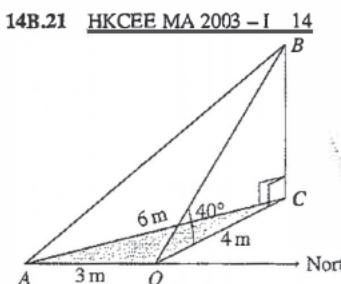


Figure (1)

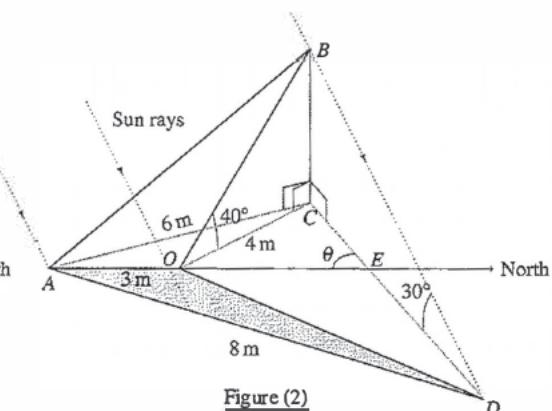
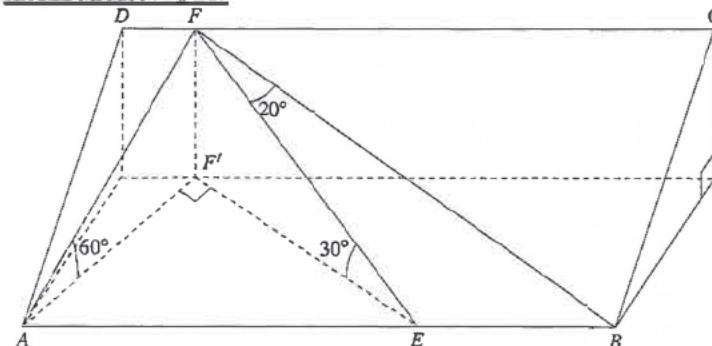


Figure (2)

Figure (1) shows a triangular metal plate  $OAB$  standing on the horizontal ground. The side  $OA$  lies along the north south direction on the ground.  $OB$  is inclined at an angle of  $40^\circ$  to the horizontal. The overhead sun casts a shadow of the plate,  $OAC$ , on the ground.  $OA = 3$  m,  $OC = 4$  m and  $AC = 6$  m.

- (a) Find  $\angle OAC$ .
- (b) In Figure (2),  $OAD$  is the shadow of the plate cast on the horizontal ground when the sun shines from SSW with an angle of elevation  $30^\circ$ .  $AO$  is produced to cut  $CD$  at  $E$ .  $AD = 8$  m.
  - (i) Find  $CD$ .
  - (ii) Find  $\angle CAD$ .
  - (iii) Using  $CE + ED = CD$ , or otherwise, find  $\theta$ .

**14B.22 HKCEE MA 2004 – I – 17**



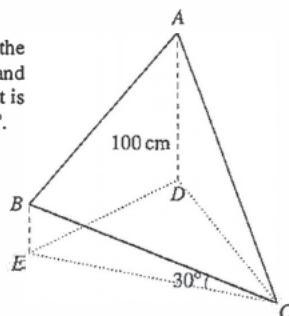
In the figure,  $ABCD$  is a rectangular inclined plane.  $E$  and  $F$  are points on the straight lines  $AB$  and  $CD$  respectively.  $F'$  is vertically below  $F$ .  $A, E, B$  and  $F'$  are on the same horizontal ground.  $\angle FAE = 90^\circ$ ,  $\angle FAF' = 60^\circ$ ,  $\angle FEF' = 30^\circ$ ,  $\angle EFB = 20^\circ$  and  $EF = 20$  m.

- (a) Find
  - (i)  $FF'$  and  $AE$ ,
  - (ii)  $\angle AEF$ .
- (b) A small red toy car goes straight from  $E$  to  $B$  at an average speed of 2 m/s while a small yellow toy car goes straight from  $F$  to  $B$  at an average speed of 3 m/s. The two toy cars start going at the same time. Will the yellow toy car reach  $B$  before the red one? Explain your answer.

## 14B.23 HKCEE MA 2005 – I – 14

In the figure, a thin triangular board  $ABC$  is held with the vertex  $C$  on the horizontal ground.  $D$  and  $E$  are points on the ground vertically below  $A$  and  $B$  respectively.  $BC$  is inclined at an angle of  $30^\circ$  with the horizontal. It is known that  $AD = 100\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 120\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle CAB = 60^\circ$  and  $\angle ABC = 80^\circ$ .

- Find  $BE$  and  $CE$ .
- Find  $AB$  and  $AC$ .
- Find  $\angle CDE$  and the shortest distance from  $C$  to  $DE$ .



## 14B.24 HKCEE MA 2006 – I – 17

In Figure (1),  $ABC$  is a triangular paper card.  $D$  is a point lying on  $AC$  such that  $BD$  is perpendicular to  $AC$ . It is known that  $AB = 40\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 60\text{ cm}$  and  $AC = 90\text{ cm}$ .

- Find  $AD$ .

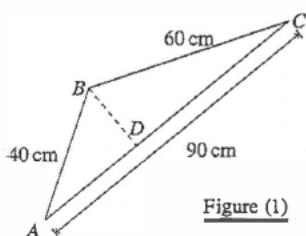


Figure (1)

- The triangular paper card in Figure (1) is folded along  $BD$  such that  $AB$  and  $BC$  lie on a horizontal plane as shown in Figure (2).

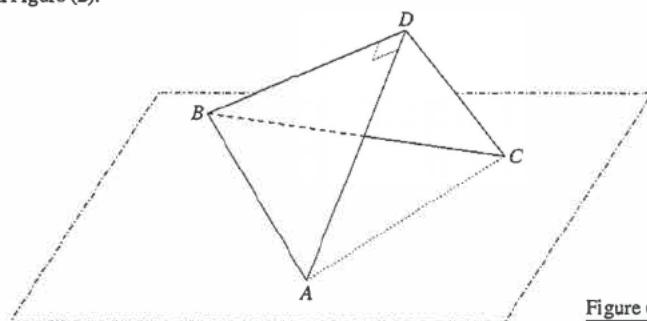


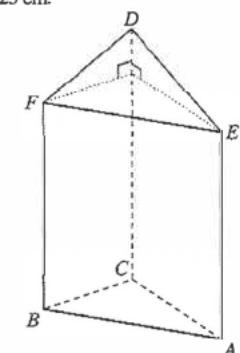
Figure (2)

- Suppose  $\angle DAC = 62^\circ$ .
  - Find the distance between  $A$  and  $C$  on the horizontal plane.
  - Using Heron's formula, or otherwise, find the area of  $\triangle ABC$  on the horizontal plane.
  - Find the height of the tetrahedron  $ABCD$  from the vertex  $D$  to the base  $\triangle ABC$ .
- Describe how the volume of the tetrahedron  $ABCD$  varies when  $\angle ADC$  increases from  $30^\circ$  to  $150^\circ$ . Explain your answer.

## 14B.25 HKCEE MA 2007 – I – 16

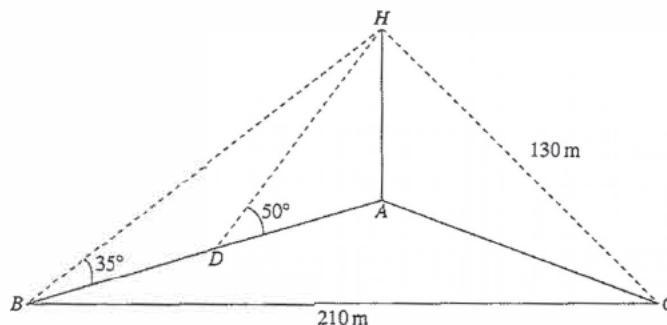
The figure shows a solid wooden souvenir  $ABCDEF$  with the triangular base  $ABC$  lying on the horizontal ground.  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are vertically below  $E$ ,  $F$  and  $D$  respectively.  $DEF$  is an inclined triangular plane. It is given that  $AB = 9\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 5\text{ cm}$ ,  $AC = 6\text{ cm}$ ,  $AE = BF = 20\text{ cm}$  and  $CD = 23\text{ cm}$ .

- Find the area of the triangular base  $ABC$  and the volume of the souvenir  $ABCDEF$ .
- Find  $\angle DFE$  and the shortest distance from  $D$  to  $EF$ .
- Can a piece of thin rectangular metal plate of dimensions  $5\text{ cm} \times 4\text{ cm}$  be fixed onto the triangular surface  $DEF$  so that the thin metal plate completely lies in the triangle  $DEF$ ? Explain your answer.



## 14B.26 HKCEE MA 2008 I – 15

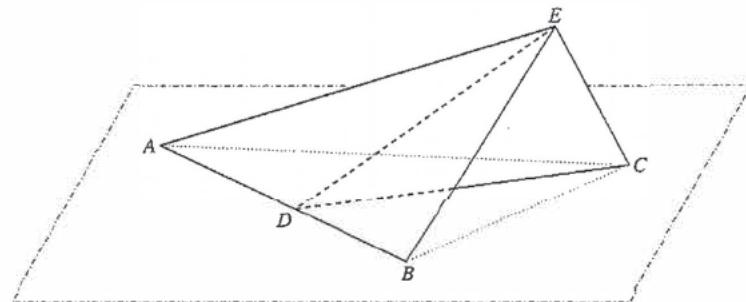
In the figure,  $H$  is the top of a tower and  $A$  is vertically below  $H$ .  $AB$ ,  $BC$  and  $CA$  are straight paths on the horizontal ground and  $D$  is a point on  $AB$ . Christine walks from  $A$  to  $D$  along  $AD$  and finds that the angle of elevation of  $H$  from  $D$  is  $50^\circ$ . She then walks  $50\text{ m}$  to  $B$  along  $DB$  and finds that the angle of elevation of  $H$  from  $B$  is  $35^\circ$ .



- Find the distance between  $B$  and  $H$ .
- Christine walks  $210\text{ m}$  from  $B$  to  $C$  along  $BC$ . It is given that the distance between  $C$  and  $H$  is  $130\text{ m}$ .
  - Find  $\angle CBH$ .
  - Find the angle between the plane  $BCH$  and the horizontal ground.
  - When Christine walks from  $B$  to  $C$  along  $BC$ , is it possible for her to find a point  $K$  on  $BC$  such that the angle of elevation of  $H$  from  $K$  is  $75^\circ$ ? Explain your answer.

**14B.27 HKCEE MA 2009 – I – 17**

The figure shows a geometric model fixed on the horizontal ground. The model consists of two thin triangular metal plates  $ABE$  and  $CDE$ , where  $D$  lies on  $AB$  and  $CE$  is perpendicular to the thin metal plate  $ABE$ . It is given that  $A, B, C$  and  $D$  lie on the horizontal ground. It is found that  $AC = 28\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 25\text{ cm}$ ,  $BD = 6\text{ cm}$ ,  $BE = 24\text{ cm}$  and  $\angle ABC = 57^\circ$ .



- (a) Find
  - (i) the length of  $CD$ ,
  - (ii)  $\angle BAC$ ,
  - (iii) the area of  $\triangle ABC$ ,
  - (iv) the shortest distance from  $E$  to the horizontal ground.
- (b) A student claims that the angle between  $DE$  and the horizontal ground is  $\angle CDE$ . Do you agree? Explain your answer.

**14B.28 HKCEE MA 2010 I 15**

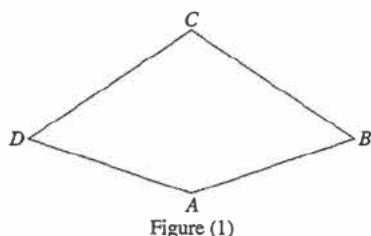


Figure (1)

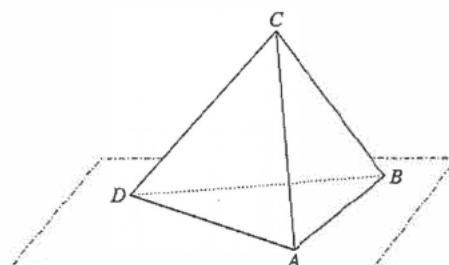


Figure (2)

- (a) Figure (1) shows a piece of paper card  $ABCD$  in the form of a quadrilateral with  $AB = AD$  and  $BC = CD$ . It is given that  $BC = 24\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle BAD = 146^\circ$  and  $\angle ABC = 59^\circ$ . Find the length of  $AB$ .
- (b) The paper card described in (a) is folded along  $AC$  such that  $AB$  and  $AD$  lie on the horizontal ground as shown in Figure (2). It is given that  $\angle BAD = 92^\circ$ .
  - (i) Find the distance between  $B$  and  $D$  on the horizontal ground.
  - (ii) Find the angle between the plane  $ABC$  and the plane  $ACD$ .
  - (iii) Let  $P$  be a movable point on the slant edge  $AC$ . Describe how  $\angle BPD$  varies as  $P$  moves from  $A$  to  $C$ . Explain your answer.

**14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY**

**14B.29 HKCEE MA 2011 – I – 17**

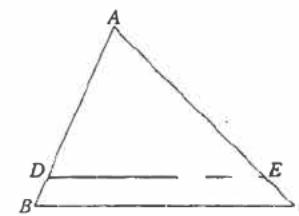


Figure (1)

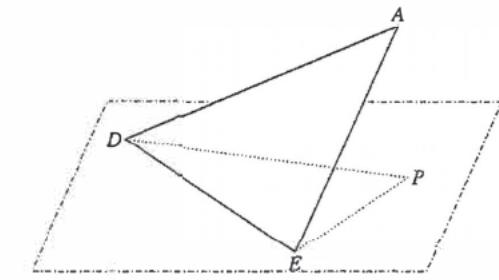


Figure (2)

In Figure (1),  $ABC$  is a thin triangular metal sheet.  $D$  and  $E$  are points lying on  $AB$  and  $AC$  respectively such that  $DE$  is parallel to  $BC$  and the distance between  $DE$  and  $BC$  is 4 cm. It is found that  $AB = 20\text{ cm}$ ,  $AC = 30\text{ cm}$  and  $\angle BAC = 56^\circ$ .

- (a) Find
  - (i) the length of  $BC$ ,
  - (ii)  $\angle ACB$ ,
  - (iii) the perpendicular distance from  $A$  to  $DE$ ,
  - (iv) the length of  $DE$ .
- (b) The thin triangular metal sheet in Figure (1) is cut along  $DE$ . The metal sheet  $ADE$  is held with  $DE$  lying on the horizontal ground as shown in Figure (2). It is given that  $P$  is the projection of  $A$  on the horizontal ground and the area of  $\triangle PDE$  is  $120\text{ cm}^2$ . Find
  - (i) the angle between the metal sheet  $ADE$  and the horizontal ground,
  - (ii) the shortest distance from  $A$  to the horizontal ground.

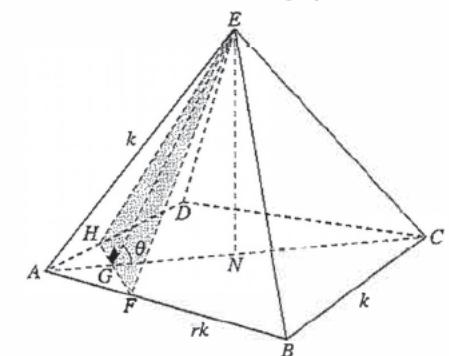
**14B.30 HKCEE AM 1981 – II – 10**

In the figure,  $ABCDE$  is a right pyramid with a square base  $ABCD$ . Each of the eight edges of the pyramid is of length  $k$ .  $F$ ,  $G$  and  $H$  are points on  $AB$ ,  $AC$  and  $AD$ , respectively, such that  $FGH$  is a straight line and  $BF = DH = rk$ , where  $0 \leq r \leq 1$ .  $EG \perp HF$ ,  $\angle EGC = \theta$  and  $N$  is the foot of the perpendicular from  $E$  to the base.

- (a) Express  $FE^2$  and  $FG^2$  in terms of  $k$  and  $r$ .
- (b) Express  $EG$  and  $EN$  in terms of  $k$  and  $r$ .

$$\text{Hence, or otherwise, show that } \sin \theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+r^2}}.$$

- (c) Using the results of (b), find the range of the inclination of the plane  $EFH$  to the base as  $r$  varies from 0 to 1.

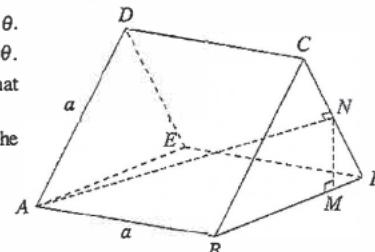


#### 14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY

##### 14B.31 HKCEE AM 1983 II - 8

The figure shows a tent consisting of two inclined square planes  $ABCD$  and  $EFCD$  standing on the horizontal ground  $ABFE$ . The length of each side of the inclined planes is  $a$ .  $N$  is a point on  $CF$  such that  $AN \perp CF$ . Let  $NF = x$  ( $\neq 0$ ),  $\angle CFB = \theta$  and  $M$  be a point on  $BF$  such that  $NM \perp BF$ .

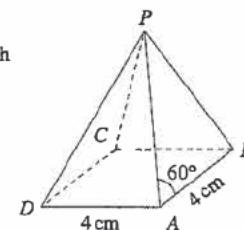
- By considering  $\triangle ABM$ , express  $AM$  in terms of  $a, x$  and  $\theta$ .
- By considering  $\triangle ANF$ , express  $AN$  in terms of  $a, x$  and  $\theta$ .
- Using the results of (a) and (b), or otherwise, show that  $x = 2a\cos^2\theta$ .
- Given that  $x = \frac{a}{2}$ , find (correct to the nearest degree) the inclination of  $AN$  to the horizontal.



##### 14B.32 HKCEE AM 1991 - II - 6

In the figure,  $PABCD$  is a right pyramid with a square base of sides of length 4 cm.  $\angle PAB = 60^\circ$ . Find, correct to the nearest 0.1 degree,

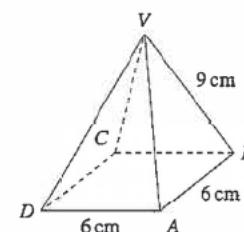
- the angle between the plane  $PAB$  and the base  $ABCD$ ,
- the angle between the planes  $PAB$  and  $PAD$ .



##### 14B.33 HKCEE AM 1992 - II - 7

In the figure,  $VABCD$  is a right pyramid with a square base of side 6 cm.  $VB = 9$  cm. Find, correct to the nearest 0.1 degree,

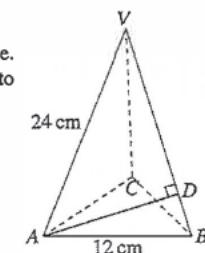
- the angle between edge  $VB$  and the base  $ABCD$ ,
- the angle between the planes  $VAB$  and  $VAD$ .



##### 14B.34 HKCEE AM 1993 II - 7

In the figure,  $VABC$  is a right pyramid whose base  $ABC$  is an equilateral triangle.  $AB = 12$  cm and  $VA = 24$  cm.  $D$  is a point on  $VB$  such that  $AD$  is perpendicular to  $VB$ . Find, correct to 3 significant figures,

- $\angle VBA$  and  $AD$ ,
- the angle between the faces  $VAB$  and  $VBC$ .



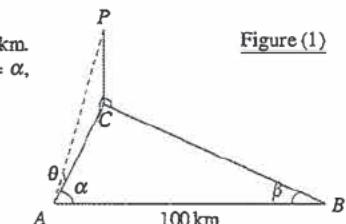
##### 14B.35 HKCEE AM 1994 - II - 12

$A, B$  and  $C$  are three points on the horizontal ground and  $AB = 100$  km.  $P$  is a point vertically above  $C$  (see Figure (1)). Let  $\angle CAB = \alpha$ ,  $\angle CBA = \beta$ ,  $\angle PAC = \theta$ .

- Show that

$$(i) AC = \frac{100 \sin \beta}{\sin(\alpha + \beta)} \text{ km.}$$

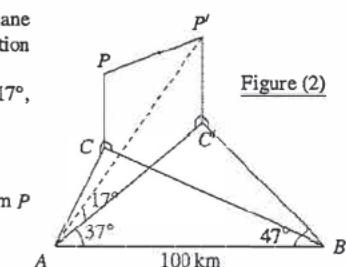
$$(ii) PC = \frac{100 \sin \beta \tan \theta}{\sin(\alpha + \beta)} \text{ km.}$$



(b) Suppose at  $P$ ,  $\alpha = 45^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 30^\circ$  and  $\theta = 20^\circ$ . An aeroplane climbs from  $P$  to a point  $P'$  along a straight path. The projection of  $P'$  on the ground is the point  $C'$  (see Figure (2)).

Given that  $\angle C'AB = 37^\circ$ ,  $\angle C'BA = 43^\circ$  and  $\angle P'AC' = 17^\circ$ , find, correct to 2 decimal places,

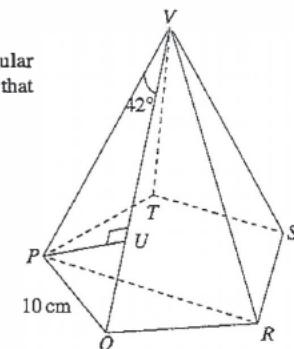
- $AC$  and  $AC'$ ,
- the distance between  $C$  and  $C'$ ,
- the increase in height of the aeroplane as it climbs from  $P$  to  $P'$ ,
- the angle of inclination  $PP'$ .



