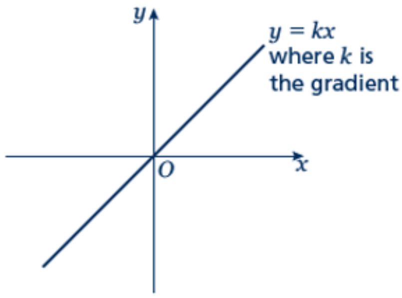
Proportion

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 2a. Straight-line graphs, parallel/perpendicular, length and area problems

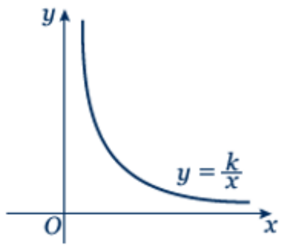
Key points

- Two quantities are in direct proportion when, as one quantity increases, the other increases at the same rate. Their ratio remains the same.
- 'y is directly proportional to x' is written as $y \propto x$. If $y \propto x$ then $y = kx$, where k is a constant.
- When x is directly proportional to y, the graph is a straight line passing through the origin.



- Two quantities are in inverse proportion when, as one quantity increases, the other decreases at the same rate.
- 'y is inversely proportional to x' is written as $y \propto \frac{1}{x}$.

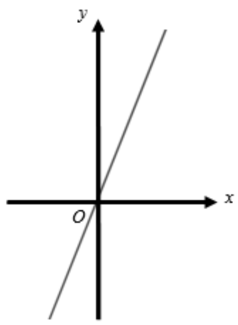
  If $y \propto \frac{1}{x}$ then $y = \frac{k}{x}$, where k is a constant.
- When x is inversely proportional to y the graph is the same shape as the graph of $y = \frac{1}{x}$



Examples

Example 1 y is directly proportional to x.
When $y = 16$, $x = 5$.
a Find x when $y = 30$.
b Sketch the graph of the formula.

a $y \propto x$	**1** Write y is directly proportional to x, using the symbol $\propto$.
$y = kx$	**2** Write the equation using k.
$16 = k \times 5$	**3** Substitute $y = 16$ and $x = 5$ into $y = kx$.
$k = 3.2$	**4** Solve the equation to find k.
$y = 3.2x$	**5** Substitute the value of k back into the equation $y = kx$.
When $y = 30$, $30 = 3.2 \times x$ $x = 9.375$	**6** Substitute $y = 30$ into $y = 3.2x$ and solve to find x when $y = 30$.

b 	**7** The graph of $y = 3.2x$ is a straight line passing through (0, 0) with a gradient of 3.2.

Example 2 y is directly proportional to x^2.
When $x = 3$, $y = 45$.
a Find y when $x = 5$.
b Find x when $y = 20$.

a $y \propto x^2$	**1** Write y is directly proportional to x^2, using the symbol $\propto$.
$y = kx^2$	**2** Write the equation using k.
$45 = k \times 3^2$	**3** Substitute $y = 45$ and $x = 3$ into $y = kx^2$.
$k = 5$	**4** Solve the equation to find k.
$y = 5x^2$	**5** Substitute the value of k back into the equation $y = kx^2$.
When $x = 5$, $y = 5 \times 5^2$ $y = 125$	**6** Substitute $x = 5$ into $y = 5x^2$ and solve to find y when $x = 5$.
b $20 = 5 \times x^2$ $x^2 = 4$ $x = \pm 2$	**7** Substitute $y = 20$ into $y = 5x^2$ and solve to find x when $y = 4$.

Example 3 P is inversely proportional to Q.
When $P = 100$, $Q = 10$.
Find Q when $P = 20$.

$P \propto \frac{1}{Q}$	**1** Write P is inversely proportional to Q, using the symbol $\propto$.
$P = \frac{k}{Q}$	**2** Write the equation using k.
$100 = \frac{k}{10}$	**3** Substitute $P = 100$ and $Q = 10$.
$k = 1000$	**4** Solve the equation to find k.
$P = \frac{1000}{Q}$	**5** Substitute the value of k into $P = \frac{k}{Q}$
$20 = \frac{1000}{Q}$ $Q = \frac{1000}{20} = 50$	**6** Substitute $P = 20$ into $P = \frac{1000}{Q}$ and solve to find Q when $P = 20$.

