Proportion

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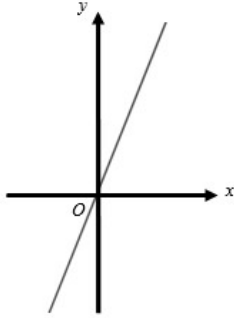
Key points

- 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 $y \propto \dfrac{1}{x}$.

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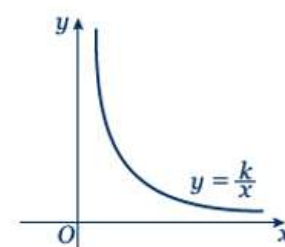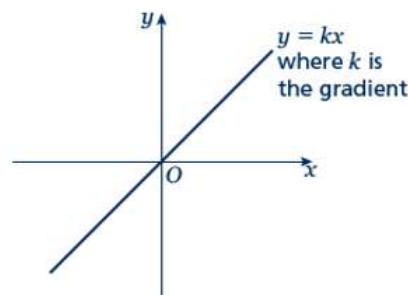
Examples

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 $\propto$.
$y = kx$ $16 = k \times 5$	**2** Write the equation using k. **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 $P = 20$.

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

Practice

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**

$x = 7y$ or $y = \frac{1}{7}x$
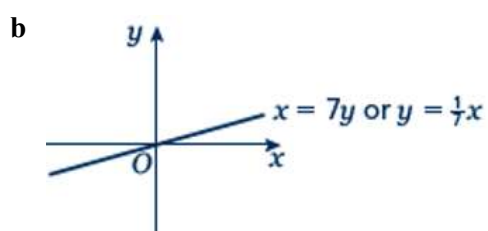
    c   91   **d**   9

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

$Q = 3Z^2$
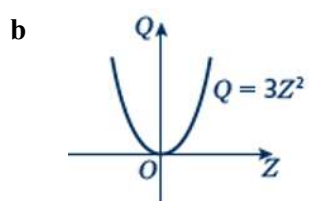
    c   75   **d** ±10

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

$y = 2.5x^2$
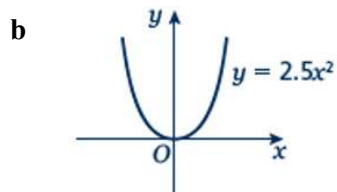
    c ±6

5   **a**   16   **b**   100

6   300

7   11.1

8   5

9   **a** $s = \dfrac{4}{t}$ **b**

$s = \frac{4}{t}$
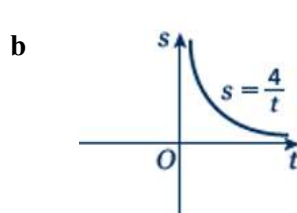
    c   4

10   **a**   2   **b**   10

11   **a** $v = \dfrac{80}{w}$ **b**

$v = \frac{80}{w}$
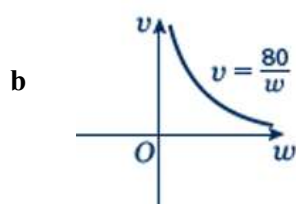
    c   40

12 6

13 **a** 24 **b** 4

14 1

15 1

16 **a** 0.1 **b** 0.1