##### 14B.36 HKCEE AM 1995 - II - 7

In the figure,  $VPQRST$  is a right pyramid whose base  $PQRST$  is a regular pentagon.  $PQ = 10$  cm and  $\angle PVQ = 42^\circ$ .  $U$  is a point on  $VQ$  such that  $PU$  is perpendicular to  $VQ$ . Find, correct to 3 significant figures,

- $PU$  and  $PR$ ,
- the angle between the faces  $VPQ$  and  $VQR$ .



## 14B.37 HKCEE AM 1996 – II – 12

In Figure (1),  $ABC$  is a triangular piece of paper such that  $\angle B = 45^\circ$ ,  $\angle C = 30^\circ$  and  $AC = 2$ .  $D$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $A$  to  $BC$ .

- Find  $AB$ ,  $BD$  and  $DC$ .
- The paper is folded along  $AD$ . It is then placed on a horizontal table such that the edges  $AB$  and  $AC$  lie on the table and the plane  $DAB$  is vertical. (See Figure (2).)  $E$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $D$  to  $AB$ .
  - If  $\theta$  is the angle between  $DC$  and the horizontal, show that  $\sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{6}$ .
  - Find  $CE$ . Hence show that  $\angle EAC = 45^\circ$ .
  - Find the angle between the two planes  $DAB$  and  $DAC$  to the nearest degree.

[Hint: You may tear off Figure (3) to help you answer part (b).]

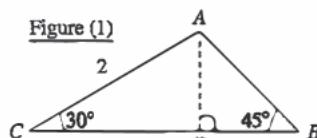


Figure (2)

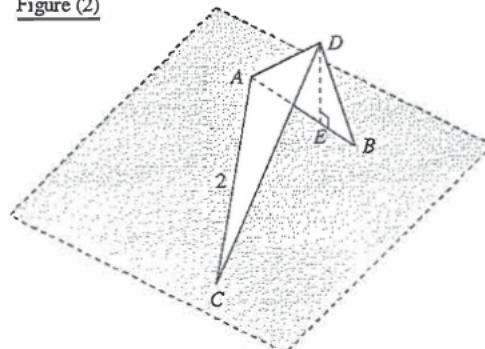
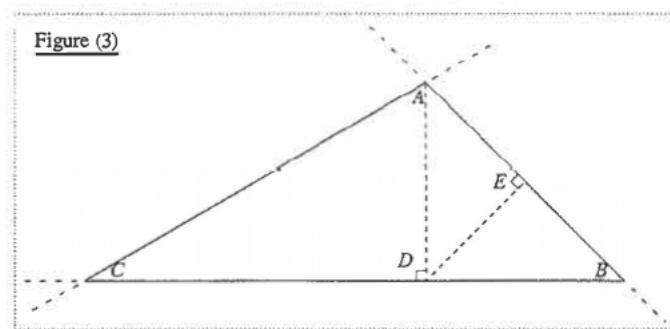
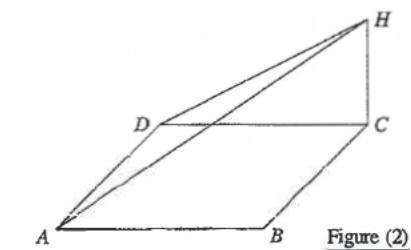
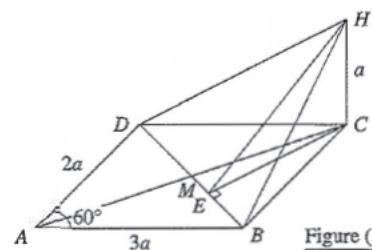


Figure (3)



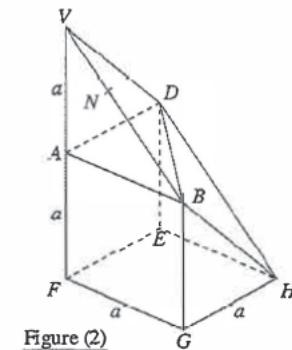
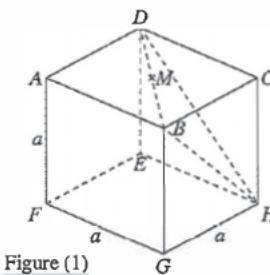
## 14B.38 HKCEE AM 1997 – II – 12



In Figure (1),  $ABCD$  is a parallelogram on a horizontal plane with  $AB = 3a$ ,  $AD = 2a$  and  $\angle BAD = 60^\circ$ .  $H$  is a point vertically above  $C$  and  $HC = \alpha$ .

- Find  $AC$  in terms of  $a$ .
- If  $M$  is the mid-point of  $AC$ , find the angle of elevation of  $H$  from  $M$  to the nearest degree.
- $E$  is a point on  $BD$  such that  $CE$  is perpendicular to  $BD$ .
  - Find  $BD$  and  $CE$  in terms of  $a$ .
  - Using Pythagoras' theorem and its converse, show that  $HE$  is perpendicular to  $BD$ . Hence find the angle between the planes  $HBD$  and  $ABCD$  to the nearest degree.
- Figure (2) shows the planes  $HAD$  and  $ABCD$ .  $X$  is a point lying on both planes such that the angle between the two planes is  $\angle HXC$ . Find  $AX$  in terms of  $a$ .

## 14B.39 HKCEE AM 1998 – II – 13

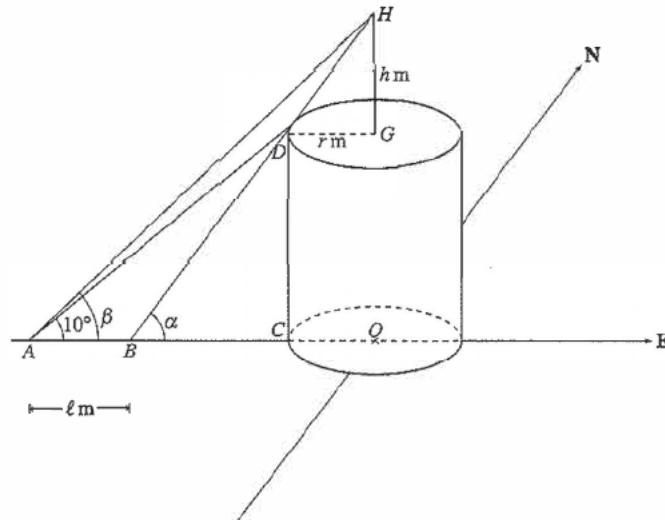


- Figure (1) shows a solid cube  $ABCDEFGH$  of side  $a$ . Let  $M$  be the mid point of  $BD$ .
  - Find  $CM$ .
  - Find the angle between the lines  $CM$  and  $HM$  to the nearest degree.
- The tetrahedron  $BCDH$  is cut off from the cube in (a) and is then placed on top of the solid  $ABDEFGH$  as shown in Figure (2). The face  $BCD$  of the tetrahedron coincides with the face  $BAD$  of the solid  $ABDEFGH$  such that vertex  $H$  of the tetrahedron moves to position  $V$  and vertex  $C$  coincides with  $A$ . The two faces  $BHD$  and  $BVD$  of the new solid lie on the same plane.
  - Show that  $\sin \angle FVH = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$  and find the perpendicular distance from  $F$  to the face  $BVDH$ .
  - Let  $N$  be the point on  $VB$  such that  $DN$  and  $AN$  are both perpendicular to  $VB$ .
    - Find  $DN$ .
    - Find the angle between the faces  $BVD$  and  $BVA$  to the nearest degree.
  - A student says that the angle between the faces  $BHD$  and  $ABGF$  is  $\angle AND$ . Explain briefly whether the student is correct.

#### 14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY

##### 14B.40 HKCEE AM 1999 – II – 11

The figure shows a right cylindrical tower with a radius of  $r$  m standing on horizontal ground. A vertical pole  $HG$ ,  $hm$  in height, stands at the centre  $G$  of the roof of the tower. Let  $O$  be the centre of the base of the tower.  $C$  is a point on the circumference of the base of the tower due west of  $O$  and  $D$  is a point on the roof vertically above  $C$ . A man stands at a point  $A$  due west of  $O$ . The angles of elevation of  $D$  and  $H$  from  $A$  are  $10^\circ$  and  $\beta$  respectively. The man walks towards the east to a point  $B$  where he can just see the top of the pole  $H$  as shown in the figure. (Note: If he moves forward, he can no longer see the pole.) The angle of elevation of  $H$  from  $B$  is  $\alpha$ . Let  $AB = \ell$  m.



$$(a) \text{ Show that } AD = \frac{\ell \sin \alpha}{\sin(\alpha - 10^\circ)} \text{ m. Hence}$$

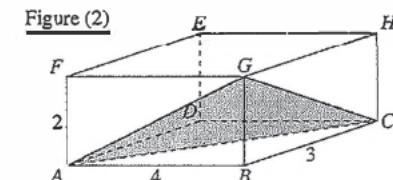
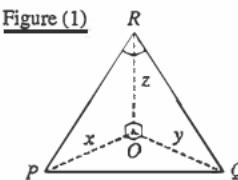
- (i) express  $CD$  in terms of  $\ell$  and  $\alpha$ ,
- (ii) show that  $h = \frac{\ell \sin^2 \alpha \sin(\beta - 10^\circ)}{\sin(\alpha - 10^\circ) \sin(\alpha - \beta)}$ . (Hint: You may consider  $\triangle ADH$ .)

(b) In this part, numerical answers should be given correct to two significant figures.

Suppose  $\alpha = 15^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 10.2^\circ$  and  $\ell = 97$ .

- (i) Find
  - (1) the height of the pole  $HG$ ,
  - (2) the height and radius of the tower.
- (ii)  $P$  is a point south-west of  $O$ . Another man standing at  $P$  can just see the top of the pole  $H$ . Find
  - (1) the distance of  $P$  from  $O$ ,
  - (2) the bearing of  $B$  from  $P$ .

##### 14B.41 HKCEE AM 2001 – 15



(a) Figure (1) shows a pyramid  $OPQR$ . The sides  $OP$ ,  $OQ$  and  $OR$  are of lengths  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  respectively, and they are mutually perpendicular to each other.

- (i) Express  $\cos \angle PRQ$  in terms of  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$ .

(ii) Let  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ ,  $S_3$  and  $S_4$  denote the areas of  $\triangle OPR$ ,  $\triangle OQP$ ,  $\triangle OQR$  and  $\triangle PQR$  respectively. Show that  $S_4^2 = S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^2$ .

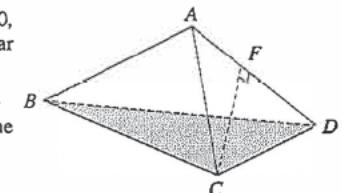
(b) Figure (2) shows a rectangular block  $ABCDEF GH$ . The lengths of sides  $AB$ ,  $BC$  and  $AF$  are 4, 3 and 2 respectively. A pyramid  $ABCG$  is cut from the block along the plane  $GAC$ .

- (i) Find the volume of the pyramid  $ABCG$ .

(ii) Find the angle between the side  $AB$  and the plane  $GAC$ , giving your answer correct to the nearest degree.

##### 14B.42 HKCEE AM 2002 – 17

The figure shows a tetrahedron  $ABCD$  such that  $AB = 28$ ,  $CD = 30$ ,  $AC = AD = 25$  and  $BC = BD = 40$ .  $F$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $C$  to  $AD$ .

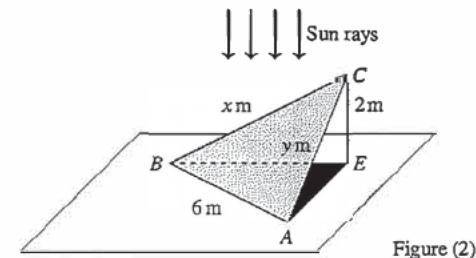
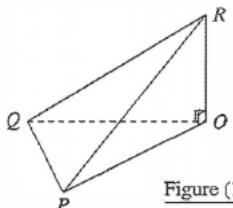


(a) Find  $\angle BFC$ , giving your answer correct to the nearest degree.

(b) A student says that  $\angle BFC$  represents the angle between the planes  $ACD$  and  $ABD$ .

Explain whether the student is correct or not.

##### 14B.43 HKCEE AM 2003 – 18



(a) Figure (1) shows a tetrahedron  $OPQR$  with  $RO$  perpendicular to the plane  $OPQ$ . Let  $\theta$  be the angle between the planes  $RPQ$  and  $OPQ$ . Show that  $\frac{\text{Area of } \triangle OPQ}{\text{Area of } \triangle RPQ} = \cos \theta$ .

(b) In Figure (2), a pole of length 2 m is erected vertically at a point  $E$  on the horizontal ground. A triangular board  $ABC$  of area  $12 \text{ m}^2$  is supported by the pole such that side  $AB$  touches the ground and vertex  $C$  is fastened to the top of the pole.  $AB = 6 \text{ m}$ ,  $BC = xm$  and  $CA = ym$ , where  $6 > x > y$ . The sun rays are vertical and cast a shadow of the board on the ground.

- (i) Find the area of the shadow.

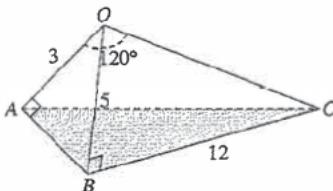
(ii) Two other ways of supporting the board with the pole are to fasten vertex  $A$  or  $B$  to the top of the pole with the opposite side touching the ground. Among these three ways determine which one will give the largest shadow.

14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY

14B.44 HKCEE AM 2004 – 11

In the figure,  $OABC$  is a pyramid such that  $OA = 3$ ,  $OB = 5$ ,  $BC = 12$ ,  $\angle AOC = 120^\circ$  and  $\angle OAB = \angle OBC = 90^\circ$ .

- Find  $AC$ .
- A student says that angle between the planes  $OBC$  and  $ABC$  can be represented by  $\angle OBA$ . Determine whether the student is correct or not.



14B.45 HKCEE AM 2006 – 17

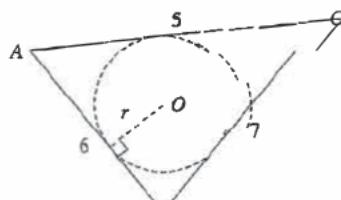


Figure (1)

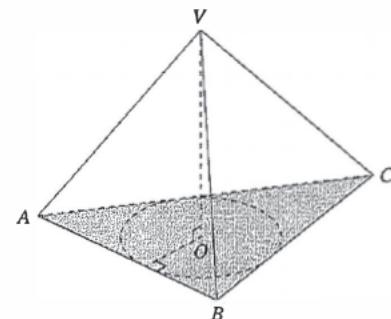


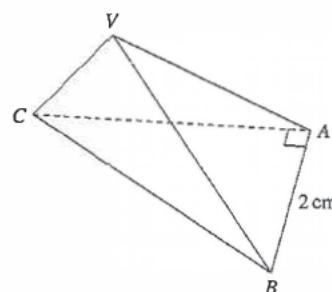
Figure (2)

- $ABC$  is a triangle with  $AB = 6$ ,  $BC = 7$  and  $CA = 5$ . A circle is inscribed in the triangle (see Figure (1)). Let  $O$  be the centre of the circle and  $r$  be its radius.
  - Find the area of  $\triangle ABC$ .
  - By considering the areas of  $\triangle AOB$ ,  $\triangle BOC$  and  $\triangle COA$ , show that  $r = \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3}$ .
- $VABC$  is a tetrahedron with the  $\triangle ABC$  described in (a) as the base (see Figure (2)). Furthermore, point  $O$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $V$  to the plane  $ABC$ . It is given that the angle between the planes  $VAB$  and  $ABC$  is  $60^\circ$ .
  - Find the volume of the tetrahedron  $VABC$ .
  - Find the area of  $\triangle VBC$ .
  - Find the angle between the side  $AB$  and the plane  $VBC$ , giving your answer correct to the nearest degree.

14B.46 HKCEE AM 2008 – 16

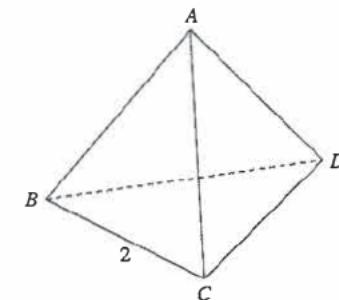
The figure shows a triangular pyramid  $VABC$ . The base of the pyramid is a right-angled triangle with  $AB = 2$  cm and  $\angle BAC = 90^\circ$ .  $\triangle VAB$  and  $\triangle VAC$  are equilateral triangles.

- Explain why the angle between the planes  $VAB$  and  $ABC$  cannot be represented by  $\angle VAC$ .
- Let  $D$  and  $E$  be the mid-points of  $AB$  and  $BC$  respectively.
  - Show that the angle between the planes  $VAB$  and  $ABC$  can be represented by  $\angle VDE$ .
  - Show that  $\angle VED = 90^\circ$ .
- Find the distance between the point  $C$  and the plane  $VAB$ .



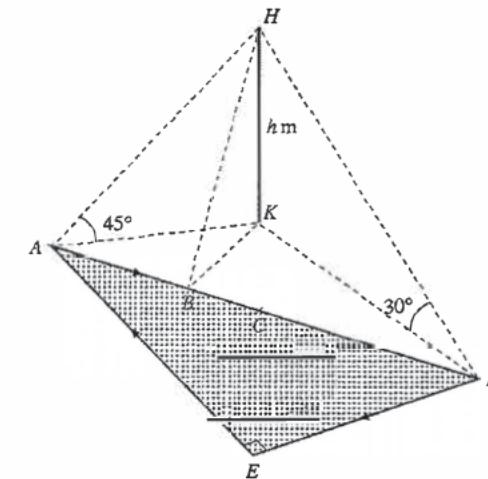
14B.47 HKCEE AM 2009 – 12

In the figure,  $ABCD$  is a regular tetrahedron with length of each side 2. Find the angle between the planes  $ABC$  and  $BCD$  correct to the nearest degree.



14B.48 HKCEE AM 2009 – 18

The figure shows a park  $AED$  on a horizontal ground. The park is in the form of a right-angled triangle surrounded by a walking path with negligible width. Henry walks along the path at a constant speed. He starts from point  $A$  at 7:00 am. He reaches points  $B$ ,  $C$  and  $D$  at 7:10 am, 7:15 am and 7:30 am respectively and returns to  $A$  via point  $E$ . The angles of elevation of  $H$ , the top of a tower outside the park, from  $A$  and  $D$  are  $45^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$  respectively. At point  $B$ , Henry is closest to the point  $K$  which is the projection of  $H$  on the ground. Let  $HK = h$  m.



- Express  $DK$  in terms of  $h$ .
- Show that  $AB = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}h$  m.
- Find the angle of elevation of  $H$  from  $C$  correct to the nearest degree.
- Henry returns to  $A$  at 8:10 am. It is known that the area of the park is  $9450 \text{ m}^2$ .
  - Find  $h$ .
  - A vertical pole of length 3 m is located such that it is equidistant from  $A$ ,  $D$  and  $E$ . Find the angle of elevation of  $H$  from the top of the pole correct to the nearest degree.

**14B.49 HKCEE AM 2010 – 17**

[Note: In this question, numerical answers may be given correct to 3 significant figures. You may use a ruler to tear off Figure (5) to help you if you attempt this question.]

Three faces of a tetrahedron (see Figure (4)) are formed by folding a triangular piece of paper  $ABC$ , where  $AB = AC = 11\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle BAC = 120^\circ$  and  $AD$  is an altitude (see Figure (1)), with the following steps.

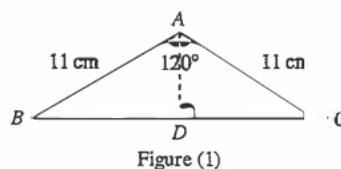


Figure (1)

Step 1: Fold  $AB$  over so that  $AB$  coincides with  $AD$ , then crease line  $AE$  (see Figure (2)).

(a) Calculate the length of  $AE$  and the area of  $\triangle ABE$ .

Step 2: Fold  $AC$  over so that  $AC$  coincides with  $AE$ , then crease line  $AF$  (see Figure (3)).

(b) Calculate the length of  $AF$ .

Step 3: Unfold the paper. Then fold the paper along  $AE$  and  $AF$  such that  $AB$  coincides with  $AC$  completely (see Figure (4)).

(c) It is known that the volume of the tetrahedron is  $22.582\text{ cm}^3$  (correct to 5 significant figures).

- (i) Find the angle between the line  $AF$  and the plane  $\triangle ABE$  in the tetrahedron.
- (ii) Find the angle between the planes  $\triangle ABE$  and  $\triangle ABF$  in the tetrahedron.

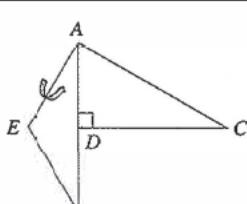


Figure (2)

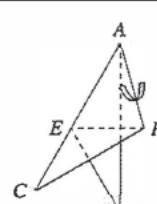


Figure (3)

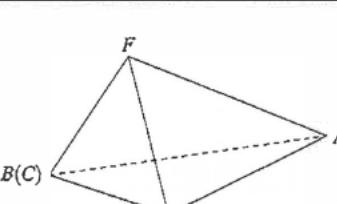


Figure (4)

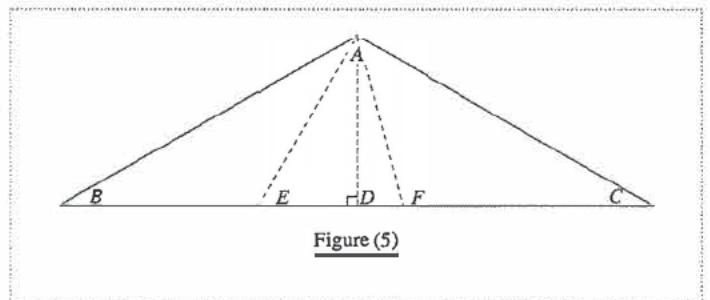


Figure (5)

**14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY**

**14B.50 HKCEE AM 2011 – 13**

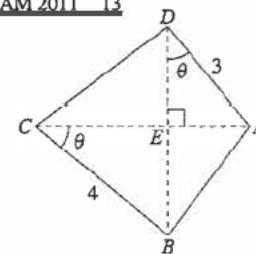


Figure (1)

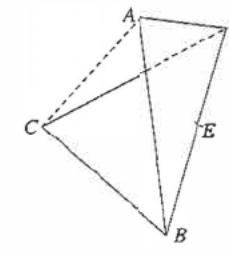


Figure (2)

In Figure (1),  $ABCD$  is a quadrilateral with diagonals  $AC$  and  $BD$  perpendicular to each other and intersecting at  $E$ . It is given that  $AD = 3$ ,  $BC = 4$  and  $\angle ADE = \angle BCE = \theta$ , where  $0^\circ < \theta < 90^\circ$ .

