



Maths Questions By Topic:

Exponentials & Logarithms

A-Level Edexcel

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20.

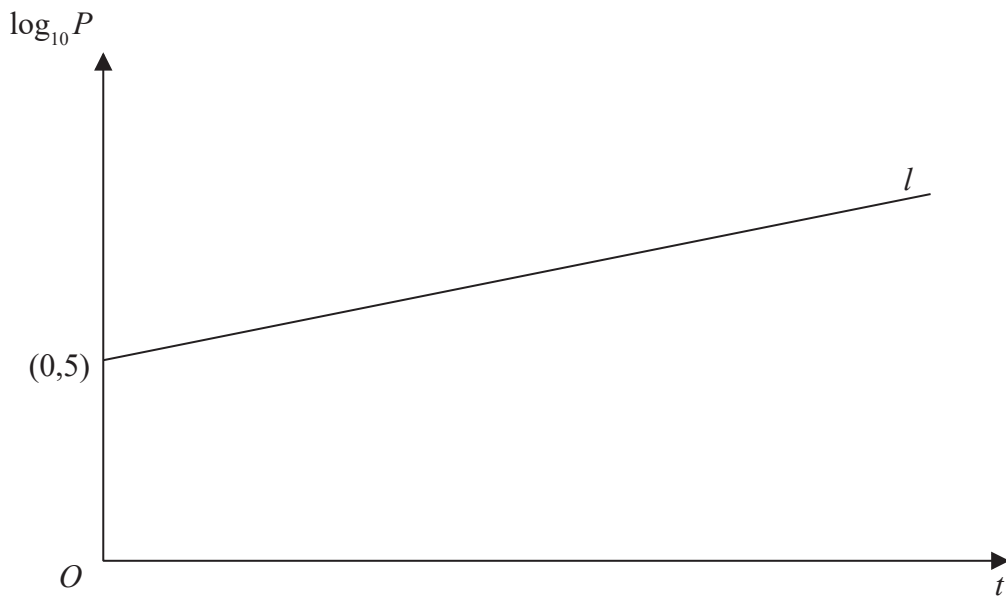


Figure 2

A town's population, P , is modelled by the equation $P = ab^t$, where a and b are constants and t is the number of years since the population was first recorded.

The line l shown in Figure 2 illustrates the linear relationship between t and $\log_{10} P$ for the population over a period of 100 years.

The line l meets the vertical axis at $(0, 5)$ as shown. The gradient of l is $\frac{1}{200}$.

- (a) Write down an equation for l . (2)
- (b) Find the value of a and the value of b . (4)
- (c) With reference to the model interpret
- (i) the value of the constant a ,
 - (ii) the value of the constant b . (2)
- (d) Find
- (i) the population predicted by the model when $t = 100$, giving your answer to the nearest hundred thousand,
 - (ii) the number of years it takes the population to reach 200 000, according to the model. (3)
- (e) State two reasons why this may not be a realistic population model. (2)

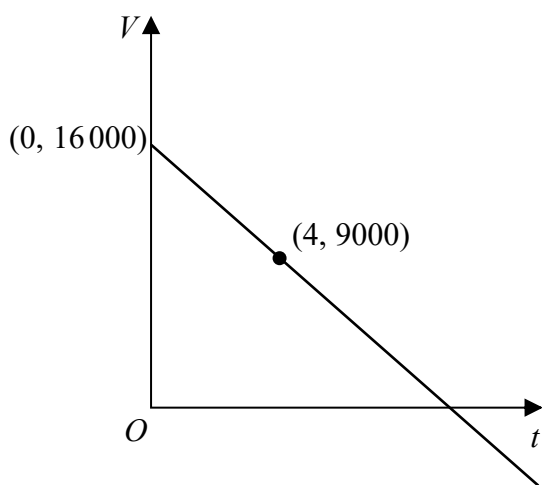
21. A company plans to extract oil from an oil field.

The daily volume of oil V , measured in barrels that the company will extract from this oil field depends upon the time, t years, after the start of drilling.

