



Answer **all** the questions.

### COMBINING TRIANGLE NUMBERS

This investigation looks at results when adding or subtracting triangle numbers.

Here is a table of the first 21 triangle numbers,  $T_1$  to  $T_{21}$ .

$T_1$	$T_2$	$T_3$	$T_4$	$T_5$	$T_6$	$T_7$	$T_8$	$T_9$	$T_{10}$	$T_{11}$	$T_{12}$	$T_{13}$	$T_{14}$	$T_{15}$	$T_{16}$	$T_{17}$	$T_{18}$	$T_{19}$	$T_{20}$	$T_{21}$
1	3	6	10	15	21	28	36	45	55	66	78	91	105	120	136	153	171	190	210	231

**1** Find the next two triangle numbers.

$$T_{22} = \dots\dots\dots$$

$$T_{23} = \dots\dots\dots [4]$$

**2 (a)** Complete the table.

$T_1$	1
$T_2 - T_1$	2
$T_3 - T_2$	
$T_4 - T_3$	
$T_5 - T_4$	
$T_6 - T_5$	6
$T_n - T_{n-1}$	

[2]

**(b) (i)**  $T_n - T_{n-1} = 100$ .

Write down the value of  $n$ .

..... [1]

**(ii)** Write down the difference between the 50th and the 49th triangle numbers.

..... [1]

- 3 Complete the table for adding two consecutive triangle numbers.

$T_1$	1
$T_2 + T_1$	4
$T_3 + T_2$	9
$T_4 + T_3$	
$T_5 + T_4$	
$T_6 + T_5$	
$T_n + T_{n-1}$	

[2]

- 4 (a) Use the last row of the table in **Question 2(a)** to complete the equation  $T_n - T_{n-1} = \dots\dots\dots$

Use the last row of the table in **Question 3** to complete the equation  $T_n + T_{n-1} = \dots\dots\dots$

By adding these two equations together show that  $T_n = \frac{n^2 + n}{2}$ .

[1]

- (b) Find  $T_{1000}$ .

..... [2]

- 5 (a) The table shows the difference of the squares of two consecutive triangle numbers. Complete the table.

$(T_1)^2$	1
$(T_2)^2 - (T_1)^2$	8
$(T_3)^2 - (T_2)^2$	
$(T_4)^2 - (T_3)^2$	
$(T_5)^2 - (T_4)^2$	125
$(T_6)^2 - (T_5)^2$	216
$(T_n)^2 - (T_{n-1})^2$	

[3]

- (b) Calculate the difference between the squares of the 50th and the 49th triangle numbers.

..... [2]

- 6 The sum of two **different** triangle numbers sometimes equals another triangle number. When this happens, we have a *triangle triple*.

Example

- Start with the triangle number  $T_3 = 6$ .
- From the table in **question 2(a)**  $T_6 - T_5 = 6$ .  
So  $T_6 - T_5 = T_3$ .
- Rearrange the equation  $T_3 + T_5 = T_6$ .
- The *triangle triple* is then  $(3, 5, 6)$ .

The three different numbers must be written in order of increasing size.

- (a) Start with triangle number  $T_5 = 15$  and complete the method of the Example to find another triangle triple.

$$T_{15} - \dots = \dots$$

$$\text{So } \dots - \dots = T_5$$

$$T_5 + \dots = \dots$$

The triangle triple is  $(5, \dots, \dots)$

[4]

- (b) In the table, each row is a triangle triple.  
Use your answer to **part (a)** and any patterns you notice to complete the table.

Triangle triple		
3	5	6
4	9	10
5		
6		
7		

[5]

- (c) Use the list of triangle numbers on page 2 to check the triangle triple beginning with 6.

[1]

- 7 (a) The triangle numbers  $T_1$  and  $T_3$  are not consecutive. They are two apart. Complete the table for subtracting triangle numbers that are two apart.

$T_3 - T_1$	5
$T_4 - T_2$	
$T_5 - T_3$	
$T_6 - T_4$	
$T_7 - T_5$	13
$T_n - T_{n-2}$	

[4]

- (b) Use the triangle number  $T_9 = 45$  to find a triangle triple where

- the smallest number is 9
- the difference between the other two numbers is 2.

Hints: Use the last row of the table in **part (a)**.  
Use a method similar to that in the Example in **Question 6**.

(9, ..... , ..... ) [4]



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