- (a) (i) Show that  $AB = 5\sin\theta$ .
- (ii) Express  $CD$  in terms of  $\theta$ .
- (b) The quadrilateral is folded along  $BD$  as shown in Figure (2). Let the planes  $ABD$  and  $BCD$  be  $\Pi_1$  and  $\Pi_2$  respectively. Let  $\angle ABC = \alpha$ . It is given that  
the angle between the lines  $AB$  and  $BC$       the angle between the planes  $\Pi_1$  and  $\Pi_2$ .  
$$\frac{4\sin\theta}{5 - 3\cos\theta}$$
- (i) By considering the length of  $AC$ , show that  $\cos\alpha = \frac{4\sin\theta}{5 - 3\cos\theta}$ .
- (ii) Prove that  $\alpha$  is acute.
- (iii) Furthermore, it is given that  
the angle between the line  $AB$  and  $\Pi_2$  = the angle between the line  $AD$  and  $\Pi_2$ .  
State with reason whether the angle between the line  $AC$  and  $\Pi_2$  is greater than, less than or equal to the angle between the line  $AB$  and  $\Pi_2$ .

**14B.51 HKDSE MA SP – I – 18**

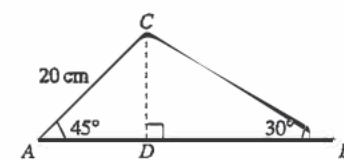


Figure (1)

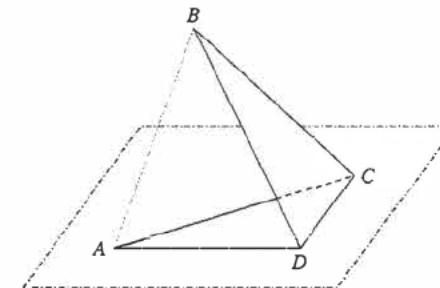


Figure (2)

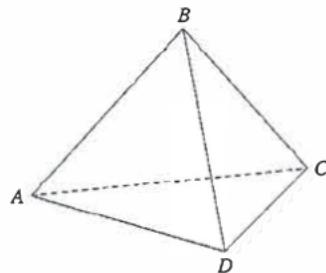
In Figure (1),  $ABC$  is a triangular paper card.  $D$  is a point lying on  $AB$  such that  $CD$  is perpendicular to  $AB$ . It is given that  $AC = 20\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle CAD = 45^\circ$  and  $\angle CBD = 30^\circ$ .

- (a) Find, in surd form,  $BC$  and  $BD$ .
- (b) The triangular paper card in Figure (1) is folded along  $CD$  such that  $\triangle ACD$  lies on the horizontal plane as shown in Figure (2).
  - (i) If the distance between  $A$  and  $B$  is  $18\text{ cm}$ , find the angle between the plane  $BCD$  and the horizontal plane.
  - (ii) Describe how the volume of the tetrahedron  $ABCD$  varies when  $\angle ADB$  increases from  $40^\circ$  to  $140^\circ$ . Explain your answer.

## 14B.52 HKDSE MA PP I-18

The figure shows a geometric model  $ABCD$  in the form of a tetrahedron. It is found that  $\angle ACB = 60^\circ$ ,  $AC = AD = 20\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = BD = 12\text{ cm}$  and  $CD = 14\text{ cm}$ .

- Find the length of  $AB$ .
- Find the angle between the plane  $ABC$  and the plane  $ABD$ .
- Let  $P$  be a movable point on the slant edge  $AB$ . Describe how  $\angle CPD$  varies as  $P$  moves from  $A$  to  $B$ . Explain your answer.



## 14B.53 HKDSE MA 2012 I-18

Figure (1) shows a right pyramid  $VABCD$  with a square base, where  $\angle VAB = 72^\circ$ . The length of a side of the base is 20 cm. Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be the points lying on  $VA$  and  $VD$  respectively such that  $PQ$  is parallel to  $BC$  and  $\angle PBA = 60^\circ$ . A geometric model is made by cutting off the pyramid  $VPBCQ$  from  $VABCD$  as shown in Figure (2).

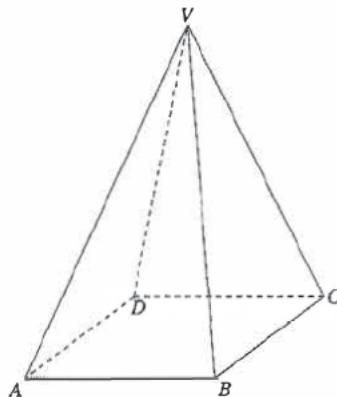


Figure (1)

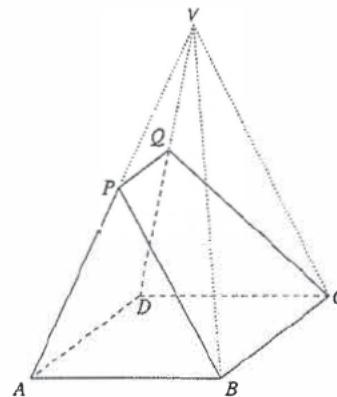


Figure (2)

- Find the length of  $AP$ .
- Let  $\alpha$  be the angle between the plane  $PBCQ$  and the base  $ABCD$ .
  - Find  $\alpha$ .
  - Let  $\beta$  be the angle between  $PB$  and the base  $ABCD$ . Which one of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is greater? Explain your answer.

## 14B.54 HKDSE MA 2013 – I – 18

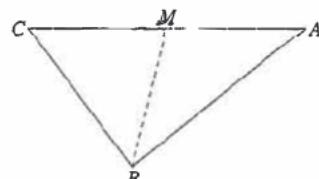


Figure (1)

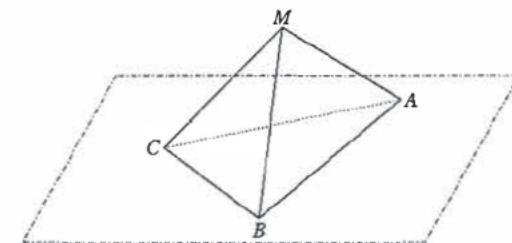


Figure (2)

- Figure (1) shows a piece of triangular paper card  $ABC$  with  $AB = 28\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 21\text{ cm}$  and  $AC = 35\text{ cm}$ . Let  $M$  be a point lying on  $AC$  such that  $\angle BMC = 75^\circ$ . Find
  - $\angle BCM$ ,
  - $CM$ .
- Peter folds the triangular paper card described in (a) along  $BM$  such that  $AB$  and  $BC$  lie on the horizontal ground as shown in Figure (2). It is given that  $\angle AMC = 107^\circ$ .
  - Find the distance between  $A$  and  $C$  on the horizontal ground.
  - Let  $N$  be a point lying on  $BC$  such that  $MN$  is perpendicular to  $BC$ . Peter claims that the angle between the face  $BCM$  and the horizontal ground is  $\angle ANM$ . Do you agree? Explain your answer.

## 14B.55 HKDSE MA 2014 I-17

Figure (1) shows a solid pyramid  $VABCD$  with a rectangular base, where  $AB = 18\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 10\text{ cm}$ ,  $VB = VC = 30\text{ cm}$  and  $\angle VAB = \angle VDC = 110^\circ$ .

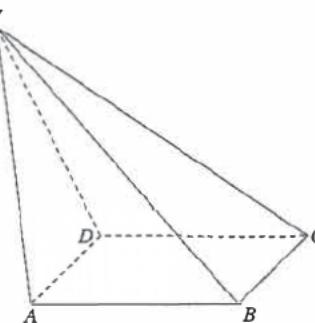


Figure (1)

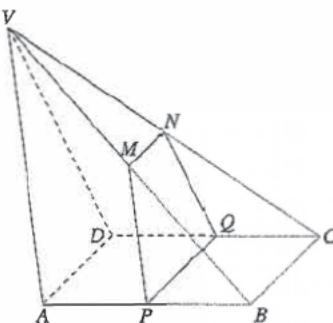


Figure (2)

- Find  $\angle VBA$ .
- $P$ ,  $Q$ ,  $M$  and  $N$  are the mid points of  $AB$ ,  $CD$ ,  $VB$  and  $VC$  respectively. A geometric model is made by cutting off  $PBCQNM$  from  $VABCD$  as shown in Figure (2). A craftsman claims that the area of the trapezium  $PQNM$  is less than  $70\text{ cm}^2$ . Do you agree? Explain your answer.

#### 14. APPLICATIONS OF TRIGONOMETRY

##### 14B.56 HKDSE MA 2015 – I – 19

In Figure (1),  $ABCDB'$  is a pentagonal paper card. It is given that  $AB = AB' = 40\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = B'D = 24\text{ cm}$  and  $\angle ABC = \angle AB'D = 80^\circ$ .

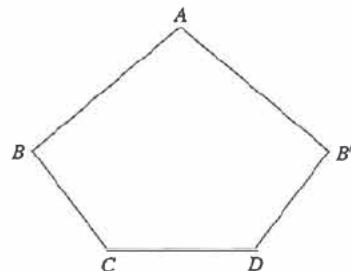


Figure (1)

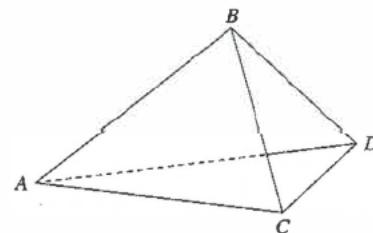


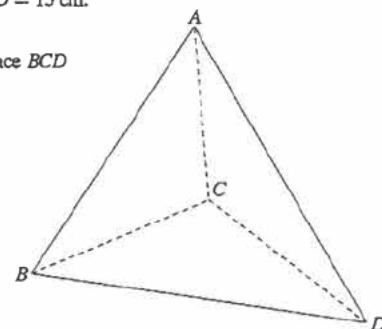
Figure (2)

- (a) Suppose that  $105^\circ \leq \angle BCD \leq 145^\circ$ .
  - (i) Find the distance between  $A$  and  $C$ .
  - (ii) Find  $\angle ACB$ .
  - (iii) Describe how the area of the paper card varies when  $\angle BCD$  increases from  $105^\circ$  to  $145^\circ$ . Explain your answer.
- (b) Suppose that  $\angle BCD = 132^\circ$ . The paper card in Figure (1) is folded along  $AC$  and  $AD$  such that  $AB$  and  $AB'$  join together to form a pyramid  $ABCD$  as shown in Figure (2). Find the volume of the pyramid  $ABCD$ .

##### 14B.57 HKDSE MA 2016 – I – 19

The figure shows a geometric model  $ABCD$  in the form of a tetrahedron. It is given that  $\angle BAD = 86^\circ$ ,  $\angle CBD = 43^\circ$ ,  $AB = 10\text{ cm}$ ,  $AC = 6\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 8\text{ cm}$  and  $BD = 15\text{ cm}$ .

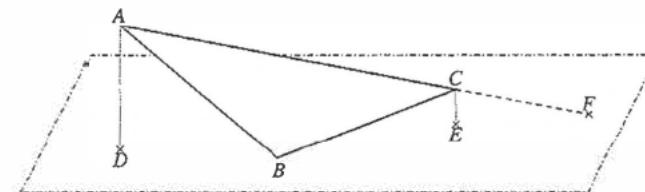
- (a) Find  $\angle ABD$  and  $CD$ .
- (b) A craftsman claims that the angle between  $AB$  and the face  $BCD$  is  $\angle ABC$ . Do you agree? Explain your answer.



##### 14B.58 HKDSE MA 2017 – I – 19

$ABC$  is a thin triangular metal sheet, where  $BC = 24\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle BAC = 30^\circ$  and  $\angle ACB = 42^\circ$ .

- (a) Find the length of  $AC$ .
- (b) In the figure, the thin metal sheet  $ABC$  is held such that only the vertex  $B$  lies on the horizontal ground.  $D$  and  $E$  are points lying on the horizontal ground vertically below the vertices  $A$  and  $C$  respectively.  $AC$  produced meets the horizontal ground at the point  $F$ . A craftsman finds that  $AD = 10\text{ cm}$  and  $CE = 2\text{ cm}$ .
  - (i) Find the distance between  $C$  and  $F$ .
  - (ii) Find the area of  $\triangle ABF$ .
  - (iii) Find the inclination of the thin metal sheet  $ABC$  to the horizontal ground.
  - (iv) The craftsman claims that the area of  $\triangle BDF$  is greater than  $460\text{ cm}^2$ . Do you agree? Explain your answer.



##### 14B.59 HKDSE MA 2018 – I – 17

- (a) In Figure (1),  $ABCD$  is a paper card in the shape of a parallelogram. It is given that  $AB = 60\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle ABD = 20^\circ$  and  $\angle BAD = 120^\circ$ . Find the length of  $AD$ .
- (b) The paper card in Figure (1) is folded along  $BD$  such that the distance between  $A$  and  $C$  is  $40\text{ cm}$  (see Figure (2)).
  - (i) Find  $\angle ABC$ .
  - (ii) Find the angle between the plane  $ABD$  and the plane  $BCD$ .

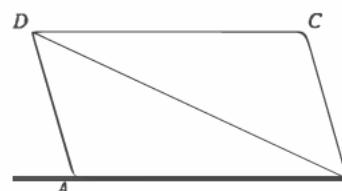


Figure (1)

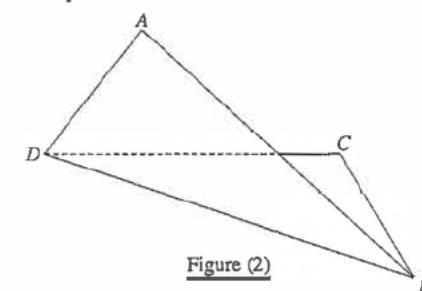


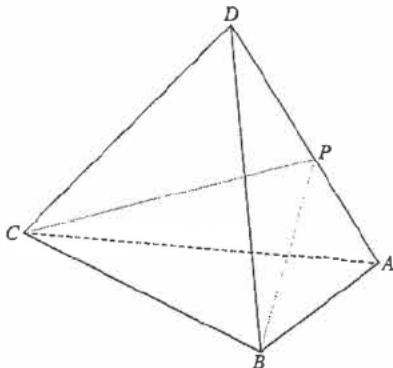
Figure (2)

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**14B.60 HKDSE MA 2019 I-18**

The figure shows a tetrahedron  $ABCD$ . Let  $P$  be a point lying on  $AD$  such that  $BP$  is perpendicular to  $AD$ . A craftsman finds that  $AC = AD = CD = 13\text{ cm}$ ,  $BC = 8\text{ cm}$ ,  $BD = 12\text{ cm}$  and  $\angle ABD = 72^\circ$ .

- (a) Find
- (i)  $\angle BAD$ ,
  - (ii)  $CP$ .
- (b) The craftsman claims that  $\angle BPC$  is the angle between the face  $ABD$  and the face  $ACD$ . Is the claim correct? Explain your answer.



**14B.61 HKDSE MA 2020 – I – 19**

$PQRS$  is a quadrilateral paper card, where  $PQ = 60\text{ cm}$ ,  $PS = 40\text{ cm}$ ,  $\angle PQR = 30^\circ$ ,  $\angle PRQ = 55^\circ$  and  $\angle QPS = 120^\circ$ . The paper card is held with  $QR$  lying on the horizontal ground as shown in Figure 3.

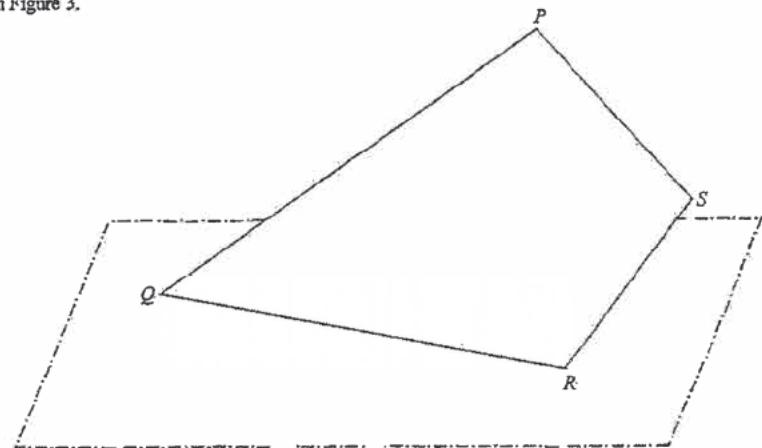


Figure 3

- (a) Find the length of  $RS$ . (3 marks)
- (b) Find the area of the paper card. (2 marks)
- (c) It is given that the angle between the paper card and the horizontal ground is  $32^\circ$ .
- (i) Find the shortest distance from  $P$  to the horizontal ground.
  - (ii) A student claims that the angle between  $RS$  and the horizontal ground is at most  $20^\circ$ . Is the claim correct? Explain your answer. (7 marks)

## 14 Applications of Trigonometry

### 14A Two-dimensional applications

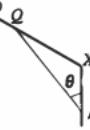
#### 14A.1 HKCEE MA 1981(2/3) – I – 11

(a) Distance at noon =  $\sqrt{24^2 + 9^2 - 2 \cdot 24 \cdot 9 \cos 60^\circ} = 21$  (km)

(b) At 4 p.m.,  
Distance travelled by  $P = 4.5 \times 4 = 18$  (km)  
 $\Rightarrow PX = 24 - 18 = 6$  (km)  
Distance travelled by  $Q = 6 \times 4 = 24$  (km)  
 $\Rightarrow QX = 24 - 9 = 15$  (km) [ $Q$  has gone past  $X$ .]  
 $\therefore$  Distance at 4 p.m. =  $\sqrt{6^2 + 15^2 - 2 \cdot 6 \cdot 15 \cos 60^\circ} = \sqrt{171} = 13.1$  (km, 3 s.f.)

(c)  $\theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{(\sqrt{171})^2 + 6^2 - 15^2}{2(\sqrt{171})(6)} = 96.59^\circ$

$\therefore$  Bearing =  $360^\circ - 96.59^\circ = 263^\circ$   
or N  $97^\circ W$  (nearest deg)



#### 14A.2 HKCEE MA 1982(3) – I – 2

$\angle A = \cos^{-1} \frac{4^2 + 5^2 - 7^2}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} = 102^\circ$  (nearest deg)

#### 14A.3 HKCEE MA 1985(A/B) – I – 13

(a)  $DE^2 = BD^2 + BE^2 - 2 \cdot BD \cdot BE \cos \angle B$   
=  $(2-x)^2 + x^2 - 2(2-x)(x) \cos 60^\circ$   
=  $3x^2 - 6x + 4$

(b) Area of  $\triangle DEF = \frac{1}{2} DE \cdot DE \sin 60^\circ$   
=  $\frac{1}{2} (3x^2 - 6x + 4) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$   
=  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} (3x^2 - 6x + 4)$   
=  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} \left(x^2 - 2x + \frac{4}{3}\right)$   
=  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} \left(x^2 - 2x + 1 + \frac{1}{3}\right)$   
=  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} (x-1)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$

$\therefore$  Minimum area is attained when  $x = 1$ .

(c)  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} (x-1)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} < \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$   
 $(x-1)^2 \leq \frac{1}{9}$   
 $\frac{-1}{3} \leq x-1 \leq \frac{1}{3} \Rightarrow \frac{2}{3} \leq x \leq \frac{4}{3}$

#### 14A.4 HKCEE MA 1989 – I – 6

(a)  $\angle ABD = \angle ACD = 60^\circ$  ( $\angle$ s in the same segment)  
 $\angle BAD = 180^\circ - (60^\circ + 40^\circ)$  (opp.  $\angle$ s, cyclic quad.)  
=  $80^\circ$

(b)  $\frac{BD}{\sin \angle BAD} = \frac{AD}{\sin \angle ABD}$   
 $BD = \frac{10 \sin 80^\circ}{\sin 60^\circ} = 11.37$  (cm, 2 d.p.)