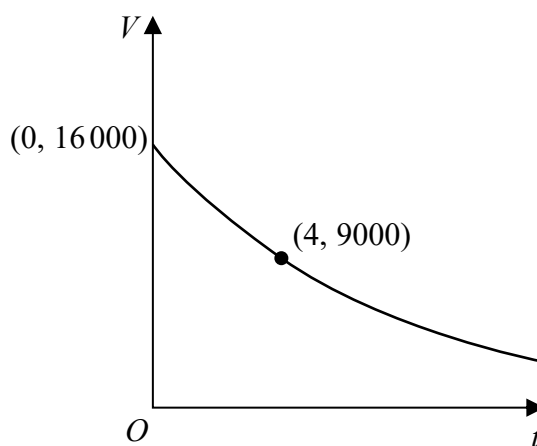
The company decides to use a model to estimate the daily volume of oil that will be extracted. The model includes the following assumptions:

- The initial daily volume of oil extracted from the oil field will be 16 000 barrels.
- The daily volume of oil that will be extracted exactly 4 years after the start of drilling will be 9 000 barrels.
- The daily volume of oil extracted will decrease over time.

The diagram below shows the graphs of two possible models.



Model A



Model B

- (a) (i) Use model A to estimate the daily volume of oil that will be extracted exactly 3 years after the start of drilling.
- (ii) Write down a limitation of using model A. (2)
- (b) (i) Using an exponential model and the information given in the question, find a possible equation for model B.
- (ii) Using your answer to (b)(i) estimate the daily volume of oil that will be extracted exactly 3 years after the start of drilling. (5)

22. In a controlled experiment, the number of microbes, N , present in a culture T days after the start of the experiment were counted.

N and T are expected to satisfy a relationship of the form

$$N = aT^b, \quad \text{where } a \text{ and } b \text{ are constants}$$

(a) Show that this relationship can be expressed in the form

$$\log_{10} N = m \log_{10} T + c$$

giving m and c in terms of the constants a and/or b .

(2)

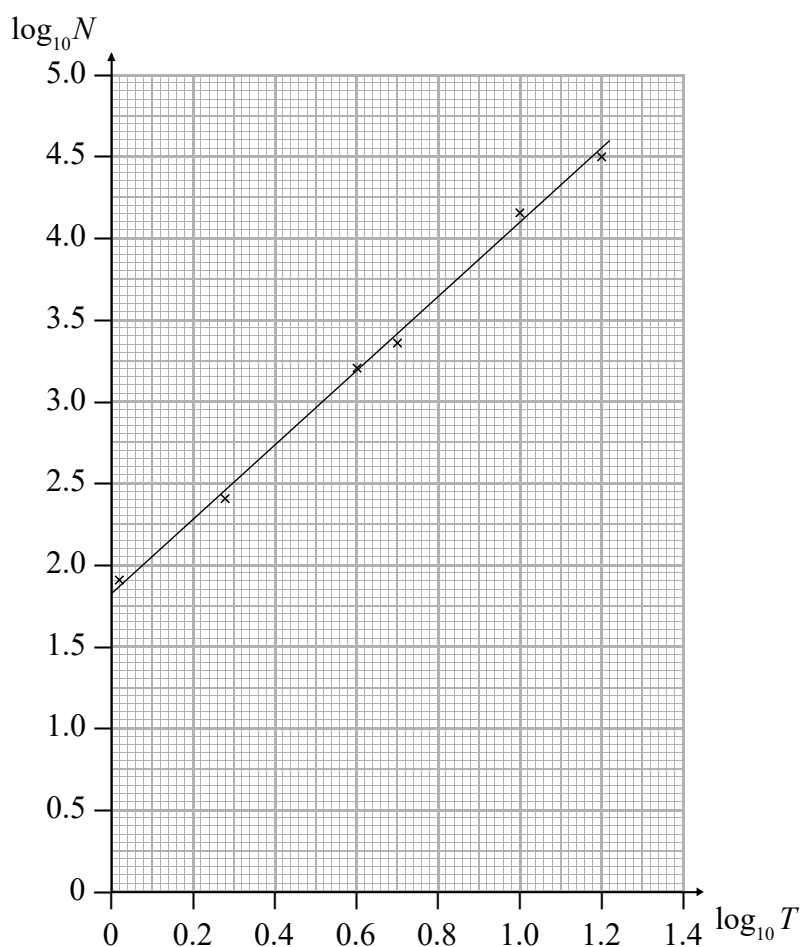


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows the line of best fit for values of $\log_{10} N$ plotted against values of $\log_{10} T$

(b) Use the information provided to estimate the number of microbes present in the culture 3 days after the start of the experiment.

(4)

(c) Explain why the information provided could not reliably be used to estimate the day when the number of microbes in the culture first exceeds 1 000 000.

(2)

(d) With reference to the model, interpret the value of the constant a .

(1)

24. The time, T seconds, that a pendulum takes to complete one swing is modelled by the formula

$$T = al^b$$

where l metres is the length of the pendulum and a and b are constants.