Practice

> **Hint**
>
> Substitute the values given for P and h into the formula to calculate k.

1 Paul gets paid an hourly rate. The amount of pay (£P) is directly proportional to the number of hours (h) he works.
When he works 8 hours he is paid £56.
If Paul works for 11 hours, how much is he paid?

2 x is directly proportional to y.
$x = 35$ when $y = 5$.

- **a** Find a formula for x in terms of y.
- **b** Sketch the graph of the formula.
- **c** Find x when $y = 13$.
- **d** Find y when $x = 63$.

3 Q is directly proportional to the square of Z.
$Q = 48$ when $Z = 4$.

- **a** Find a formula for Q in terms of Z.
- **b** Sketch the graph of the formula.
- **c** Find Q when $Z = 5$.
- **d** Find Z when $Q = 300$.

4 y is directly proportional to the square of x.
$x = 2$ when $y = 10$.

- **a** Find a formula for y in terms of x.
- **b** Sketch the graph of the formula.
- **c** Find x when $y = 90$.

5 B is directly proportional to the square root of C.
$C = 25$ when $B = 10$.

- **a** Find B when $C = 64$.
- **b** Find C when $B = 20$.

6 C is directly proportional to D.
$C = 100$ when $D = 150$.
Find C when $D = 450$.

7 y is directly proportional to x.
$x = 27$ when $y = 9$.
Find x when $y = 3.7$.

8 m is proportional to the cube of n.
$m = 54$ when $n = 3$.
Find n when $m = 250$.

Extend

9 s is inversely proportional to t.

a Given that $s = 2$ when $t = 2$, find a formula for s in terms of t.

b Sketch the graph of the formula.

c Find t when $s = 1$.

10 a is inversely proportional to b.
$a = 5$ when $b = 20$.

a Find a when $b = 50$.

b Find b when $a = 10$.

11 v is inversely proportional to w.
$w = 4$ when $v = 20$.

a Find a formula for v in terms of w.

b Sketch the graph of the formula.

c Find w when $v = 2$.

12 L is inversely proportional to W.
$L = 12$ when $W = 3$.
Find W when $L = 6$.

13 s is inversely proportional to t.
$s = 6$ when $t = 12$.

a Find s when $t = 3$.

b Find t when $s = 18$.

14 y is inversely proportional to x^2.
$y = 4$ when $x = 2$.
Find y when $x = 4$.

15 y is inversely proportional to the square root of x.
$x = 25$ when $y = 1$.
Find x when $y = 5$.

16 a is inversely proportional to b.
$a = 0.05$ when $b = 4$.

a Find a when $b = 2$.

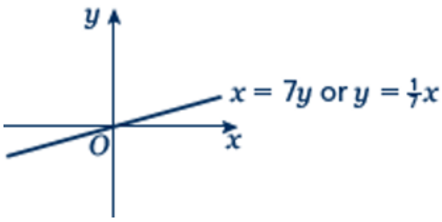
b Find b when $a = 2$.

Answers

1 £77

2 **a** $x = 7y$

b

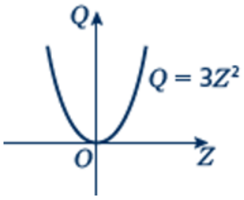


c 91

d 9

3 **a** $Q = 3Z^2$

b

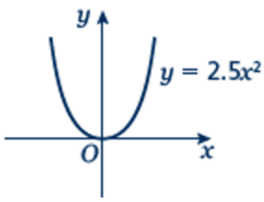


c 75

d ±10

4 **a** $y = 2.5x^2$

b



c ±6

5 **a** 16

b 100

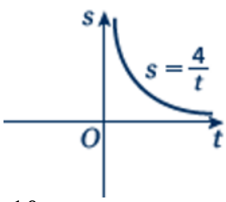
6 300

7 11.1

8 5

9 **a** $s = \frac{4}{t}$

b



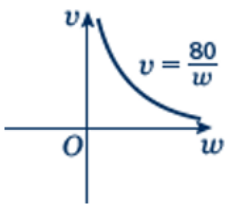
c 4

10 **a** 2

b 10

11 **a** $v = \frac{80}{w}$

b



c 40

12	6			
13	**a**	24	**b**	4
14	1			
15	1			
16	**a**	0.1	**b**	0.1