#### 14A.5 HKCEE MA 1997 – I – 5

(a)  $AC = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = 5$   
(b)  $AD = \sqrt{5^2 + 6^2 - 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cos 60^\circ} = \sqrt{31} (= 5.57, 3 \text{ s.f.})$   
(c) Area =  $\frac{1}{2}(5)(6) \sin 60^\circ = \frac{15\sqrt{3}}{2} (= 13.0, 3 \text{ s.f.})$

#### 14A.6 HKCEE MA 2000 – I – 13

(a)  $\angle A = \angle ABC = \angle BCD$  (given)  
=  $(5-2)180^\circ \div 5$  ( $\angle$  sum of polygon)  
=  $108^\circ$   
 $\angle GCD = 90^\circ$  (property of square)  
 $\Rightarrow \angle BCG = 108^\circ - 90^\circ = 18^\circ$   
 $BC = CD = CG$  (given)  
 $\angle GBC = \angle BGC$  (base  $\angle$ s, isos.  $\triangle$ )  
In  $\triangle BCG$ ,  $\angle GBC = (180^\circ - \angle BCG) + 2$  ( $\angle$  sum of  $\triangle$ )  
=  $81^\circ$   
 $\angle ABP = 108^\circ - 81^\circ = 27^\circ$   
 $\angle APB = 180^\circ - \angle A - \angle ABP = 45^\circ$  ( $\angle$  sum of  $\triangle$ )  
(b)  $AP = \frac{\sin \angle ABP}{\sin \angle APB} AB = \frac{\sin 27^\circ}{\sin 45^\circ} AB = 0.642AB$   
 $PE = AB$   $AP = (1 - 0.642)AB = 0.358AB < AP$   
i.e.  $AP$  is longer.

#### 14A.7 HKCEE MA 2001 – I – 9

$\frac{AB}{\sin 50^\circ} = \frac{8}{\sin(180^\circ - 50^\circ - 70^\circ)}$   
 $\Rightarrow AB = 7.0764 = 7.08$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 $\therefore$  Area =  $\frac{1}{2}(8)(7.0764)\sin 70^\circ = 26.6$  (cm<sup>2</sup>, 3 s.f.)

### 14B Three-dimensional applications

#### 14B.1 HKCEE MA 1980(1/I\*3) – I – 9

(a) (i) In  $\triangle PAC$ ,  $x = \frac{h}{\tan \alpha}$   
(ii) In  $\triangle PBC$ ,  $y = \frac{h}{\tan \beta}$   
(b) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  
 $x^2 + 400^2 = y^2$   
 $\left(\frac{h}{\tan 60^\circ}\right)^2 + 160000 = \left(\frac{h}{\tan 30^\circ}\right)^2$   
 $\frac{h^2}{3} + 160000 = 3h^2$   
 $h^2 = 60000 \Rightarrow h = 245$  (3 s.f.)

#### 14B.2 HKCEE MA 1982(1/2/3) – I – 8

(a)  $8x + 4y + 9 = 69 \Rightarrow y = 15 - 2x$   
 $AC^2 = 9^2 - y^2 \Rightarrow 2x^2 = 81 - y^2$   
 $2x^2 = 81 - (15 - 2x)^2$   
 $x^2 - 10x + 24 = 0 \Rightarrow x = 4$  or  $6$   
When  $x = 4$ ,  $y = 15 - 2(4) = 7$   
When  $x = 6$ ,  $y = 15 - 2(6) = 3$

(b)  $\angle ABC = \cos^{-1} \frac{y}{9} = \cos^{-1} \frac{7}{9} = 39^\circ$  (nearest deg)

#### 14B.3 HKCEE MA 1983(A/B) – I – 13

(a) In  $\triangle ACH$ ,  $AC = \frac{50}{\tan 45^\circ} = 50$  (m)  
In  $\triangle BCH$ ,  $BC = \frac{50}{\tan 30^\circ} = 50\sqrt{3}$  (m)  
In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $AB = \sqrt{(50)^2 + (50\sqrt{3})^2} = 100$  (m)  
(b) (i)  $\frac{AC \cdot BC}{2} = \frac{CP \cdot AB}{2}$  (= Area of  $\triangle ABC$ )  
 $\Rightarrow CP = \frac{(50)(50\sqrt{3})}{100} = 25\sqrt{3} = 43.3$  (m, 3 s.f.)  
(ii) Required  $\angle = \angle HPC = \tan^{-1} \frac{HC}{CP} = 49^\circ$  (nearest deg)

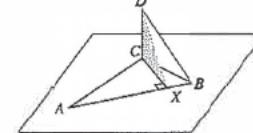
#### 14B.4 HKCEE MA 1984(A/B) – I – 13

(a) (i) In  $\triangle ACH$ ,  
 $HA = 20 \tan 15^\circ = 5.23898 = 5.36$  (m, 2 d.p.)  
(ii) In  $\triangle ABH$ ,  
 $AB = \frac{HA}{\tan 30^\circ} = 9.28203 = 9.28$  (m, 2 d.p.)  
(b) Given:  $\angle ABC = 90^\circ$  ( $\angle$  in semi-circle)  
(i)  $BC = \sqrt{AC^2 - AB^2} = 17.71564 = 17.72$  (m, 2 d.p.)  
(ii) Area =  $\frac{1}{2}AB \cdot BC = 82.22$  m<sup>2</sup> (2 d.p.)

#### 14B.5 HKCEE MA 1985(A/B) – I – 8

(a) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\frac{BC}{\sin 30^\circ} = \frac{100}{\sin(180^\circ - 30^\circ - 45^\circ)} = \frac{AC}{\sin 45^\circ}$   
 $\Rightarrow BC = 51.76381 = 51.8$  (m, 1 d.p.)  
 $AC = 73.20508 = 73.2$  (m, 1 d.p.)  
(b) (i) In  $\triangle BCD$ ,  $CD = BC \tan 25^\circ = 24.13789$   
=  $24.1$  (m, 1 d.p.)

(ii)



(1) In  $\triangle CXB$ ,  $CX = BC \sin 45^\circ = 36.60254$   
=  $36.6$  (m, 1 d.p.)

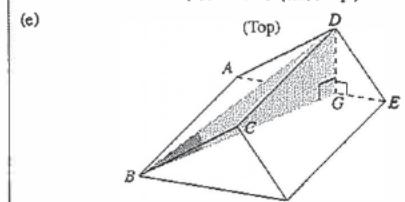
(2) Required  $\angle = \angle DXC$   
 $= \tan^{-1} \frac{CD}{CX} = 33^\circ$  (nearest deg)

#### 14B.6 HKCEE MA 1986(A/B) – I – 10

(a) In  $\triangle QRS$ ,  $\frac{QS}{\sin 35^\circ} = \frac{500}{\sin(180^\circ - 50^\circ - 35^\circ)}$   
 $\Rightarrow QS = 287.88370$  (m)  
In  $\triangle PQS$ ,  
Required distance =  $PS = QS \tan 15^\circ$   
=  $77.13821 = 77.1$  (m, 3 s.f.)  
(b) In  $\triangle QRS$ ,  $\frac{RS}{\sin 50^\circ} = \frac{500}{\sin 95^\circ} \Rightarrow RS = 384.48530$  (m)  
In  $\triangle PRS$ , Required  $\angle = \angle PRS = \tan^{-1} \frac{PS}{RS}$   
=  $11^\circ$  (nearest deg)

#### 14B.7 HKCEE MA 1987(A/B) – I – 11

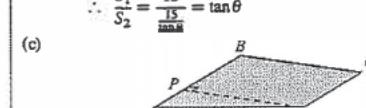
(a) In  $\triangle ADE$ ,  $AE = \sqrt{3^2 + 2^2 - 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cos 80^\circ} = 3.30397 = 3.304$  (cm, 3 d.p.)  
(b) In  $\triangle ADE$ ,  $\angle DAE = \cos^{-1} \frac{AE^2 + 2^2 - 3^2}{2 \cdot AE \cdot 3} = 36.59365^\circ = 36.594^\circ$  (3 d.p.)  
(c) In  $\triangle ADG$ ,  $DG = 3 \sin \angle DAE = 1.7884077 = 1.788$  (cm, 3 d.p.)  
(d) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $BD = \sqrt{3^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{18} = 4.243$  (cm, 3 d.p.)



Required  $\angle = \angle DBG = \sin^{-1} \frac{DG}{BD} = 24.931^\circ$  (3 d.p.)

#### 14B.8 HKCEE MA 1988 – I – 13

(a) In  $\triangle ABH$ ,  $HB = \frac{3}{\tan \theta}$   
In  $\triangle DCK$ ,  $KC = \frac{2}{\tan \theta}$   
(b) (i)  $S_1 = \frac{(2+3)(6)}{2} = 15$  (m<sup>2</sup>)  
(ii)  $S_2 = \frac{(\frac{3}{\tan \theta} + \frac{2}{\tan \theta})(6)}{2} = \frac{15}{\tan \theta}$  (m<sup>2</sup>)  
 $\therefore \frac{S_1}{S_2} = \frac{15}{\frac{15}{\tan \theta}} = \tan \theta$



Let  $P$  be the foot of perpendicular from  $K$  to  $BH$ .  
 $PK = 6$  m,  $PH = \frac{3}{\tan 30^\circ} - \frac{2}{\tan 30^\circ} = \sqrt{3}$  (m)  
 $\therefore HK = \sqrt{PK^2 + PH^2} = \sqrt{39}$  (m)

**14B.9 HKCEE MA 1989 – I – 10**

- (a) In  $\triangle ABB'$ ,  $AB' = 10\cos 45^\circ = 5\sqrt{2}$  (m) (7.07 m, 3 s.f.)  
In  $\triangle ACC'$ ,  $AC' = 10\cos 30^\circ = 5\sqrt{3}$  (m) (8.66 m, 3 s.f.)  
(b) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $BC = \sqrt{10^2 + 10^2} = \sqrt{200}$  (m) (14.1 m, 3 s.f.)  
In  $\triangle ABB'$ ,  $BB' = 10\sin 45^\circ = 5\sqrt{2}$  (m) (7.07 m, 3 s.f.)  
In  $\triangle ACC'$ ,  $CC' = 10\sin 30^\circ = 5$  (m)

(c)



Let  $P$  be the foot of perpendicular from  $C$  to  $BB'$ .  
 $BP = BB' - CC' = 5(\sqrt{2} - 1)$  m  
 $B'C' = PC$   
 $= \sqrt{BC^2 - BP^2}$   
 $= \sqrt{200 - 25(\sqrt{2} - 1)^2}$   
 $= \sqrt{125 + 50\sqrt{2}}$  (m) (14.0 m, 3 s.f.)

(d) In  $\triangle AB'C'$ .

$$\angle B'AC' = \cos^{-1} \frac{AB'^2 + AC'^2 - B'C'^2}{2 \cdot AB' \cdot AC'} = \cos^{-1} \frac{(5\sqrt{2})^2 + (5\sqrt{3})^2 - (125 + 50\sqrt{2})}{2(5\sqrt{2})(5\sqrt{3})} = 125.2644^\circ = 125^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

Hence, Area =  $\frac{1}{2}(AB')(AC') \sin \angle B'AC' = 25$  (m<sup>2</sup>)

**14B.10 HKCEE MA 1990 – I – 10**

- (a)  $\angle TAO = 30^\circ$ ,  $\angle TBO = 60^\circ$   
In  $\triangle TOA$ ,  $OA = \frac{h}{\tan 30^\circ} = \sqrt{3}h$  (m)  
In  $\triangle TOB$ ,  $OB = \frac{h}{\tan 60^\circ} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{3}}$  (m)
- (b) In  $\triangle OAB$ ,  
 $AB = \sqrt{OA^2 + OB^2 - 2 \cdot OA \cdot OB \cos 20^\circ + 40^\circ} = \sqrt{\frac{10}{3}h^2 - h^2} = \sqrt{\frac{7}{3}}h$  (m)  
 $\therefore h = 500 \div \sqrt{\frac{7}{3}} = 327.3268 = 327$  (m, 3 s.f.)
- (c)  $\angle OAB = \cos^{-1} \frac{OA^2 + 500^2 - OB^2}{2 \cdot OA \cdot 500} = 19.1066^\circ = 19^\circ \text{ (nearest deg)}$   
(i)  $N(20^\circ + 19^\circ)E = N39^\circ E$   
(ii) S39°W

**14B.11 HKCEE MA 1992 – I – 15**

- (a) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $BD = \sqrt{3^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{18}$  (m)  
In  $\triangle BDE$ ,  $ED = \sqrt{BD^2 - BE^2} = \sqrt{14}$  (m)  
In  $\triangle ABE$ ,  $AE = \sqrt{AB^2 - BE^2} = \sqrt{5}$  (m)
- (b) In  $\triangle ADE$ ,  $\angle ADE = \cos^{-1} \frac{3^2 + 14 - 5}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot \sqrt{14}} = 36.69923^\circ = 36.7^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$
- (c) Required  $\angle = \angle BDE = \sin^{-1} \frac{BE}{BD} = 28.1255^\circ = 28.1^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$
- (d) In  $\triangle ADC$ ,  $\angle ADC = 2\angle ADE - 73.39845^\circ$   
 $AC = \sqrt{3^2 + 3^2 - 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cos 73.39845^\circ} = 3.58569$  (m)

Denote the intersection of the diagonals of the square  $ABCD$  by  $P$ . Since  $BD \perp AC$  at  $P$ , the required angle is  $\angle APC$  (in Figure (2)).

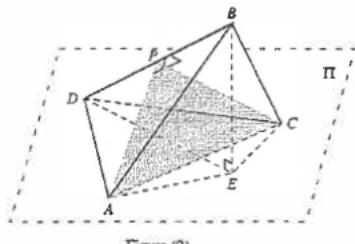


Figure (2)

$$AP = PC = \frac{1}{2}BD = \frac{\sqrt{18}}{2}$$

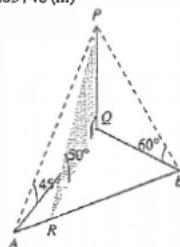
$$\angle APC = \cos^{-1} \frac{(\frac{\sqrt{18}}{2})^2 + (\frac{\sqrt{18}}{2})^2 - 3.58569^2}{2(\frac{\sqrt{18}}{2})(\frac{\sqrt{18}}{2})} = 115^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

**14B.12 HKCEE MA 1993 – I – 12**

- (a) (i) In  $\triangle APQ$ ,  $AQ = \frac{h}{\tan 45^\circ} = h$  (m)  
In  $\triangle BPQ$ ,  $BQ = \frac{h}{\tan 60^\circ} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{3}}$  (m)
- (ii) In  $\triangle ABQ$ ,  
 $100^2 = h^2 + \left(\frac{h}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 - 2(h)\left(\frac{h}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \cos 80^\circ$   
 $10000 = \left(\frac{4}{3} - \frac{2 \cos 80^\circ}{\sqrt{3}}\right)h^2$   
 $h = 93.954854 = 94.0$  (3 s.f.)
- $$\angle QAB = \cos^{-1} \frac{AQ^2 + 100^2 - BQ^2}{2 \cdot AQ \cdot 100} = 32.29019^\circ = 32.3^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

(b) In  $\triangle PQR$ ,  $QR = \frac{h}{\tan 50^\circ} = 78.83748$  (m)

(From  $A$  to  $B$ , the angle of elevation increases from  $45^\circ$  until it reaches the maximum. Supposing the max is reached at point  $M$ ,  $R$  must lie between  $A$  and  $R$  as the angle of elevation between  $M$  and  $B$  must be larger than  $60^\circ$ . Since  $\angle AMQ = 90^\circ$ ,  $\angle ARQ$  must be obtuse.)



**Method 1**

$$\text{In } \triangle AQR, \quad AQ^2 + AR^2 - 2 \cdot AQ \cdot AR \cos \angle QAB = QR^2$$

$$AR^2 = 158.8501AR + 2612.1658 \quad 0$$

$$AR = 140.22 \text{ (rej.) or } 18.6 \text{ (m, 3 s.f.)}$$

**Method 2**

$$\text{In } \triangle AQR, \quad \frac{\sin \angle ARQ}{AQ} = \frac{\sin \angle QAR}{QR}$$

$$\sin \angle ARQ = \frac{h \sin 32.29019^\circ}{\frac{h}{\tan 50^\circ}}$$

$$\angle ARQ = 39.54201^\circ \text{ (rej.) or } 140.45799^\circ$$

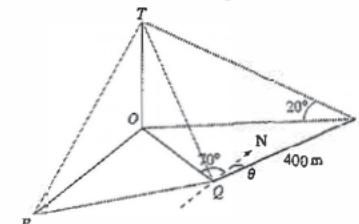
$$\Rightarrow \angle AQR = 180^\circ - 32.29019^\circ - 140.45799^\circ = 7.25182^\circ$$

$$\therefore AR = \frac{QR \sin \angle AQR}{\sin \angle QAR} = 18.6 \text{ (m, 3 s.f.)}$$

**14B.13 HKCEE MA 1994 – I – 14**

- (a) In  $\triangle OPQ$ ,  $\frac{OQ}{\sin 50^\circ} = \frac{500}{\sin 70^\circ} = \frac{OP}{\sin(180^\circ - 50^\circ - 70^\circ)}$   
 $\Rightarrow OQ = 407.60373 = 408$  (m, 3 s.f.)  
 $OP = 460.80249 = 461$  (m, 3 s.f.)
- (b) In  $\triangle OPT$ ,  $h = OP \tan 30^\circ = 266.04444 = 266$  (m, 3 s.f.)
- (c) In  $\triangle OQT$ . Required  $\angle = \angle OQT$   
 $= \tan^{-1} \frac{h}{OQ} = 33^\circ$  (nearest deg)

(d) (i)



As the height of  $\triangle A'B'C'$  with  $A'B'$  as base is also  $OD$ ,  
 $\text{Area of shadow} = \frac{A'B' \cdot OD}{2} = 0.352$  m<sup>2</sup> (3 s.f.)

(d) (ii) Let the angle of elevation be  $\theta$ .

$$\therefore A'B' = \frac{0.6}{\tan \theta}$$

$\theta < 30^\circ \Rightarrow \tan \theta < \tan 30^\circ \Rightarrow \frac{0.6}{\tan \theta} > \frac{0.6}{\tan 30^\circ}$   
Thus,  $A'B'$  will become longer.

(ii) Since the area of the shadow is  $\frac{A'B' \cdot OD}{2}$ , when the angle of elevation is smaller,  $A'B'$  is longer while  $OD$  is unchanged, the area of the shadow is larger.

**14B.15 HKCEE MA 1996 – I – 15**

- (a) In  $\triangle OBC$ ,  $BC = 1000 \cos 60^\circ = 500$  (m)  
In  $\triangle BCC'$ ,  $CC' = 500 \sin 30^\circ = 250$  (m)
- (b)  $OO' = CC' = 250$  m  
(i) In  $\triangle OO'B$ , Required  $\angle = \angle OBO'$   
 $= \sin^{-1} \frac{250}{1000} = 14.775^\circ = 14.75^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

(c) **Method 1 to find  $O'A$**

Denote the foot of perpendicular from  $D$  to the horizontal ground by  $D'$ .

$$\text{In } \triangle OO'B,$$

$$O'B = \sqrt{1000^2 - 250^2} = \sqrt{937500} \text{ (m)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle BCC',$$

$$BC' = 500 \cos 30^\circ = 250\sqrt{3}$$
 (m)

In  $\triangle O'BC'$ ,  $O'C' = \sqrt{O'B^2 - BC'^2} = \sqrt{750000}$  (m)

In  $\triangle AOO'$ ,  $AD' = BC' = 250\sqrt{3}$  (m)

$$D'O' = AB - O'C' = (2000 - \sqrt{750000}) \text{ m}$$

$$AO' = \sqrt{AD'^2 + D'O'^2} = \sqrt{4937500 - 4000\sqrt{750000}}$$
 m

**Method 2 to find  $O'A$**

$$\text{In } \triangle OOB', O'B = \sqrt{1000^2 - 250^2} = \sqrt{937500} \text{ (m)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle OBC, OC = 1000 \sin 60^\circ = 500\sqrt{3} \text{ (m)}$$

$$\Rightarrow O'C' = OC = 500\sqrt{3} \text{ m}$$

$$\therefore \cos \angle O'BA = \sin \angle O'BC' = \frac{O'C'}{O'B} = \frac{500\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{937500}} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{5}}$$

**In  $\triangle O'AB$ ,**

$$O'A = \sqrt{200^2 + 937500 - 2 \cdot 200 \cdot \sqrt{937500} \cos \angle O'BA}$$

$$= \sqrt{4937500 - 4000\sqrt{937500}} \sqrt{\frac{4}{5}}$$

$$= \sqrt{4937500 - 4000\sqrt{750000}}$$

**Hence...** In  $\triangle O'AT$ ,

$$AT = \sqrt{AO'^2 + OT^2} = \sqrt{4937500 + 4000\sqrt{750000} + (250 + 50)^2}$$

$$= 1250.3593 = 1250 \text{ (m, 3 s.f.)}$$

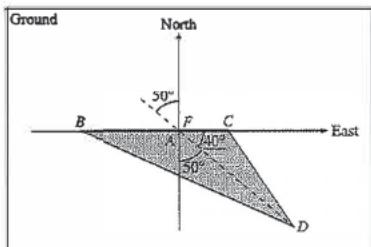
(d) Time for Rt I =  $\frac{1000}{0.3} + 60 = 3393$  (s)

$$\text{Time for Rt II} = \frac{2000}{0.8} + \frac{1250.3593}{3.2} = 2891 \text{ (s)} < 3393 \text{ (s)}$$

∴ Route II takes a shorter time.