(a) Show that this relationship can be written in the form

$$\log_{10} T = b \log_{10} l + \log_{10} a \quad (2)$$

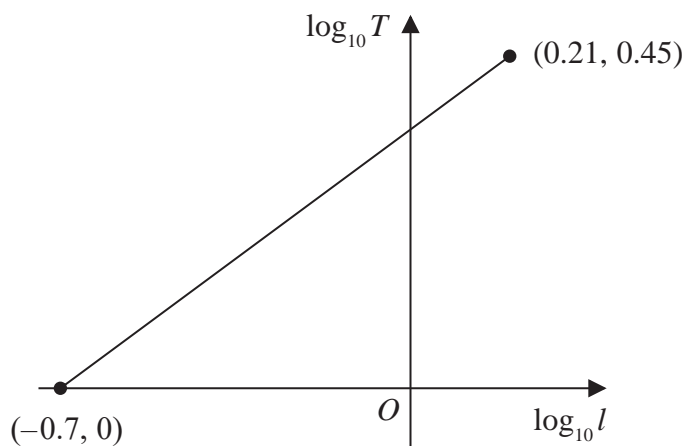


Figure 3

A student carried out an experiment to find the values of the constants a and b .

The student recorded the value of T for different values of l .

Figure 3 shows the linear relationship between $\log_{10} l$ and $\log_{10} T$ for the student's data.

The straight line passes through the points $(-0.7, 0)$ and $(0.21, 0.45)$

Using this information,

(b) find a complete equation for the model in the form

$$T = al^b$$

giving the value of a and the value of b , each to 3 significant figures.

(3)

(c) With reference to the model, interpret the value of the constant a .

(1)

30. A research engineer is testing the effectiveness of the braking system of a car when it is driven in wet conditions.

The engineer measures and records the braking distance, d metres, when the brakes are applied from a speed of $V \text{ km h}^{-1}$.

Graphs of d against V and $\log_{10} d$ against $\log_{10} V$ were plotted.

The results are shown below together with a data point from each graph.

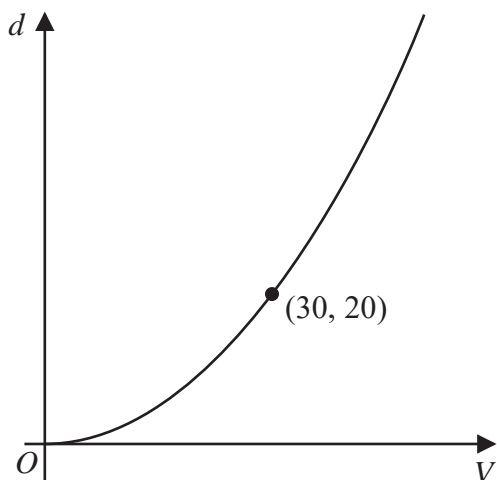


Figure 5

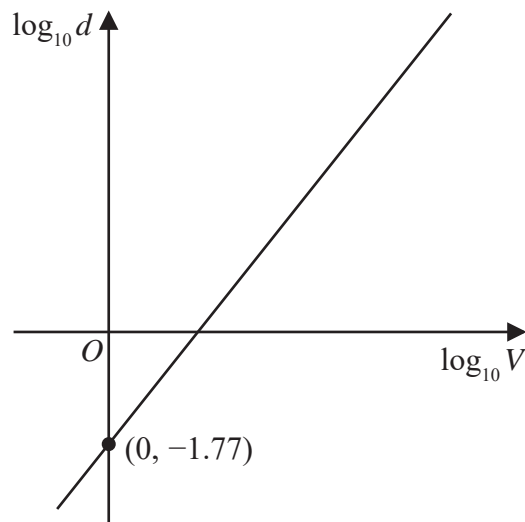


Figure 6

- (a) Explain how Figure 6 would lead the engineer to believe that the braking distance should be modelled by the formula

$$d = kV^n \quad \text{where } k \text{ and } n \text{ are constants}$$

with $k \approx 0.017$

(3)

Using the information given in Figure 5, with $k = 0.017$

- (b) find a complete equation for the model giving the value of n to 3 significant figures.

(3)

Sean is driving this car at 60 km h^{-1} in wet conditions when he notices a large puddle in the road 100 m ahead. It takes him 0.8 seconds to react before applying the brakes.

- (c) Use your formula to find out if Sean will be able to stop before reaching the puddle.

(3)

70.