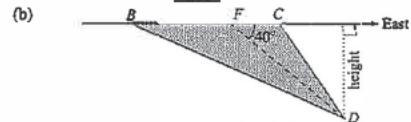
### 14B.16 HKCEE MA 1998 – I – 17

(The sun shining from N $50^\circ$ W is indicated in the diagram by  $\angle CFD = 40^\circ$ )



$$(a) \text{ In } \triangle ACF, AF = 4 \sin 72^\circ = 3.80423 = 3.80 \text{ (m, 3 s.f.)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ADF, FD = \frac{AF}{\tan 35^\circ} = 5.43300 = 5.43 \text{ (m, 3 s.f.)}$$



$$\text{Height of } \triangle DBC \text{ with } BC \text{ as base} = FD \sin 40^\circ = 3.49226 \text{ m}$$

$$\therefore \text{Area of shadow} = \frac{BC \cdot (FD \sin 40^\circ)}{2} = 10.5 \text{ (m}^2, 3 \text{ s.f.)}$$

$$(c) \text{ Area of shadow} = \frac{BC \cdot FD \sin(90^\circ - x^\circ)}{2} = \frac{BC \cdot FD}{2} \cos x^\circ$$

Since FD only depends on the angle of elevation (recall that  $FD = \frac{AF}{\tan(\text{angle of elvn})}$ ),

$$50 < x < 90 \Rightarrow \cos 50^\circ > \cos x^\circ > \cos 90^\circ$$

Hence the area becomes smaller.

### 14B.17 HKCEE MA 1999 – I – 18

$BD = DE = EF = FC = 6 \text{ cm}$

(a) *Method 1* to find  $AD$

$$\text{In } \triangle ABD, AD = \sqrt{24^2 + 6^2 - 2 \cdot 24 \cdot 6 \cos 60^\circ} = \sqrt{468} = 21.6 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$$

*Method 2* to find  $AD$

$$\text{In } \triangle ABE \text{ (before folding)}, AE = \sqrt{24^2 + 12^2} = \sqrt{432} \text{ (cm)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ADE, AD = \sqrt{432 + 6^2} = \sqrt{468} = 21.6 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$$

*Method 1*

$$\angle BDA = \cos^{-1} \frac{BD^2 + AD^2 - AB^2}{2 \cdot BD \cdot AD} = 106.10211^\circ$$

*In*  $\triangle BDC$  (after folding),

$$\angle BDC = 360^\circ - 2(106.10211^\circ) = 147.79577^\circ$$

$$BC = \sqrt{6^2 + 6^2 - 2 \cdot 6 \cdot 6 \cos 147.79577^\circ} = 11.52923 = 11.5 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$$

*Method 2*

$$\text{Area of } \triangle ABD = \frac{1}{2}(6)(24) \sin 60^\circ = 36\sqrt{3}$$

$$\text{Height of } \triangle ABD \text{ with base } AD = \frac{36\sqrt{3} \times 2}{AD} = \frac{72}{\sqrt{156}} \text{ (cm)}$$

$$\therefore BC = 2 \times \frac{72}{\sqrt{156}} = 11.52923 = 11.5 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$$

### Method 3

$$\text{In } \triangle ABD, \frac{\sin \angle BAD}{6} = \frac{\sin 60^\circ}{AD} \Rightarrow \angle BAD = 13.89789^\circ$$

$\therefore \angle BAC$  (after folding),

$$BC = \sqrt{24^2 + 24^2 - 2 \cdot 24 \cdot 24 \cos 27.79577^\circ} = 11.52923 = 11.5 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$$

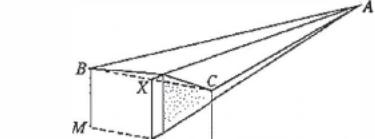
$$(b) \text{ Required } \angle = \angle DAE = \tan^{-1} \frac{DE}{AE} = \tan^{-1} \frac{6}{\sqrt{24^2 - 12^2}} = 16.10211^\circ = 16.1^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

Note: Normally we need to look for the line of intersection of the 2 planes to locate the dihedral angle. In this problem, however, the planes intersect at only a point, and we could only assume that the aeroplane is positioned symmetrically, and that  $AE$  is perpendicular to the line of intersection.



(c)  $BCNM$  is a rectangle. Suppose  $AD$  produced meets  $BC$  at  $X$  and  $AE$  produced meets  $MN$  at  $Y$  as shown.

Then  $BM = XY = CN$ .



$$\text{In } \triangle ABX, AX = \sqrt{AB^2 - \left(\frac{BC}{2}\right)^2} = 23.2974 \text{ cm}$$

$$\therefore \text{In } \triangle AXY, CN = XY = AX \sin \angle DAE = 6.46 \text{ cm (3 s.f.)}$$

### 14B.18 HKCEE MA 2000 – I – 17

$$(a) (i) AD = \frac{h}{\sin 30^\circ} = 2h \text{ (m)}$$

$$BD = \frac{h + OA}{\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{10 + h}{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}(10 + h) \text{ (m)}$$

$$(ii) \text{ In } \triangle OAB, AB = \sqrt{10^2 + 10^2} = \sqrt{200} \text{ (m)}$$

In  $\triangle ABD$ ,

$$AB^2 = AD^2 + BD^2 - 2AD \cdot BD \cos 30^\circ$$

$$200 = 4h^2 + \frac{4}{3}(10+h)^2 - 2 \cdot 2h \cdot \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}(10+h) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$200 = 4h^2 + \frac{4}{3}(100 + 20h + h^2) - 40h - 4h^2$$

$$0 = h^2 - 10h - 50$$

$$\frac{h^2 - 10h - 50}{2} = 0$$

$$= 5 + 5\sqrt{3} \text{ or } 5 - 5\sqrt{3} \text{ (rejected)}$$

$$= 13.66025 = 13.7 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

(b) Similar approach as (a))

$$AE = \frac{h}{\sin 25^\circ} = 32.32291 \text{ (m)}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{10^2 + 10^2 - 2 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 \cos 20^\circ} = 3.47296 \text{ (m)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\sin \angle ACE}{AE} = \frac{\sin 5^\circ}{AC}$$

$$\angle ACE = 54.2^\circ \text{ or } 126^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

### 14B.19 HKCEE MA 2001 – I – 16

(a) Area of  $BCDE = \Delta AFG - 2\Delta BCF - \Delta ABE$

$$5\sqrt{3} = \frac{(6+x)^2 \sin 60^\circ}{2} - x^2 \sin 60^\circ - \frac{(6)^2 \sin 60^\circ}{2}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} [(6+x)^2 - x^2 - 6^2]$$

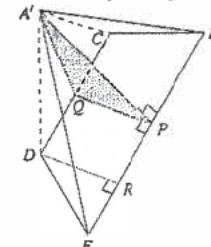
$$20 = 12x - x^2$$

$$0 = x^2 - 12x + 20$$

$$x = 10 \text{ (rejected) or 2}$$

$$(b) (i) \text{ In } \triangle A'DE, A'D = \sqrt{6^2 + 2^2 - 2 \cdot 6 \cdot 2 \cos 40^\circ} = 4.64919 = 4.65 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

(ii) Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be the mid-points of  $BE$  and  $CD$  respectively as shown. By symmetry,  $A'P \perp BE$  and  $QP \perp BE$ . Hence, the required angle is  $\angle A'PQ$ .



Let  $R$  be the foot of perpendicular from  $DE$  to  $BE$ . Then  $PQ = RD = x \sin 60^\circ = \sqrt{3} \text{ (cm)}$ .

In  $\triangle A'EP$ ,  $A'P = A'E \sin 60^\circ = 3\sqrt{3} \text{ (cm)}$

In  $\triangle A'DQ$ ,  $DQ = CD \div 2 = 2 \text{ cm}$

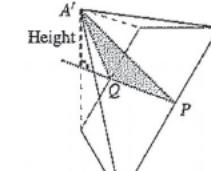
$$\Rightarrow A'Q = \sqrt{A'D^2 - DQ^2} = 4.19701 \text{ cm}$$

$$\therefore \text{In } \triangle A'PQ, \cos \angle A'PQ = \frac{PQ^2 + A'P^2 - A'Q^2}{2 \cdot PQ \cdot A'P}$$

$$= \cos^{-1} \frac{2 + 27 - 4.19701^2}{2 \cdot \sqrt{3} \cdot 3\sqrt{3}}$$

$$= 46.52332^\circ = 46.5^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

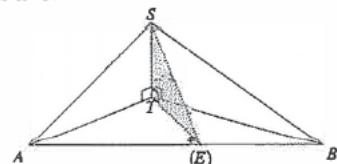
(iii)



$$\text{Height of pyramid} = A'P \cos \angle A'PQ = 3.77061 \text{ cm}$$

$$\therefore \text{Area} = \frac{1}{3} \times \sqrt{3} \times 3.77061 = 10.9 \text{ (cm}^3\text{)}$$

(b) (i) The shortest distance occurs when  $TE \perp AB$  and thus  $SE \perp AB$ .



### Method 1

$$\text{In } \triangle AET, ET = AT \sin 30^\circ = 211.3659 \text{ (m)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle EST, SE = \sqrt{ST^2 + ET^2} = 261.436 \\ = 261 \text{ (m, 3 s.f.)}$$

### Method 2

$$\text{In } \triangle AST, SA = \frac{h}{\sin 20^\circ} = 449.86172 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle BST, SB = \frac{h}{\sin 15^\circ} = 594.47623 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ABS, \angle SAB = \cos^{-1} \frac{SA^2 + AB^2 - SB^2}{2SA \cdot AB} = 35.5313^\circ$$

$$\therefore \text{In } \triangle SAE, SE = SA \sin \angle SAB = 261 \text{ m (3.s.f.)}$$

### Method 3

$$\text{In } \triangle AST, SA = \frac{h}{\sin 20^\circ} = 449.86172 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle BST, SB = \frac{h}{\sin 15^\circ} = 594.47623 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ABS, \text{ let } s = \frac{SA + SB + 900}{2} = 972.1690 \text{ m.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Area} = \sqrt{s(s - SA)(s - SB)(s - 900)} = 117646.36 \text{ (m}^2\text{)}$$

$$\therefore \text{Area} \times 2 = \frac{h}{AB} = 261 \text{ m (3 s.f.)}$$

$$(ii) \text{ At } E \text{ as in (b)(i), } \angle SET = \tan^{-1} \frac{ST}{ET} = 36.1^\circ.$$

From  $A$  to  $B$ ,  $\theta$  increases from  $20^\circ$  at  $A$  to  $36.1^\circ$  at  $E$  as in (b)(i), and then decreases to  $15^\circ$  at  $B$  (since  $SE$  is the 'line of greatest slope').

### 14B.21 HKCEE MA 2003 – I – 14

$$(a) \text{ In } \triangle OAC, \angle OAC = \cos^{-1} \frac{3^2 + 6^2 - 4^2}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 6} = 36.33606^\circ = 36.3^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

$$(b) (i) \text{ In } \triangle OBC, BC = 4 \tan 40^\circ = 3.35640 \text{ (m)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle OCD, CD = \frac{BC}{\tan 30^\circ} = \frac{3.35640}{\tan 30^\circ} = 5.81345 = 5.81 \text{ (m, 3 s.f.)}$$

$$(ii) \text{ In } \triangle ACD, \angle CAD = \cos^{-1} \frac{6^2 + 8^2 - CD^2}{2 \cdot 6 \cdot 8} = 46.39976^\circ = 46.4^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

$$(iii) \text{ In } \triangle ACE, \frac{CE}{\sin \angle OAC} = \frac{6}{\sin \theta} \Rightarrow CE = \frac{3.55152}{\sin \theta}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ADE, \frac{\sin(\angle CAD - \angle OAC)}{\sin(180^\circ - \theta)} = \frac{1.39794}{\sin \theta} \Rightarrow DE = \frac{1.39794}{\sin \theta}$$

$$\therefore \frac{CE + ED}{\sin \theta} = \frac{CD}{\sin \theta} \Rightarrow \frac{3.55152 + 1.39794}{\sin \theta} = \frac{5.81345}{\sin \theta}$$

$$\therefore \frac{4.95306}{\sin \theta} = 5.81345$$

$$\theta = 58.4^\circ \text{ or } 121.6^\circ \text{ (rejected)}$$

### 14B.20 HKCEE MA 2002 – I – 14

$$(a) \text{ In } \triangle AST, AT = \frac{h}{\tan 20^\circ}; \text{ In } \triangle BST, BT = \frac{h}{\tan 15^\circ}.$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ABT, \cos 30^\circ = \frac{AT^2 + AB^2 - BT^2}{2AT \cdot BT}$$

$$\frac{900\sqrt{3}h}{\tan 20^\circ} = \left(\frac{h}{\tan 20^\circ}\right)^2 + 900^2 - \left(\frac{h}{\tan 15^\circ}\right)^2$$

$$0 = 6.37957h^2 + 4282.8934h - 810000$$

$$h = 153.86177 \text{ or } -825 \text{ (rej)}$$

$$= 154 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

**14B.22 HKCEE MA 2004 – I – 17**

(a) (i) In  $\triangle EFF'$ ,  $FF' = 20 \sin 30^\circ = 10  

$$EF' = \frac{10}{\tan 30^\circ} = 10\sqrt{3}$$
 (m)  
 In  $\triangle AFF'$ ,  $AF' = \frac{10}{\tan 60^\circ} = \frac{10}{\sqrt{3}}$  (m)  
 In  $\triangle AEF'$ ,  $AE = \sqrt{AF'^2 + EF'^2}$   

$$= \sqrt{\frac{1000}{3}} = 18.3$$
 (m, 3 s.f.)  
 (ii) In  $\triangle AFF'$ ,  $AF = \frac{FF'}{\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{20}{\sqrt{3}}$  m  
 In  $\triangle AEF$ ,  $\angle AEF = \cos^{-1} \frac{AE^2 + EF^2 - AF^2}{2AE \cdot EF}$   

$$= \cos^{-1} \frac{1000/3 + 400 - 400}{2 \cdot \sqrt{1000/3} \cdot 20}$$
  
 $= 34.75634^\circ = 34.8^\circ$  (3 s.f.)$

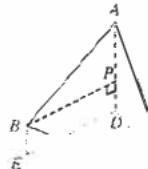
(b) In  $\triangle BEF$ ,  $\angle BEF = 180^\circ - 34.75634^\circ = 145.24366^\circ$   
 $\angle FBE = 34.75634^\circ - 20^\circ = 14.75634^\circ$   

$$\frac{20}{\sin 14.75634^\circ} = \frac{BE}{\sin 20^\circ} = \frac{BF}{\sin 145.24366^\circ}$$
  
 $\Rightarrow BE = 26.85576$  m,  $BF = 44.76385$  m  
 Time red car takes =  $BE \div 2 = 13.4$  s  
 Time yellow car takes =  $BF \div 3 = 14.9$  s > 13.4 s  
 ∴ NO.

**14B.23 HKCEE MA 2005 – I – 14**

(a) In  $\triangle BCE$ ,  $BE = 120 \sin 30^\circ = 60  
 $CE = 120 \cos 30^\circ = 60\sqrt{3} = 104$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 (b) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\angle C = 180^\circ - 80^\circ - 60^\circ = 40^\circ$   

$$\frac{120}{\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{AB}{\sin 40^\circ} = \frac{AC}{\sin 80^\circ}$$
  
 $\Rightarrow AB = 89.0673 = 89.1$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 $AC = 136.4590 = 136$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 (c) In  $\triangle ACD$ ,  $CD = \sqrt{AC^2 - AD^2} = 92.8496$  cm  
 In  $\triangle ABD$ , let  $P$  be on  $AD$  such that  $BP \perp AD$ .$



$DE = PB = \sqrt{AB^2 - (AD - BE)^2} = 79.5800$  cm  
 ∴ In  $\triangle CDE$ ,  $\angle CDE = \cos^{-1} \frac{CD^2 + DE^2 - CE^2}{2CD \cdot DE}$   
 $= 73.674^\circ$

Shortest distance from  $C$  to  $DE$   
 $= CQ$  in the figure  
 $= CD \sin \angle CDE = 89.1$  cm (3 s.f.)

**14B.24 HKCEE MA 2006 – I – 17**

(a) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\cos \angle BAC = \frac{40^2 + 90^2 - 60^2}{2 \cdot 40 \cdot 90} = \frac{61}{72}$   
 In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $AD = 40 \cos \angle BAD = \frac{305}{9}$  (cm)

(b) (i) (1)  $DC = 90 - \frac{305}{9} = \frac{505}{9}$  (cm)  
 In  $\triangle ACD$ ,  

$$\left(\frac{505}{9}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{305}{9}\right)^2 + AC^2 - 2\left(\frac{305}{9}\right)(AC) \cos 62^\circ$$

$$0 = AC^2 - 31.81974AC - 2000$$
 $AC = 63.37695$  or  $-31.6$  (rejected)  
 $63.4$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  

$$(2) \text{ Let } s = \frac{40+60+63.37695}{2} = 81.6885 \text{ (cm)}$$

$$\text{Area of } \triangle ABC = \sqrt{s(s-40)(s-60)(s-63.37695)}$$

$$= 1162.961 = 1160 \text{ (cm}^2, 3 \text{ s.f.)}$$

(3) For tetrahedron  $ABCD$ , note that  $BD$  is its height when  $\triangle ACD$  is its base.

$$\text{Area of } \triangle ACD = \frac{AD \cdot AC \sin 62^\circ}{2} = 948.186 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$\therefore \text{Required height} = \frac{3 \times \text{Volume of } ABCD}{\text{Area of } \triangle ACD \times BD}$$

$$= \frac{\text{Area of } \triangle ABC}{\text{Area of } \triangle ACD \times BD}$$

$$= \frac{948.186 \times \sqrt{40^2 - \left(\frac{305}{9}\right)^2}}{1162.961}$$
 $= 17.3$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

(ii) Volume of  $ABCD = \frac{1}{3}(\text{Area of } \triangle ACD)(BD)$   
 $= \frac{1}{3}AD \cdot DC \cdot BD \sin \angle ADC$

∴ Volume of  $ABCD \ll \sin \angle ADC$   
 Thus, when  $\angle ADC$  increases from  $30^\circ$  to  $150^\circ$ , the volume increases from  $\frac{1}{3}AD \cdot DC \cdot BD \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 6734$  cm $^3$  to  $\frac{1}{3}AD \cdot DC \cdot BD \cdot 1 = 13469$  cm $^3$  when  $\angle ADC = 90^\circ$ , and then decreases back to 6734 cm $^3$ .

**14B.25 HKCEE MA 2007 – I – 16**

(a) Let  $s = \frac{5+6+9}{2} = 10$  (cm)  
 Area of  $\triangle ABC = \sqrt{s(s-5)(s-6)(s-9)} = \sqrt{200} = 14.1$  (cm $^2$ , 3 s.f.)  
 Volume of souvenir  
 = Volume of prism + Volume of pyramid  
 $= \sqrt{200} \times 20 + \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{200} \times (23 - 20) = 21\sqrt{200} = 297$  (cm $^3$ , 3 s.f.)  
 (b) Let  $P$  be the point on  $CD$  such that plane  $PEF$  is parallel to plane  $ABC$  as shown.  $DP = 3$  cm,  $EF = AB = 9$  cm,  $FP = BC = 5$  cm,  $EP = AC = 6$  cm  
 In  $\triangle DFP$ ,  $DF = \sqrt{3^2 + 5^2} = \sqrt{34}$  (cm)  
 In  $\triangle DEP$ ,  $DE = \sqrt{3^2 + 6^2} = \sqrt{45}$  (cm)  
 ∴ In  $\triangle DEF$ ,  $\angle DFE = \cos^{-1} \frac{DF^2 + EF^2 - DE^2}{2DF \cdot EF} = 48.16875^\circ = 48.2^\circ$  (3 s.f.)  
 Required distance =  $DF \sin \angle DFE = 4.3447 = 4.34$  cm (3 s.f.)

(c) Area of metal plane =  $4 \times 5 = 20$  (cm $^2$ )  
 Area of  $\triangle DEF = \frac{4.3447 \times 9}{2} = 19.6 < 20$  (cm $^2$ )  
 ∴ NO.

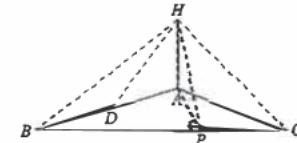
**14B.26 HKCEE MA 2008 – I – 15**

(a) In  $\triangle BDH$ ,  $\angle BDH = 50^\circ - 35^\circ = 15^\circ$   
 $\angle BDH = 180^\circ - 50^\circ = 130^\circ$   

$$\frac{BH}{\sin 130^\circ} = \frac{50}{\sin 15^\circ} \Rightarrow BH = 147.98842 = 148$$
 (m, 3 s.f.)

(b) (i) In  $\triangle BCH$ ,  $\angle CBH = \cos^{-1} \frac{BC^2 + BH^2 - CH^2}{2BC \cdot BH} = 37.81747^\circ = 37.8^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

(ii) In  $\triangle ABH$ ,  $AH = BH \sin 35^\circ = 84.88267$  m  
 Let  $P$  be on  $BC$  such that  $HP \perp BC$ . Then  $AP \perp BC$ .



In  $\triangle BHP$ ,  $HP = BH \sin \angle CBH = 90.73880$  m

In  $\triangle AHP$ , Required  $\angle = \angle HPA = \sin^{-1} \frac{AH}{HP} = 69.3^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

(iii) As the largest possible  $\angle$  of elevation is  $69.3^\circ < 75^\circ$ , it is impossible.

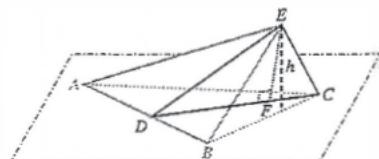
**Method 2 – Considering the projection of  $E$**

(If the student is correct, the projection of  $E$  on the ground would lie on  $CD$ .)

Let  $F$  be the projection of  $E$  onto  $CD$ .

$$EF = \frac{CD}{\frac{CE \times DE}{CD}} = \frac{CD}{\frac{7 \times \sqrt{22.30714^2 - 7^2}}{22.30714}} = 6.65 \neq 6.60 \text{ (cm)}$$

Hence, the projection of  $E$  onto the ground is not on  $CD$ , and thus the angle between  $DE$  and the ground is not the angle between  $DE$  and  $DC$ , i.e.  $\angle CDE$ . The student is disagreed.



(Remark: This diagram is for illustration only. In the real situation, the "h" is behind  $\triangle CDE$ , and would be too hard to visualise in the given diagram. But the key point is the same, that the dashed "h" is different from  $EF$  – in fact,  $h$  is shorter than  $EF$  since it is the shortest distance from  $E$  to the ground.)

**14B.27 HKCEE MA 2009 – I – 17**

(a) (i) In  $\triangle BCD$ ,  $CD = \sqrt{6^2 + 25^2 - 2 \cdot 6 \cdot 25 \cos 57^\circ} = 22.30714 = 22.3$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

(ii) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\frac{\sin \angle BAC}{25} = \frac{\sin 57^\circ}{28}$   
 $\angle BAC = 48.48766^\circ$  or  $131.5^\circ$  (rej.)  
 $= 48.5^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

(iii) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\angle ACB = 180^\circ - 48.48766^\circ - 57^\circ = 74.51234^\circ$

Area of  $\triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2}AC \cdot BC \sin 74.51234^\circ = 337.29079 = 337$  (cm $^2$ , 3 s.f.)

(iv) Since  $\triangle CDE \perp \triangle ABE$ , we have  $CE \perp \triangle ABE$ .

In  $\triangle BCE$ ,  $CE = \sqrt{BC^2 - BE^2} = 7$  cm

In  $\triangle ACE$ ,  $AE = \sqrt{AC^2 - CE^2} = \sqrt{735}$  cm

In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\frac{AB}{\sin 74.51234^\circ} = \frac{28}{57^\circ}$   
 $AB = 32.17385$  (cm)

Let  $s = \frac{AB + AE + BE}{2} = 41.64237$  cm

Area of  $\triangle ABE = \sqrt{s(s-AB)(s-AE)(s-BE)} = 317.9377$  (cm $^2$ )

Required dist =  $\frac{3 \times \text{Volume of } ABCE}{\text{Area of } \triangle ABC \times CE}$

$$= \frac{337.29079 \times 7}{317.9377} = 6.59835 = 6.60 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$$

(b) **Method 1 – Finding the angles explicitly**

In  $\triangle CDE$ ,  $\angle CDE = \sin^{-1} \frac{CE}{CD} = 18.29^\circ$

Denoting the distance from  $E$  to the ground (i.e. that found in (a)(iv)) by  $h$  cm and the angle between  $CE$  and the ground by  $\theta$ ,

$$\theta = \sin^{-1} \frac{h}{DE} = 18.15^\circ \neq 18.29^\circ$$

∴ NO.

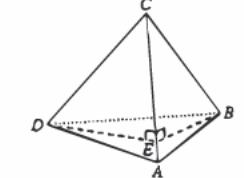
**14B.28 HKCEE MA 2010 – I – 15**

(a) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\angle CAB = 146^\circ = 2 \cdot 73^\circ$ ,  
 $\angle ACB = 180^\circ - 73^\circ - 59^\circ = 48^\circ$

$$\frac{AB}{\sin 48^\circ} = \frac{24}{\sin 73^\circ} \Rightarrow AB = 18.65041 = 18.7 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$$

(b) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $BD = \sqrt{AB^2 + AD^2 - 2 \cdot AB \cdot AD \cos 92^\circ} = 26.83196 = 26.8$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

(ii) Let the diagonals of the kite intersect at  $E$ . Then  $DE \perp AC$  and  $BE \perp AC$ .



In  $\triangle BCE$ ,  $BE = BC \sin \angle BCE = 17.83548$  (cm)

$DE = BE = 17.83548$  cm

In  $\triangle BDE$ , Required  $\angle = \angle BED = \cos^{-1} \frac{BE^2 + DE^2 - BD^2}{2BE \cdot DE} = 97.6^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

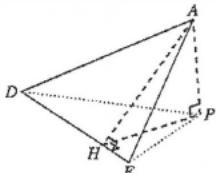
(iii) In  $\triangle BCD$ ,  $\angle BCD = \cos^{-1} \frac{BC^2 + CD^2 - BD^2}{2BC \cdot CD} = 68.0^\circ$

As  $P$  moves from  $A$  to  $E$ ,  $\angle BPD$  increases from  $92^\circ$  to  $97.6^\circ$ . As  $P$  moves from  $E$  to  $C$ ,  $\angle BPD$  decreases from  $97.6^\circ$  to  $68.0^\circ$ .

**14B.29 HKCEE MA 2011 – I – 17**

- (a) (i) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $BC = \sqrt{20^2 + 30^2 - 2 \cdot 20 \cdot 30 \cos 56^\circ} = 25.07924 = 25.1$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
(ii)  $\angle ACB - \cos^{-1} \frac{25.07924^2 + 30^2 - 20^2}{2 \cdot 25.07924 \cdot 30} = 41.38645^\circ = 41.4^\circ$  (3 s.f.)  
(iii) Required distance =  $AC \sin \angle ACB - 4 = 15.83403 = 15.8$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
(iv)  $\frac{DE}{BC} = \frac{\perp \text{ dist from } A \text{ to } DE}{\perp \text{ dist from } A \text{ to } BC}$   
 $DE = \frac{15.83403}{15.83403 + 4} \cdot 25.07924 = 20.0$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

- (b) (i) Let  $H$  be the point on  $DE$  such that  $AB \perp DE$  and  $PH \perp DE$ .



$$AH = 15.83403 \text{ cm}$$

$$PH = \frac{2 \times \text{Area of } \triangle PDE}{DE} = 11.98716 \text{ cm}$$

$$\therefore \text{Required } \angle = \angle AHP = \cos^{-1} \frac{PH}{AH} = 40.8^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

$$\text{(ii) Required distance} = AP = \sqrt{AH^2 - PH^2} = 10.3 \text{ cm (3 s.f.)}$$

**14B.30 HKCEE AM 1981 – II – 10**

- (a) In  $\triangle BEF$ ,  $\angle EBF = 60^\circ$   
 $FE^2 = k^2 + (rk)^2 - 2 \cdot k \cdot rk \cos 60^\circ = k^2 + r^2k^2 - rk^2 = (1 - r + r^2)k^2$   
 $FG^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}FH\right)^2 = \frac{1}{4}(HA^2 + FA^2) = \frac{1}{4}[2 \times (k - rk)^2] = \frac{(1-r)^2k^2}{2}$

- (b) In  $\triangle EFG$ ,  $EG = \sqrt{FE^2 - FG^2} = \sqrt{(1-r+r^2)k^2 - \frac{1-2r+r^2}{2}k^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1+r^2}{2}k}$   
In  $\triangle ACD$ ,  $AC^2 = AD^2 + DC^2 = 2k^2$   
 $AN^2 = \frac{1}{2^2}(2k^2) = \frac{1}{2}k^2$

- In  $\triangle AEN$ ,  $EN = \sqrt{AE^2 - AN^2} = \sqrt{k^2 - \frac{1}{2}k^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}k$   
 $\therefore \sin \theta = \frac{EN}{EG} = \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}k}{\sqrt{1+r^2}k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+r^2}}$

- (c) The inclination is  $\theta$ .  
 $0 < r < 1 \Rightarrow 1 < 1+r^2 < 2 \Rightarrow 1 > \sin \theta > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Rightarrow 90^\circ > \theta > 45^\circ$

Hence, when  $r$  varies from 0 to 1, the inclination decreases from  $90^\circ$  to  $45^\circ$ .

**14B.31 HKCEE AM 1983 – II – 8**

- $\angle CBF = \angle CFB = \theta$   
(a) In  $\triangle BCF$ ,  $BF = 2 \times BC \cos \theta = 2a \cos \theta$   
In  $\triangle FMN$ ,  $MF = x \cos \theta$   
 $\therefore$  In  $\triangle ABM$ ,  $AM = \sqrt{AB^2 + BM^2} = \sqrt{a^2(2a \cos \theta - x \cos \theta)^2} = \sqrt{a^2 + (2a - x)^2 \cos^2 \theta}$   
(b) In  $\triangle ABF$ ,  $AF = \sqrt{AB^2 + BF^2} = \sqrt{a^2 + (2a \cos \theta)^2} = \sqrt{(1+4 \cos^2 \theta)a^2}$   
 $\therefore$  In  $\triangle ANF$ ,  $AN = \sqrt{AF^2 - NF^2} = \sqrt{(1+4 \cos^2 \theta)a^2 - x^2}$   
(c) In  $\triangle FMN$ ,  $NM = x \sin \theta$   
In  $\triangle AMN$ ,  $AN^2 = AM^2 + NM^2 = (1+4 \cos^2 \theta)a^2 - x^2 = a^2 + (2a - x)^2 \cos^2 \theta + x^2 \sin^2 \theta = \underline{(1+4 \cos^2 \theta)a^2 - x^2} = \underline{a^2 + 4a^2 \cos^2 \theta - 4a x \cos^2 \theta + x^2 \cos^2 \theta + x^2 \sin^2 \theta}$   
 $4a x \cos^2 \theta = x^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + x^2$   
 $4a x \cos^2 \theta = 2x^2 \Rightarrow x = 2a \cos^2 \theta$   
(d)  $\frac{a}{2} = 2a \cos^2 \theta \Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \theta = 60^\circ$   
 $NM = x \sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}a$   
 $AM = \sqrt{a^2 + (2a - x)^2 \cos^2 \theta} = \sqrt{a^2 + \frac{9a^2}{4} - \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{5}{4}a$   
 $\therefore \text{Inclination} = \angle NAM = \tan^{-1} \frac{NM}{AM} = 19^\circ \text{ (nearest deg)}$

**14B.32 HKCEE AM 1991 – II – 6**

- (a) Let  $M$  and  $N$  be the mid-points of  $AB$  and  $CD$  respectively. Then  $PM \perp AB$  and  $PN \perp CD$ .

- In  $\triangle APM$ ,  $PM = AM \tan 60^\circ = 2\sqrt{3}$  cm  
In  $\triangle MNP$ ,  
Required  $\angle = \angle PMN = \cos^{-1} \frac{MN}{PM} = \cos^{-1} \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3}} = 54.7^\circ$  (nearest 0.1°)

- (b) Let  $K$  be on  $PA$  such that  $DK \perp PA$ . Then  $BK \perp PA$ .

- In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $BD = \sqrt{4^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{32}$  (cm)

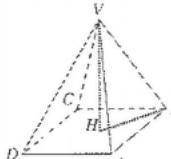
- In  $\triangle ADK$ ,  $DK = 4 \sin 60^\circ = 2\sqrt{3}$  (cm)  
Similarly,  $BK = 2\sqrt{3}$  cm

- In  $\triangle BDK$ ,  
Required  $\angle = \angle BDK$

$$= \cos^{-1} \frac{(2\sqrt{3})^2 + (2\sqrt{3})^2 - 32}{2 \cdot 2\sqrt{3} \cdot 2\sqrt{3}} = 109.5^\circ \text{ (nearest 0.1°)}$$

**14B.33 HKCEE AM 1992 – II – 7**

- (a) Let  $H$  be the projection of  $V$  onto  $ABCD$ .  
 $BH = \frac{1}{2}BD = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{6^2 + 6^2} = 3\sqrt{2}$  (cm)  
Required  $\angle = \angle VBH = \cos^{-1} \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{9} = 61.9^\circ$  (nearest 0.1°)



- (b) Let  $K$  be on  $VA$  such that  $BK \perp VA$ . Then  $DK \perp VA$ .

$$\angle VAB = \cos^{-1} \frac{AB}{VA} = 70.5288^\circ$$

$$DK = BK = AB \sin \angle VAB = 5.6569 \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{Required } \angle = \angle BKD = \cos^{-1} \frac{5.6569^2 + 5.6569^2 - (2 \cdot 3\sqrt{2})^2}{2 \cdot 5.6569 \cdot 5.6569} = 97.2^\circ \text{ (nearest 0.1°)}$$

**14B.34 HKCEE AM 1993 – II – 7**

- (a)  $\angle VBA = \cos^{-1} \frac{AB}{VB} = 75.52249^\circ = 75.5^\circ$  (3 s.f.)  
 $AD = AB \sin \angle VBA = 11.61895 = 11.6$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
(b)  $DC = AD = 11.61895$  cm  
Required  $\angle = \angle ADC = \cos^{-1} \frac{AD^2 + DC^2 - AC^2}{2AD \cdot DC} = 62.2^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

**14B.35 HKCEE AM 1994 – II – 12**

- (a) (i) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\frac{AC}{\sin \beta} = \frac{100}{\sin(180^\circ - \alpha - \beta)}$   
 $AC = \frac{100 \sin \beta}{\sin(\alpha + \beta)}$  (km)

- (ii) In  $\triangle ACP$ ,  $PC = AC \tan \theta = \frac{100 \sin \beta \tan \theta}{\sin(\alpha + \beta)}$  km

- (b) (i)  $AC = \frac{100 \sin 30^\circ}{\sin(45^\circ + 30^\circ)} = 51.76381 = 51.76$  (km, 2 d.p.)  
 $AC' = \frac{100 \sin 43^\circ}{\sin(37^\circ + 43^\circ)} = 69.25193 = 69.25$  (km, 2 d.p.)

- (ii)  $\angleCAC' = 45^\circ - 37^\circ = 8^\circ$   
In  $\triangle ACC'$ ,  $C'C = \sqrt{AC^2 + AC'^2 - 2AC \cdot AC' \cos 8^\circ} = 19.38059 = 19.38$  (km, 2 d.p.)

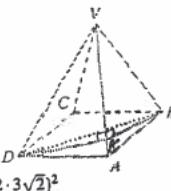
- (iii)  $PC = \frac{100 \sin 30^\circ \tan 20^\circ}{\sin(45^\circ + 30^\circ)} = 18.84049$  (km)  
 $P'C' = \frac{100 \sin 43^\circ \tan 17^\circ}{\sin(37^\circ + 43^\circ)} = 21.17244$  (km)

- ∴ Increase in height =  $P'C' - PC = 2.33195 = 2.33$  (km, 2 d.p.)

- (iv) Required  $\angle = \tan^{-1} \frac{2.33195}{19.38059} = 6.86^\circ$  (2 d.p.)

**14B.36 HKCEE AM 1995 – II – 7**

- (a)  $\angle PQU = (180^\circ - 42^\circ) \div 2 = 69^\circ$   
 $PU = 10 \sin 69^\circ = 9.33580 = 9.34$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 $\angle POR = 180^\circ (5 - 3) \div 5 = 108^\circ$   
 $PR = \sqrt{10^2 + 10^2 - 2 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 \cos 108^\circ} = 16.18034 = 16.2$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
(b) Required  $\angle = \angle PUR = \cos^{-1} \frac{PU^2 + RU^2 - PR^2}{2PU \cdot RU} = 120^\circ$  (3 s.f.)



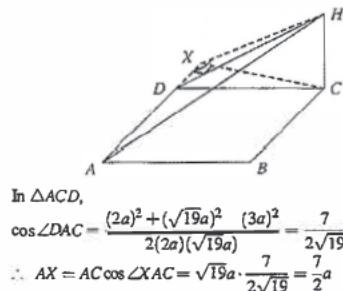
**14B.37 HKCEE AM 1996 – II – 12**

- (a)  $AD = AC \sin 30^\circ = 1$ ,  $DC = 2 \cos 30^\circ = \sqrt{3}$   
 $AB = \frac{AD}{\sin 45^\circ} = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $BD = \frac{AD}{\tan 45^\circ} = 1$   
(b) (i)  $E$  is the mid-pt of  $AB$  (since  $\triangle ABD$  is right-angled isosceles).  
 $\Rightarrow AE = DE = BE = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$   
 $\therefore \theta = \angle DCE$   
 $\Rightarrow \sin \theta = \frac{DE}{DC} = \frac{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{6}$   
(ii)  $CE = \sqrt{CD^2 - DE^2} = \sqrt{\frac{5}{2}}$   
Hence, in  $\triangle ACE$ ,  
 $\angle EAC = \cos^{-1} \frac{AE^2 + AC^2 - CE^2}{2AE \cdot AC} = 45^\circ$   
(iii) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $BC = \sqrt{2^2 + 2 - 2 \cdot 2 \cdot \sqrt{2} \cos 45^\circ} = \sqrt{2}$   
In  $\triangle BCD$ , since  $\angle ADC = \angle ADB = 90^\circ$ ,  
Required  $\angle = \angle CDB = \cos^{-1} \frac{3 + 1 - 2}{2(\sqrt{3})(1)} = 55^\circ$  (nearest degree)

**14B.38 HKCEE AM 1997 – II – 12**

- (a) (i) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $AC = \sqrt{AB^2 + BC^2 - 2AB \cdot BC \cos \angle ABC} = \sqrt{(3a)^2 + (2a)^2 - 2(3a)(2a) \cos 120^\circ} = \sqrt{9a^2 + 4a^2 + 6a^2} = \sqrt{19a^2}$   
(ii) Required  $\angle = \angle HMC = \tan^{-1} \frac{HC}{MC} = 25^\circ$  (nearest deg)  
(b) (i) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $BD = \sqrt{(3a)^2 + (2a)^2 - 2(3a)(2a) \cos 60^\circ} = \sqrt{7a^2}$   
Area of  $\triangle BCD = \frac{1}{2}(3a)(2a) \sin 60^\circ = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}a^2$   
 $\therefore CE = \frac{2 \cdot \text{Area of } \triangle BCD}{BD} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}a^2}{\sqrt{7}a} = \frac{3\sqrt{21}}{7}a$   
(ii) In  $\triangle BCE$ ,  $BE^2 = BC^2 - CE^2$   
In  $\triangle BCH$ ,  $BH^2 = BC^2 + HC^2$   
In  $\triangle CEH$ ,  $HE^2 = HC^2 + CE^2$   
 $\therefore HE^2 + BE^2 = (HC^2 + CE^2) + (BC^2 - CE^2) = HC^2 + BC^2 = BH^2$   
 $\therefore HE \perp BD$   
Hence, required  $\angle = \angle HEC = \tan^{-1} \frac{HC}{CE} = 27^\circ$  (nearest deg)

(c)  $X$  is on  $AD$  extended such that  $CX \perp AX$ .



#### 14B.39 HKCEE AM 1998 - II - 13

(a) (i)  $CM = \frac{1}{2}AC = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}a$   
(ii) Required  $\angle = \angle CMH = \tan^{-1} \frac{HC}{CM} = 55^\circ$  (nearest deg)

(b) (i)  $FH = \sqrt{2}a$ ,  $FV = 2a$   
In  $\triangle FVH$ ,  $HV = \sqrt{(\sqrt{2}a)^2 + (2a)^2} = \sqrt{6}a$   
 $\therefore \sin \angle FVH = \frac{FH}{HV} = \frac{\sqrt{2}a}{\sqrt{6}a} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$

Let the projection of  $F$  on  $BVHD$  be  $P$ .  
By symmetry,  $F$  lies on  $HV$  as shown.

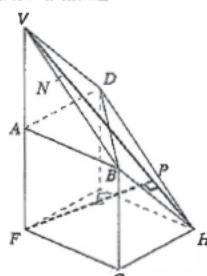
In  $\triangle FVP$ ,

Required distance

$$= FP$$

$$= FV \sin \angle FVP$$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}a$$



(ii) (1) Since  $VB = BD = DV = \sqrt{2}a$ ,  $\angle DV B = 60^\circ$ .  
 $\Rightarrow DN = \sqrt{2}a \sin 60^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}a$

(2) Method 1

$$\begin{aligned} AN &= AB \sin 45^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}a \\ \therefore \text{Required } \angle &= \angle AND \\ &= \cos^{-1} \frac{AN^2 + DN^2 - AD^2}{2AN \cdot DN} \\ &= \cos^{-1} \frac{\frac{1}{2}a^2 + \frac{3}{2}a^2 - a^2}{2 \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}a \cdot \frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}a} \\ &= 55^\circ \text{ (nearest degree)} \end{aligned}$$

Method 2

In fact, since  $AD$  is perpendicular to plane  $BVA$ , it is perpendicular to any line on plane  $BVA$ .

$\therefore$  Required  $\angle = \angle AND$

$$= \sin^{-1} \frac{AD}{DN} = 55^\circ \text{ (nearest deg)}$$

(iii)  $BHD$  and  $BVD$  is the same plane, and  $ABGF$  and  $BVA$  is also the same plane. Hence the required angle is the same one as in (b)(ii)(2).  $\therefore$  YES.

#### 14B.40 HKCEE AM 1999 - II - 11

(a) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $\frac{AD}{\sin(180^\circ - \alpha)} = \frac{\ell}{\sin(\alpha - 10^\circ)}$   
 $AD = \frac{\ell \sin \alpha}{\sin(\alpha - 10^\circ)}$  (m)

(i) In  $\triangle ACD$ ,  $CD = AD \sin 10^\circ = \frac{\ell \sin \alpha \sin 10^\circ}{\sin(\alpha - 10^\circ)}$  m

(ii) In  $\triangle ADH$ ,  $\frac{DH}{\sin(\beta - 10^\circ)} = \frac{AD}{\sin(\alpha - \beta)}$   
 $DH = \frac{\ell \sin \alpha \sin(\beta - 10^\circ)}{\sin(\alpha - 10^\circ) \sin(\alpha - \beta)}$  (m)

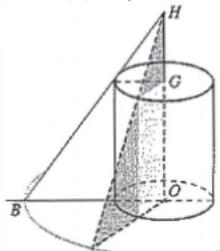
In  $\triangle DGH$ ,  $h = DH \sin \alpha$   
 $= \frac{\ell \sin^2 \alpha \sin(\beta - 10^\circ)}{\sin(\alpha - 10^\circ) \sin(\alpha - \beta)}$

(b) (i) (1)  $HG = \frac{97 \sin^2 15^\circ \sin 0.2^\circ}{\sin 5^\circ \sin 4.8^\circ}$   
 $= 3.11003 = 3.1$  (m, 2 s.f.)