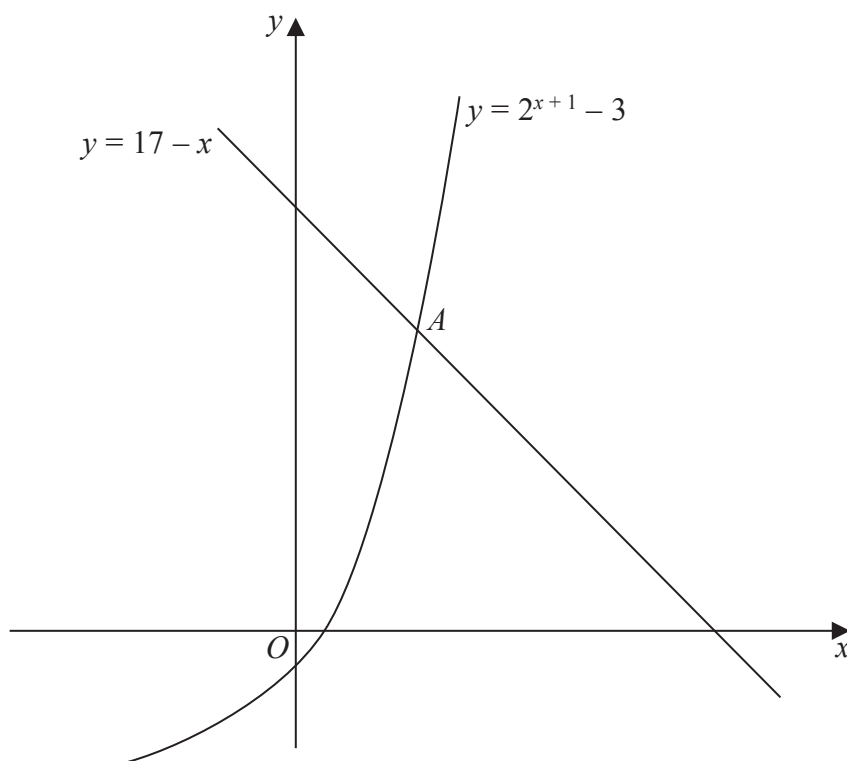
**Figure 1**

Figure 1 is a sketch showing part of the curve with equation $y = 2^{x+1} - 3$ and part of the line with equation $y = 17 - x$.

The curve and the line intersect at the point A .

(a) Show that the x coordinate of A satisfies the equation

$$x = \frac{\ln(20 - x)}{\ln 2} - 1$$

(3)

74.

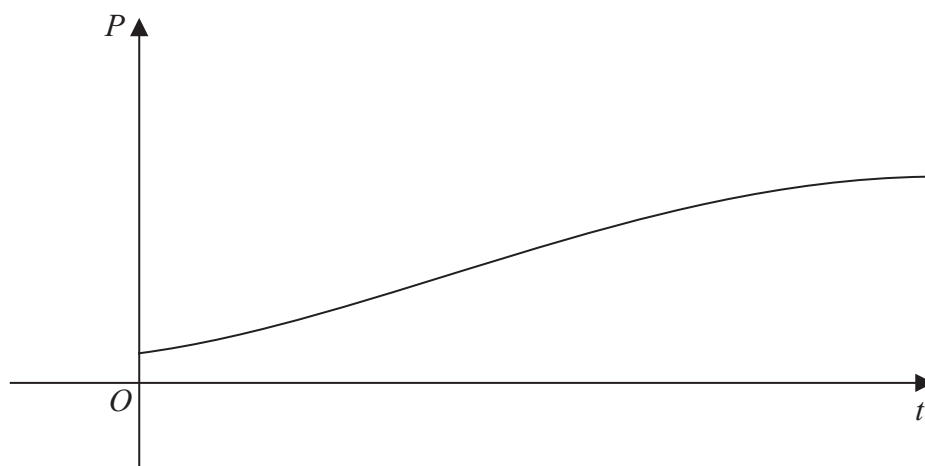


Figure 3

The population of a town is being studied. The population P , at time t years from the start of the study, is assumed to be

$$P = \frac{8000}{1 + 7e^{-kt}}, \quad t \geq 0,$$

where k is a positive constant.

The graph of P against t is shown in Figure 3.

Use the given equation to

(a) find the population at the start of the study, (2)

(b) find a value for the expected upper limit of the population. (1)

Given also that the population reaches 2500 at 3 years from the start of the study,

(c) calculate the value of k to 3 decimal places. (5)

Using this value for k ,

(d) find the population at 10 years from the start of the study, giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (2)

(e) Find, using $\frac{dP}{dt}$, the rate at which the population is growing at 10 years from the start of the study. (3)