(2) Height of tower =  $\frac{97 \sin 15^\circ}{\sin 5^\circ}$   
 $= 288.0527 = 290$  (m, 2 s.f.)

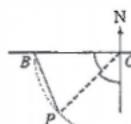
Radius of tower =  $DH \cos \alpha$   
 $= \frac{97 \sin 15^\circ \sin 0.2^\circ \cos 15^\circ}{\sin 5^\circ \sin 4.8^\circ}$   
 $= 11.60678 = 12$  (m, 2 s.f.)

(ii) (1)  $PO = BO = \frac{h + CD}{\tan \alpha}$   
 $= 963.476$   
 $= 960$  (m, 2 s.f.)



(2)  $\angle OBP = (180^\circ - 45^\circ) \div 2$   
 $= 67.5^\circ$

$\therefore$  Bearing of  $B$  from  $P$   
N(90° - 67.5°)W  
= N22.5°W



#### 14B.41 HKCEE AM 2001 - 15

(a) (i)  $PR^2 = x^2 + z^2$ ,  $PQ^2 = x^2 + y^2$ ,  $QR^2 = y^2 + z^2$   
 $\cos \angle PRQ = \frac{PR^2 + PQ^2 - PQ^2}{2PR \cdot PQ}$   
 $= \frac{(x^2 + z^2) + (y^2 + z^2) - (x^2 + y^2)}{2\sqrt{x^2 + z^2}\sqrt{y^2 + z^2}}$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{(x^2 + z^2)(y^2 + z^2)}}{z^2}$

(ii)  $S_1 = \frac{xz}{2}$ ,  $S_2 = \frac{xy}{2}$ ,  $S_3 = \frac{yz}{2}$   
 $\sin \angle PRQ = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \angle PRQ}$   
 $= \sqrt{1 - \frac{z^4}{(x^2 + z^2)(y^2 + z^2)}}$   
 $= \sqrt{\frac{x^2y^2 + x^2z^2 + y^2z^2 + z^4 - z^2}{(x^2 + z^2)(y^2 + z^2)}}$   
 $= \sqrt{\frac{x^2y^2 + x^2z^2 + y^2z^2}{(x^2 + z^2)(y^2 + z^2)}}$

(i)  $S_4 = \frac{1}{2}PR \cdot QR \sin \angle PRQ$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{x^2 + z^2}\sqrt{y^2 + z^2}\sqrt{\frac{x^2y^2 + x^2z^2 + y^2z^2}{(x^2 + z^2)(y^2 + z^2)}}$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3x^2y^2 + 3x^2z^2 + 3y^2z^2}$   
 $\Rightarrow S_4^2 = \frac{x^2y^2}{4} + \frac{x^2z^2}{4} + \frac{y^2z^2}{4} = S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^2$

(b) (i) Volume =  $\frac{1}{3} \times \left(\frac{4 \times 3}{2}\right) \times 2 = 4$

(ii) Height of pyramid with  $\triangle GAC$  as base

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{3 \times \text{Volume}}{\text{Area of } \triangle GAC} \\ &= \frac{3 \times 4}{3 \times 4} = \frac{12}{\sqrt{(\frac{4\sqrt{2}}{2})^2 + (\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{2})^2 + (\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{2})^2}} = \frac{12}{\sqrt{61}} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  Required  $\angle = \sin^{-1} \frac{\sqrt{61}}{AB} = 23^\circ$  (nearest degree)

#### 14B.42 HKCEE AM 2002 - 17

(a) Method 1 to find CF

$$\text{In } \triangle ACD, \cos \angle ADC = \frac{1}{2} \frac{CD}{AD} = \frac{3}{5} \text{ (since } \triangle ACD \text{ is isos.)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin \angle ADC = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\therefore CF = CD \sin \angle ADC = 24$$

Method 2 to find CF

$$\text{Area of } \triangle ACD = \frac{1}{2} \times 30 \times \sqrt{25^2 - (30 \div 2)^2} = 300$$

$$\therefore CF = \frac{2 \times \text{Area of } \triangle ACD}{AD} = \frac{2 \times 300}{25} = 24$$

Then...

$$\text{In } \triangle ACF, AF = \sqrt{AC^2 - CF^2} = 7$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ABD, \cos \angle BAD = \frac{28^2 + 25^2 - 40^2}{2 \cdot 28 \cdot 25} = \frac{-191}{1400}$$

$$\therefore \text{In } \triangle ABF, BF = \sqrt{28^2 + 7^2 - 2 \cdot 28 \cdot 7 \cos \angle BAD} = 886.48 = 29.77381$$

$$\therefore \text{In } \triangle BCF, \angle BFC = \cos^{-1} \frac{886.48 + 24^2 - 40^2}{2 \cdot \sqrt{886.48} \cdot 24} = 96^\circ \text{ (nearest degree)}$$

(b) Method 1

$$\begin{aligned} AB^2 &= 784 \\ AP^2 + BF^2 &= 935.48 \neq AB^2 \\ \therefore \angle AFB &\neq 90^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Method 2

$$\angle AFB = \cos^{-1} \frac{AF^2 + BF^2 - AB^2}{2AF \cdot BF} = 69^\circ \neq 90^\circ$$

Method 3

$$\cos \angle BAD = \frac{-191}{4000} < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \angle BAF > 90^\circ \Rightarrow \angle AFB < 90^\circ$$

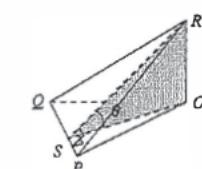
Hence

$BF$  is not perpendicular to  $AD$ .  
Thus,  $\angle BFC$  is not the dihedral angle.

#### 14B.43 HKCEE AM 2003 - 18

(a) Let  $S$  be on  $PQ$  such that  $RS \perp PQ$  and  $OS \perp PQ$ .  
Then  $\cos \theta = \frac{OS}{RS}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} &\therefore \frac{\text{Area of } \triangle OPQ}{\text{Area of } \triangle RPQ} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot OS \cdot PQ}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot RS \cdot PQ} \\ &= \frac{OS}{RS} \\ &= \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$



(b) (i) Let  $D$  be on  $AB$  such that  $CD \perp AB$  and  $ED \perp AB$ .  
 $CD = \frac{2 \times 12}{6} = 4$  (m)

$$\angle \text{between board and shadow} = \sin^{-1} \frac{2}{4} = 30^\circ$$

$$\text{By (a)(i), Area of shadow} = (\text{Area of board}) \cos 30^\circ = 12 \cos 30^\circ = 6\sqrt{3} \text{ (m}^2\text{)}$$

(ii)  $\because AC$  is the longest side  
 $\therefore$  Height of  $\triangle ABC$  from  $B$  to  $AC$  is the shortest.  
Area of shadow =  $(\text{Area of board}) \cos 30^\circ$   
Since  $\sin \phi = \frac{\text{Height of } \triangle ABC}{AC}$ ,  $\phi$  is the smallest (i.e.  $\cos \phi$  largest) when  $B$  is fastened to the pole.  
 $\therefore B$  fastened will give the largest shadow.

#### 14B.44 HKCEE AM 2004 - 11

(a) In  $\triangle OBC$ ,  $OC = \sqrt{5^2 + 12^2} = 13$   
In  $\triangle OAC$ ,  $AC = \sqrt{3^2 + 13^2} = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 13 \cos 120^\circ = \sqrt{217} (= 14.7, 3 \text{ s.f.})$

(b) In  $\triangle OAB$ ,  $AB = \sqrt{5^2 - 3^2} = 4$   
In  $\triangle ABC$ ,

Method 1  $AC^2 = 217$   
 $AB^2 + BC^2 = 4^2 + 12^2 = 160 \neq AC^2$   
 $\therefore \angle ABC \neq 90^\circ$

Method 2  $\angle ABC = \cos^{-1} \frac{4^2 + 12^2 - 217}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 12} = 126^\circ \neq 90^\circ$

Hence, the student is not correct.

**14B.45 HKCEE AM 2006 – 17**

(a) (i) Let  $s = \frac{5+6+7}{2} = 9$   
 Area =  $\sqrt{s(s-5)(s-6)(s-7)} = \sqrt{216} (= 14.7, 3 \text{ s.f.})$

(ii) Area of  $\triangle ABC = \triangle AOB + \triangle BOC + \triangle COA$   
 $\sqrt{216} = \frac{6r}{2} + \frac{7r}{2} + \frac{5r}{2}$   
 $r = \frac{\sqrt{216}}{9} = \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3}$

(b) (i)  $VO = r \tan 60^\circ = 2\sqrt{2}$   
 $\therefore \text{Volume of } VABC = \frac{1}{3} \times \sqrt{216} \times 2\sqrt{2} = 8\sqrt{3} (= 13.9, 3 \text{ s.f.})$

(ii) Height of  $\triangle VBC$  from  $V$  to  $BC = \sqrt{VO^2 + r^2} = \sqrt{\frac{32}{3}}$   
 $\therefore \text{Area of } \triangle VBC = \frac{1}{2} \times \sqrt{\frac{32}{3}} \times 7 = \frac{14\sqrt{6}}{3} (= 11.4, 3 \text{ s.f.})$

(iii) Height of pyramid from  $A$  to  $\triangle VBC$   
 $= \frac{3 \times \text{Volume of pyramid}}{\text{Area of } \triangle VBC} = \frac{3 \times 8\sqrt{3}}{\frac{14\sqrt{6}}{3}} = \frac{18\sqrt{2}}{7}$

$\therefore \text{Required } \angle = \sin^{-1} \frac{18\sqrt{2}}{6} = 37^\circ \text{ (nearest degree)}$

**14B.46 HKCEE AM 2008 – 16**

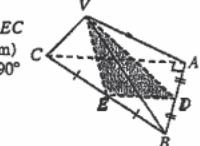
(a) Since  $VA$  is not perpendicular to  $AB$ ,  $\angle VAC$  is not the  $\angle$  between the planes.

(b) (i) Criterion 1:  $VD \perp AB$

$\because \triangle VAB$  is equilateral and  $BD = DA$   
 $\therefore VD \perp AB$  (property of isos.  $\triangle$ )

Criterion 2:  $ED \perp AB$

$\because BD = DA$  and  $BE = EC$   
 $\therefore DE//AC$  (mid-pt thm)  
 $\Rightarrow \angle EDB = \angle CAB = 90^\circ$   
 (corr.  $\angle$ s,  $DE//AC$ )



Hence, the  $\angle$  between  $VAB$  and  $ABC$  is  $\angle VDE$ .

(ii)  $VA = VB = VC = AC = 2 \text{ cm}$

$ED = \frac{1}{2}AC = 1 \text{ cm}$

$BC = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{8} \text{ (cm)}$

$VE = \sqrt{VB^2 - (BC+2)^2} = \sqrt{2} \text{ cm}$

$VD = \sqrt{VA^2 - (AB+2)^2} = \sqrt{3} \text{ cm}$

$\therefore VD^2 = 3$

$VE^2 + ED^2 = 2 + 1 = 3 = VD^2$

$\therefore \angle VED = 90^\circ$

(c) Area of  $\triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 2 = 2 \text{ (cm}^2)$

Volume of pyramid =  $\frac{1}{3} \times \text{Area of } \triangle ABC \times VE$   
 $= \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3} \text{ cm}^3$

Area of  $\triangle VAB = \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 2 \sin 60^\circ = \sqrt{3} \text{ (cm}^2)$

$\therefore \text{Required dist.} = \frac{\text{Area of } \triangle VAB}{\text{Area of } \triangle VAB}$   
 $= \frac{3 \times \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3} (= 1.63 \text{ cm}, 3 \text{ s.f.})$

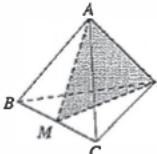
**14B.47 HKCEE AM 2009 – 12**

Let  $M$  be the mid-point of  $BC$ .  
 $AM = AC \sin \angle ACB = \sqrt{3}$

$DM = \sqrt{3}$

$\therefore \text{Required } \angle = \angle AMD$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \cos^{-1} \frac{3+3-2^2}{2 \cdot \sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{3}} \\ &= 71^\circ \text{ (nearest deg)} \end{aligned}$$



**14B.48 HKCEE AM 2009 – 18**

(a) In  $\triangle DHK$ ,  $DK = \frac{h}{\tan 30^\circ} = \sqrt{3}h \text{ (m)}$

(b) In  $\triangle AHK$ ,  $AK = \frac{h}{\tan 45^\circ} = h \text{ (m)}$

From the time taken,  $BD = 2AB$ .

Since  $B$  is the closest point on  $AD$  to  $K$ ,  $KB \perp AD$ .

In  $\triangle ABK$ ,  $BK^2 = AK^2 - AB^2$

In  $\triangle BDK$ ,  $BK^2 = DK^2 - BD^2 = 3h^2 - 4AB^2$

$\therefore h^2 - AB^2 = 3h^2 - 4AB^2$

$3AB^2 = 2h^2$

$AB = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}h \text{ (m)}$

(c)  $BC = \frac{1}{2}AB = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}h \text{ m}$

$BK = \sqrt{h^2 - AB^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}h \text{ m}$

In  $\triangle BCK$ ,  $CK = \sqrt{BK^2 + BC^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}h \text{ m}$

$\therefore \text{Required } \angle = \angle HCK = \tan^{-1} \frac{HK}{CK} = 55^\circ \text{ (nearest deg)}$

(d) (i)  $AD = 3AB = \sqrt{6}h \text{ m}$  (30 mins)

$AE + ED = 4AB = \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{3}h \text{ m}$  (40 mins)

$(AE + ED)^2 = \frac{32}{3}h^2$

$AE^2 + ED^2 + 2AE \cdot ED = \frac{32}{3}h^2$

$AD^2 + 2(9450 \times 2) = \frac{32}{3}h^2$

$6h^2 + 37800 = \frac{32}{3}h^2$

$h^2 = 8100 \Rightarrow h = 90$

(ii) The pole is to be located at the circumcentre of  $\triangle ADE$ .

Since it is a right-angled triangle, the circumcentre is the mid-point of its hypotenuse.

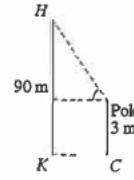
i.e. The pole is located at  $C$ .

$\therefore \text{Required } \angle \text{ of elevation}$

$= \tan^{-1} \frac{HK-3}{CK}$

$= \tan^{-1} \frac{87}{\sqrt{2}(90)}$

$= 54^\circ \text{ (nearest degree)}$



**14B.49 HKCEE AM 2010 – 17**

(a) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $AD = 11 \cos 60^\circ = 5.5 \text{ (cm)}$

In  $\triangle AED$ ,  $AE = \frac{AD}{\cos 30^\circ} = \frac{11}{\sqrt{3}} = 6.35 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$

$\therefore \text{Area of } \triangle ABE$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot 11 \cdot \frac{11}{\sqrt{3}} \sin 30^\circ \\ &= \frac{121}{4\sqrt{3}} \\ &= 17.5 \text{ (cm}^2, 3 \text{ s.f.)} \end{aligned}$$

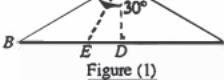


Figure (1)

(b)  $\angle FAC = (120^\circ - 30^\circ) \div 2$

$= 45^\circ$

$\angle ACF = (180^\circ - 120^\circ) \div 2$

$= 30^\circ$

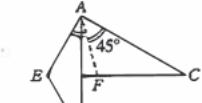
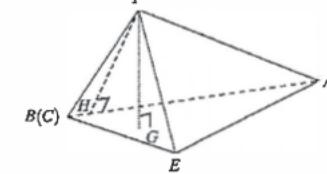


Figure (2)

In  $\triangle ACF$ ,  $\frac{AF}{\sin 30^\circ} = \frac{11}{\sin(180^\circ - 45^\circ - 30^\circ)}$

$AF = 5.69402 = 5.69 \text{ (cm, 3 s.f.)}$

(c)



(i) Let  $G$  be the projection of  $F$  onto  $\triangle ABE$ .

$FG = \frac{3 \times \text{Volume of tetrahedron}}{\text{Area of } \triangle ABE} = 3.87899 \text{ cm}$

$\therefore \text{Required } \angle = \angle FAG$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sin^{-1} \frac{3.87899}{AF} \\ &= 42.94060^\circ = 42.9^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)} \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Let  $H$  be the projection of  $F$  onto  $AB$ . Then, since  $GH$  is the projection of  $FH$  onto  $\triangle ABE$ , the required angle is  $\angle FHG$ .

In  $\triangle AFH$ ,  $FH = AF \sin \angle FAC = 4.02628 \text{ cm}$

$\therefore \text{Required } \angle = \angle FHG = \sin^{-1} \frac{FG}{FH} = 74.5^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$

**14B.50 HKCEE AM 2011 – 13**

(a) (i) In  $\triangle ADE$ ,  $AE = 3 \sin \theta$

In  $\triangle BCE$ ,  $BE = 4 \sin \theta$

$\therefore \text{In } \triangle ABE$ ,  $AB = \sqrt{AE^2 + BE^2} = 5 \sin \theta$

(ii)  $CD = \sqrt{DE^2 + CE^2} = \sqrt{(3 \cos \theta)^2 + (4 \cos \theta)^2} = 5 \cos \theta$

(b) (i) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2 - 2AB \cdot BC \cos \alpha$

$= 25 \sin^2 \theta + 16 - 40 \sin \theta \cos \alpha$

In  $\triangle AEC$ ,  $AC^2 = AE^2 + EC^2 - 2AE \cdot EC \cos \alpha$

$= 9 \sin^2 \theta + 16 \cos^2 \theta - 24 \sin \theta \cos \theta \cos \alpha$

$$\begin{aligned} &\therefore 25 \sin^2 \theta + 16 - 40 \sin \theta \cos \alpha \\ &= 9 \sin^2 \theta + 16 \cos^2 \theta - 24 \sin \theta \cos \theta \cos \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$16 \sin^2 \theta + 16(1 - \cos^2 \theta) = 8 \sin \theta (5 - 3 \cos \theta) \cos \alpha$

$32 \sin^2 \theta = 8 \sin \theta (5 - 3 \cos \theta) \cos \alpha$

$\cos \alpha = \frac{4 \sin \theta}{5 - 3 \cos \theta}$

(ii)  $\because \sin \theta > 0$  and  $5 - 3 \cos \theta \geq 2 > 0$

$\therefore \cos \alpha = \frac{4 \sin \theta}{5 - 3 \cos \theta} > 0 \Rightarrow \alpha$  is acute.

(iii) From the given info, since the distance between  $A$  and  $\Pi_2$  is the same,

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= AD \Rightarrow 5 \sin \theta = 3 \Rightarrow \sin \theta = \frac{3}{5} \\ &\Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{4}{\sqrt{16 - 9}} = \frac{4}{5} \end{aligned}$$

$AC = \sqrt{25 \sin^2 \theta + 16 - 40 \sin \theta \cos \alpha} = \sqrt{\frac{37}{13}} < 3 = AB$

Hence, the angle between  $AC$  and  $\Pi_2$  is greater than the angle between  $AB$  and  $\Pi_2$ .

**14B.51 HKDSE MA SP – I – 18**

(a) In  $\triangle ACD$ ,  $CD = 20 \sin 45^\circ = 10\sqrt{2} \text{ (cm)}$

$AD = 20 \cos 45^\circ = 10\sqrt{2} \text{ (cm)}$

In  $\triangle BCD$ ,  $BC = \frac{CD}{\sin 30^\circ} = 20\sqrt{2} \text{ cm}$

$BD = \frac{CD}{\tan 30^\circ} = 10\sqrt{6} \text{ cm}$

(b) (i) In  $\triangle ABD$ , Required  $\angle = \cos^{-1} \frac{AD^2 + BD^2 - AB^2}{2AD \cdot BD}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \cos^{-1} \frac{200 + 600 - 324}{2 \cdot 10\sqrt{2} \cdot 10\sqrt{6}} \\ &= 46.6032^\circ \\ &= 46.6^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)} \end{aligned}$$

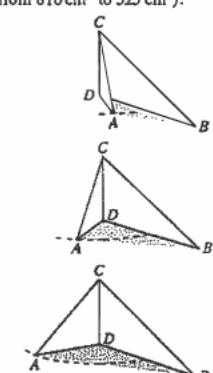
(ii)  $\because CD \perp AD$  and  $CD \perp BD$

$\therefore CD \perp \text{Plane } ABD$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Volume of } ABCD = \frac{1}{3} \times \text{Area of } \triangle ABD \times CD = \frac{1}{6}AD \cdot BD \cdot CD \sin \angle ADB$$

$\Rightarrow \text{Volume of } ABCD \propto \sin \angle ADB$

Hence, when  $\angle ADB$  increases from  $40^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ , the volume increases (from  $525 \text{ cm}^3$  to  $816 \text{ cm}^3$ ); when  $\angle ADB$  increases from  $90^\circ$  to  $140^\circ$ , the volume decreases (from  $816 \text{ cm}^3$  to  $525 \text{ cm}^3$ ).

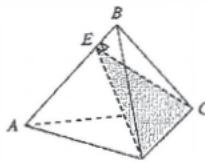


**14B.52 HKDSE MA PAPP—I—18**

- (a) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $AB = \sqrt{20^2 + 12^2 - 2 \cdot 20 \cdot 12 \cos 60^\circ} = \sqrt{304} = 17.4$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 (b) Let  $E$  be on  $AB$  such that  $CE \perp AB$ . Since  $\triangle ABC$  and  $\triangle ABD$  are congruent,  $DE \perp AB$  as well.

In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  

$$CE = \frac{2 \times \text{Area of } \triangle ABC}{AB} = \frac{2 \times \frac{1}{2} \cdot 12 \cdot 20 \sin 60^\circ}{\sqrt{304}} = 11.92079$$
 (cm)

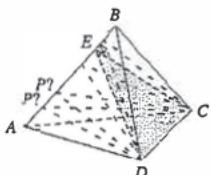


Required  $\angle = \angle CED$   

$$= \cos^{-1} \frac{CE^2 + DE^2 - CD^2}{2CE \cdot DE} = \cos^{-1} \frac{11.92079^2 + 11.92079^2 - 14^2}{2 \cdot 11.92079 \cdot 11.92079} = 71.9^\circ$$
 (3 s.f.)

(c)  $\angle CAD = \cos^{-1} \frac{20^2 + 12^2 - 14^2}{2 \cdot 20 \cdot 12} = 41.0^\circ$   
 $\angle CBD = \cos^{-1} \frac{12^2 + 12^2 - 14^2}{2 \cdot 12 \cdot 12} = 71.4^\circ$

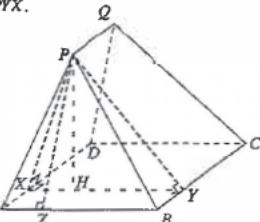
As  $P$  moves from  $A$  to  $B$ ,  $\angle CPD$  increases from  $41.0^\circ$  to  $\angle CED = 71.9^\circ$  at  $E$  and then decreases to  $71.4^\circ$ .



**14B.53 HKDSE MA 2012—I—18**

- (a) In  $\triangle ABP$ ,  $\angle APB = 180^\circ - 72^\circ - 60^\circ = 48^\circ$   

$$\frac{AP}{\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{20}{\sin 48^\circ} \Rightarrow AP = 23.30704 = 23.3$$
 (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 (b) Since the pyramid is square-based and right, all lateral faces are congruent. Thus, all their base angles are  $72^\circ$ . Let  $X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$  and  $H$  be the projections of  $P$  on  $AD$ ,  $BC$ ,  $AB$  and  $ABCD$  respectively. Then  $PXY$  is perpendicular to  $ABCD$ . (This is assumed by the symmetry without proof.)  $\alpha = \angle PYX$ .



(i) Method 1—Use  $\triangle PXY$  to find  $\alpha$

In  $\triangle ABP$ ,  $\frac{BP}{\sin 72^\circ} = \frac{20}{\sin 48^\circ} \Rightarrow BP = 25.595456$  (cm)

By the symmetry of the pyramid,  $PQCB$  and  $PQDA$  are isosceles trapeziums.

**14B.54 HKDSE MA 2013—I—18**

In  $\triangle APX$ ,  $PX = AP \sin 72^\circ = 22.166315$  cm  
 $AX = AP \cos 72^\circ = 7.202272$  cm  
 $\Rightarrow PQ = AD - 2AX = 5.595456$  cm  
 In  $\triangle BPY$ ,  $BY = AX = 7.202272$  cm  
 $PY = \sqrt{PB^2 - BY^2} = 24.561242$  cm  
 $\therefore$  In  $\triangle PXY$ ,  $XY = AB = 20$  cm  
 $\Rightarrow \alpha = \cos^{-1} \frac{XY^2 + PY^2 - PX^2}{2XY \cdot PY} = 58.6^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

Method 2—Use  $\triangle PHY$  to find  $\alpha$

In  $\triangle APZ$ ,  $AZ = AP \cos 72^\circ = 7.202272$  cm  
 $PZ = AP \sin 72^\circ = 22.166315$  cm  
 In  $\triangle APX$ ,  $AX = AP \cos 72^\circ = 7.202272$  cm  
 $\Rightarrow$  In  $\triangle PHZ$ ,  $HZ = AX = 7.202272$  cm  
 $PH = \sqrt{PZ^2 - HZ^2} = 20.963606$  cm  
 $\therefore$  In  $\triangle PHY$ ,  $HY = ZB = AB - AZ = 12.797728$  cm  
 $\alpha = \tan^{-1} \frac{PH}{HY} = 58.6^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

Method 3

In  $\triangle ABP$ ,  $\frac{AP}{\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{BP}{\sin 72^\circ} \Rightarrow AP = \frac{BP \sin 60^\circ}{\sin 72^\circ}$   
 In  $\triangle ABX$ ,  $AX = AP \cos 72^\circ$   
 $= \frac{BP \sin 60^\circ}{\sin 72^\circ} \cos 72^\circ$   
 $= \frac{BP \sin 60^\circ}{\tan 72^\circ}$   
 In  $\triangle BPZ$ ,  $BZ = BP \cos 60^\circ$   
 In  $\triangle PHY$ ,  $HY = BZ = BP \cos 60^\circ$   
 $PY = \frac{HY}{\cos \alpha} = \frac{BP \cos 60^\circ}{\cos \alpha}$   
 $\therefore$  In  $\triangle BPY$ ,  $BY = AX = \frac{BP \sin 60^\circ}{\tan 72^\circ}$   
 $BP^2 = BY^2 + PY^2$   
 $= \frac{BP^2 \sin^2 60^\circ}{\tan^2 72^\circ} + \frac{BP^2 \cos^2 60^\circ}{\cos^2 \alpha}$   
 $\cos^2 60^\circ = 1$   
 $\frac{\cos^2 \alpha}{\cos^2 \alpha} = \frac{\tan^2 72^\circ}{\tan^2 72^\circ}$   
 $\cos^2 60^\circ = \frac{\tan^2 72^\circ - \sin^2 60^\circ}{\tan^2 72^\circ \cos^2 60^\circ}$   
 $\cos \alpha = \sqrt{\frac{\tan^2 72^\circ \cos^2 60^\circ}{\tan^2 72^\circ - \sin^2 60^\circ}} \Rightarrow \alpha = 58.6^\circ$

Method 4

In  $\triangle ABP$ ,  $\frac{\tan 72^\circ}{\tan 60^\circ} = \frac{PL}{BL} = \frac{BL}{AL}$   
 Similarly, in  $\triangle PXY$ ,  $\frac{\tan \theta}{\tan \alpha} = \frac{YH}{BL} = \frac{BL}{AL} = \frac{\tan 72^\circ}{\tan 60^\circ}$   
 $\Rightarrow \tan \alpha = \frac{\tan 60^\circ}{\tan 72^\circ} \tan \theta$

In  $\triangle APZ$ ,  $AZ = AP \cos 72^\circ$   
 In  $\triangle APX$ ,  $PX = AP \sin 72^\circ$   
 In  $\triangle PHX$ ,  $HX = AZ = AP \cos 72^\circ$   
 $\therefore \cos \theta = \frac{HX}{PX} = \frac{AP \cos 72^\circ}{AP \sin 72^\circ} = \frac{1}{\tan 72^\circ}$   
 $\Rightarrow \tan \theta = \sqrt{\tan^2 72^\circ - 1}$

Hence,  $\tan \alpha = \frac{\tan 60^\circ}{\tan 72^\circ} \tan \theta$   
 $= \frac{\tan 60^\circ}{\tan 72^\circ} \sqrt{\tan^2 72^\circ - 1} \Rightarrow \alpha = 58.6^\circ$

(ii)  $\sin \alpha = \frac{PH}{PY}, \sin \beta = \frac{PH}{PB}$   
 $\therefore \frac{PY}{PB} < \frac{PB}{PY} \Rightarrow \sin \alpha > \sin \beta \Rightarrow \alpha > \beta$

**14B.55 HKDSE MA 2014—I—17**

(a) In  $\triangle VAB$ ,  $\frac{\sin \angle AVB}{18} = \frac{\sin 110^\circ}{30}$   
 $\angle AVB = 34.32008^\circ$  or  $145.7^\circ$  (rej.)  
 $\therefore \angle VBA = 180^\circ - 110^\circ = 34.32008^\circ$   
 $= 35.67992^\circ = 35.7^\circ$  (3 s.f.)  
 (b) In  $\triangle VAB$ ,  $V\bar{A} = \sqrt{18^2 + 30^2 - 2 \cdot 18 \cdot 30 \cos 35.67992^\circ} = 18.22161$  cm  
 In  $\triangle VBC$ ,  $\because VM = MB$  and  $VN = NC$   
 $\therefore MN = \frac{1}{2} BC = 5$  cm (mid-pt theorem)

Similarly,  $MP = \frac{1}{2} VA = 9.11081$  cm

Let the projection of  $M$  onto  $PQ$  be  $H$ .

In  $\triangle MPH$ ,  
 $PH = (PQ - MN) \div 2 = 2.5$  cm  
 $MH = \sqrt{MP^2 - PH^2} = 8.7611$  cm  
 $\therefore$  Area of  $PQMN = \frac{(5 + 10)(8.7611)}{2} = 65.7 < 70$  (cm<sup>2</sup>)

The craftsman is agreed.

**14B.56 HKDSE MA 2015—I—19**

- (a) (i) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $AC = \sqrt{40^2 + 24^2 - 2 \cdot 40 \cdot 24 \cos 80^\circ} = 42.92546 = 42.9$  (cm, 3 s.f.)  
 (ii)  $\frac{\sin \angle ACB}{40} = \frac{\sin 80^\circ}{42.92546}$   
 $\angle ACB = 66.59082^\circ$  or  $113^\circ$  (rej.)  $= 66.6^\circ$  (3 s.f.)  
 (iii) Note how the given information had fixed the areas of  $\triangle ABC$  and  $\triangle ABD$ . Hence, the only varying part of the paper card is  $\triangle ACD$ .

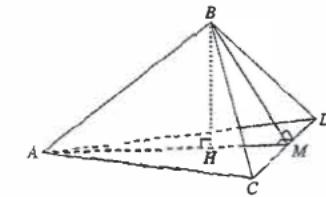


Area of  $\triangle ABC$  = Area of  $\triangle ABD$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}(40)(24) \sin 80^\circ = 472.71$  (cm<sup>2</sup>), which is a constant.

Area of  $\triangle ACD = \frac{1}{2} AC^2 \sin \angle ACD = 921.30 \sin(BCD - 66.6^\circ)$

$\therefore 105^\circ \leq \angle BCD \leq 145^\circ$   
 $\therefore 38.4^\circ \leq \angle ACD \leq 78.4^\circ$   
 Hence, as  $\angle BCD$  increases from  $105^\circ$  to  $145^\circ$ , the area of the paper card increases.  
 (from  $472.71 \times 2 + 921.30 \sin 38.4^\circ = 1518$  (cm<sup>2</sup>) to  $472.71 \times 2 + 921.30 \sin 78.4^\circ = 1848$  (cm<sup>2</sup>))

- (b) Let the projection of  $B$  onto  $ACD$  be  $H$  and the mid-point of  $CD$  be  $M$ . By symmetry, we have  $BM \perp CD$ ,  $AM \perp CD$  and  $H$  lying on  $AM$ .



$\angle ACD = 132^\circ$   $66.59082^\circ = 65.40918^\circ$   
 In  $\triangle ACM$ ,  $AM = AC \sin(132^\circ - 65.40918^\circ) = 39.39231$  (cm)  
 $CM = AC \cos(132^\circ - 65.40918^\circ) = 17.86279$  (cm)  
 In  $\triangle BCM$ ,  $BM = \sqrt{BC^2 - CM^2} = 16.02875$  cm  
 In  $\triangle ABM$ ,  $\angle BAM = \cos^{-1} \frac{AB^2 + AM^2 - BM^2}{2AB \cdot AM} = 23.2791^\circ$   
 $\Rightarrow BH = AB \sin \angle BAH = 15.8084$  cm  
 $\therefore$  Vol of pyramid  $= \frac{1}{3}(921.30 \sin 65.40918^\circ)(15.8084) = 4410$  (cm<sup>3</sup>, 3 s.f.)

## 14B.57 HKDSE MA 2016 – I – 19

(a) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $\frac{\sin \angle ADB}{10} = \frac{\sin 86^\circ}{15}$   
 $\angle ADB = 41.68560^\circ$  or  $138.3^\circ$  (rej.)  
 $\Rightarrow \angle ABD = 180^\circ - 86^\circ - 41.68560^\circ$   
 $= 52.31440^\circ = 52.3^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

In  $\triangle BCD$ ,  $CD = \sqrt{8^2 + 15^2} = 2 \cdot 8 \cdot 15 \cos 43^\circ$   
 $= 10.65247 = 10.7$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

(b) We need to verify  $AC \perp BC$  and  $AC \perp CD$ .

In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $AC^2 + BC^2 = 6^2 + 8^2 = 100 = AB^2$   
 $\therefore AC \perp BC$

In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $AD^2 = AB^2 + BD^2 - 2AB \cdot BD \cos \angle ABD$   
 $= 141.60$

$\because AC^2 + CD^2 = 149.48 \neq AD^2$   
 $\therefore AC$  is not perpendicular to  $CD$ .

Since  $C$  is not the projection of  $A$  onto  $BCD$ ,  $\angle ABC$  is not the described angle. The craftsman is disagreed.

## 14B.58 HKDSE MA 2017 – I – 19

(a) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\angle B = 180^\circ - 30^\circ - 42^\circ = 108^\circ$   
 $\frac{AC}{\sin 108^\circ} = \frac{24}{\sin 30^\circ} \Rightarrow AC = 45.65071 = 45.7$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

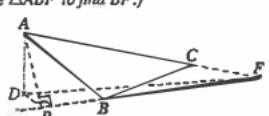
(b) (i)  $\triangle ADF \sim \triangle CEF$   
 $\frac{10}{2} = \frac{45.65071 + CF}{CF}$   
 $4CF = 45.65071$   
 $CF = 11.41268$   
 $= 11.4$  (cm, 3 s.f.)



(ii) Method 1  
In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\frac{AB}{\sin 42^\circ} = \frac{24}{\sin 30^\circ} \Rightarrow AB = 32.11827$  (cm)  
Area of  $\triangle ABF = \frac{1}{2}AB \cdot AF \sin \angle FAB$   
 $= 458.1943 = 458$  (cm<sup>2</sup>, 3 s.f.)

Method 2  
Area of  $\triangle ABF$   
 $=$  Area of  $\triangle ABC$  + Area of  $\triangle FBC$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}AC \cdot BC \sin \angle ACB + \frac{1}{2}CF \cdot BC \sin(180^\circ - \angle ACB)$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}(AC + CF)BC \sin \angle ACB = 458$  cm<sup>2</sup> (3 s.f.)

(iii) In  $\triangle FBC$ ,  $BF = \sqrt{BC^2 + CF^2 - 2BC \cdot CF \cos \angle BCF}$   
 $= 33.36690$  (cm)  
(Or use  $\triangle ABF$  to find  $BF$ .)



Let the projection of  $A$  onto  $BF$  be  $P$ .

$AP = \frac{2 \times \text{Area of } \triangle ABF}{BF} = 27.46400$  cm

Inclination =  $\sin^{-1} \frac{AD}{AP} = 21.4^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

(iv) Since  $P$  is also the projection of  $D$  onto  $BF$ ,

Area of  $\triangle BDF = \frac{1}{2}BF \cdot DP$

$< \frac{1}{2}BF \cdot AP = 458 < 460$

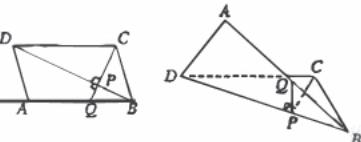
The craftsman is disagreed.

## 14B.59 HKDSE MA 2018 – I – 17

(a) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $\frac{AD}{\sin 20^\circ} = \frac{60}{\sin(180^\circ - 120^\circ - 20^\circ)}$   
 $AD = 31.92533 = 31.9$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

(b) (i) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\angle ABC = \cos^{-1} \frac{AB^2 + BC^2 - AC^2}{2AB \cdot BC}$   
 $= \cos^{-1} \frac{60^2 + 31.92533^2 - 40^2}{2 \cdot 60 \cdot 31.92533}$   
 $= 37.99208^\circ = 38.0^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

(ii) Let  $P$  be on  $BD$  such that  $CP \perp BD$ , and  $CP$  extended meet  $AB$  at  $Q$  (in Figure (1)). Then the angle between  $ABD$  and  $BCD$  in Figure (2) is  $\angle CPQ$ .



In  $\triangle BCP$ ,  $BP = BC \cos 40^\circ = 24.45622$  cm

In  $\triangle BPQ$ ,  $BQ = \frac{BP}{\cos 20^\circ} = 26.02577$  cm

In  $\triangle BCQ$ ,  $CQ = \sqrt{BQ^2 + BC^2 - 2BQ \cdot BC \cos \angle QBC}$   
 $= 19.67077$  cm

∴ In  $\triangle CPQ$ ,

Required  $\angle = \angle CPQ = \cos^{-1} \frac{PQ^2 + CP^2 - CQ^2}{2PQ \cdot CP}$   
 $= 71.9^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

## 14B.60 HKDSE MA 2019 – I – 18

(a) (i) In  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $\frac{\sin \angle BAD}{12} = \frac{\sin 72^\circ}{13}$   
 $\angle BAD = 61.38987^\circ$  or  $118.6^\circ$  (rej.)  
 $= 61.4^\circ$  (3 s.f.)

(ii)  $\angle ADB = 180^\circ - 72^\circ - 61.38987^\circ = 46.61013^\circ$   
 $\Rightarrow DP = BD \cos \angle ADB = 8.24351$  cm

In  $\triangle CDP$ ,  
 $CP = \sqrt{12^2 + 8.24351^2 - 2 \cdot 12 \cdot 8.24351 \cos 60^\circ}$   
 $= 11.39253 = 11.4$  (cm, 3 s.f.)

(b) Since  $BP \perp AD$ , we need to check whether  $CP \perp AD$ .  
In  $\triangle CDP$ ,  $CD^2 = 169$   
 $CP^2 + DP^2 = 197.7 \neq 169 = CD^2$

Hence,  $\angle CPD \neq 90^\circ$ , and thus  $\angle BPC$  is not the angle between  $ABD$  and  $ACD$ . The claim is disagreed.

## 14B.61 HKDSE MA 2020 – I – 19

(a)  $\frac{PR}{\sin \angle PRO} = \frac{PQ}{\sin \angle PRQ}$   
 $\frac{PR}{60} = \frac{60}{\sin 55^\circ}$   
 $PR \approx 56.62323766$  cm

$\angle POR + \angle PRO + \angle QPR = 180^\circ$  ( $\angle$  sum of  $\Delta$ )

$30^\circ + 55^\circ + \angle QPR = 180^\circ$

$\angle QPR = 95^\circ$

$\angle QPR + \angle RPS = \angle QPS$

$95^\circ + \angle RPS = 120^\circ$

$\angle RPS = 25^\circ$

$RS^2 = PR^2 + PS^2 - 2(PS)(PR) \cos \angle RPS$

$RS^2 = 36.62323766^2 + 40^2 - 2(36.62323766)(40) \cos 25^\circ$

$RS \approx 16.90879944$  cm

$RS \approx 15.9$  cm (corr. to 3 sig. fig.)

b The area of the paper card  
 $\frac{1}{2}(PQ)(PR) \sin \angle QPR + \frac{1}{2}(PR)(PS) \sin \angle RPS$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}(60)(36.62323766) \sin 95^\circ + \frac{1}{2}(36.62323766)(40) \sin 25^\circ$   
 $\approx 1404.069236$   
 $\approx 1400$  cm<sup>2</sup> (corr. to 3 sig. fig.)

c Let  $A$  be the perpendicular foot of  $P$  on the line passing through  $Q$  and  $R$  and  $O$  be the projection of  $P$  on the horizontal ground.  
Then,  $\angle OAP = 37^\circ$ .

$\sin \angle PQA = \frac{PA}{PQ}$   
 $\sin 30^\circ = \frac{PA}{60}$   
 $PA = 30$  cm

$\sin \angle QAP = \frac{OP}{PQ}$   
 $\sin 32^\circ = \frac{OP}{30}$   
 $OP = 10 \sin 32^\circ$  cm  
 $OP = 15.9$  cm (corr. to 3 sig. fig.)

d Produce  $PS$  and  $QR$  to intersect at the point  $B$ .

$\angle PQB + \angle PBQ + \angle QPB = 180^\circ$  ( $\angle$  sum of  $\Delta$ )  
 $50^\circ + \angle PBQ + 120^\circ = 180^\circ$   
 $\angle PBQ = 30^\circ$   
 $\angle PBQ = \angle QPB$   
 $PQ = PB$  (sides opp. eq.  $\angle$ )  
 $PS + SB = PQ$   
 $40$  cm +  $SB = 60$  cm  
 $SB = 20$  cm

Let  $C$  be the perpendicular foot of  $S$  on  $AB$ .  
 $\angle PBA = \angle SBC$  (common  $\angle$ )  
 $\angle ABD = \angle SCB$  (by construction)  
 $\angle APB = \angle CSC$  (3rd  $\angle$  of  $\Delta$ )  
 $\Delta APB \sim \Delta SCB$  ( $\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda$ )  
 $\frac{PA}{SC} = \frac{PB}{SB}$  (corr. sides, ~ $\angle$ s)  
 $\frac{20 \sin 32^\circ}{SC} = \frac{60}{20}$   
 $SC = 10 \sin 32^\circ$  cm

$\sin \angle SRC = \frac{SC}{RS}$   
 $\sin \angle SRC = \frac{10 \sin 32^\circ}{16.90879944}$   
 $\angle SRC \approx 18.26416068^\circ$

The angle between  $RS$  and the horizontal ground  $\approx 18.26416068^\circ$

The angle between  $RS$  and the horizontal ground  $< 20^\circ$

Hence, the student's claim is agreed with.