



Maths Questions By Topic:

Vectors

A-Level Edexcel

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1.

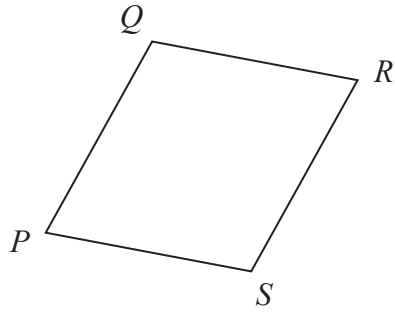


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows a sketch of a parallelogram $PQRS$.

Given that

- $\vec{PQ} = 2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$
- $\vec{QR} = 5\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{k}$

(a) show that parallelogram $PQRS$ is a rhombus.

(2)

(b) Find the exact area of the rhombus $PQRS$.

(4)

3.

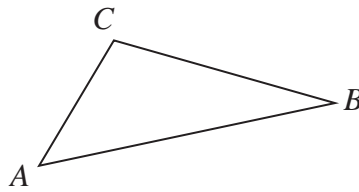


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a sketch of triangle ABC .

Given that

- $\vec{AB} = -3\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} - 5\mathbf{k}$
- $\vec{BC} = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$

(a) find \vec{AC} (2)

(b) show that $\cos ABC = \frac{9}{10}$ (3)

4. [In this question the unit vectors \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} are due east and due north respectively.]

A stone slides horizontally across ice.

Initially the stone is at the point $A(-24\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j})$ m relative to a fixed point O .

After 4 seconds the stone is at the point $B(12\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j})$ m relative to the fixed point O .

The motion of the stone is modelled as that of a particle moving in a straight line at constant speed.

Using the model,

(a) prove that the stone passes through O , (2)

(b) calculate the speed of the stone. (3)

Question 7 continued

19. With respect to a fixed origin O , the line l_1 is given by the equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

where μ is a scalar parameter.

The point A lies on l_1 where $\mu = 1$

- (a) Find the coordinates of A . (1)

The point P has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

The line l_2 passes through the point P and is parallel to the line l_1

- (b) Write down a vector equation for the line l_2 (2)

- (c) Find the exact value of the distance AP .
Give your answer in the form $k\sqrt{2}$, where k is a constant to be determined. (2)

The acute angle between AP and l_2 is θ .

- (d) Find the value of $\cos\theta$ (3)

A point E lies on the line l_2
Given that $AP = PE$,

- (e) find the area of triangle APE , (2)

- (f) find the coordinates of the two possible positions of E . (5)

20. With respect to a fixed origin O , the lines l_1 and l_2 are given by the equations

$$l_1: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ p \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad l_2: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

where λ and μ are scalar parameters and p is a constant.

The lines l_1 and l_2 intersect at the point A .

(a) Find the coordinates of A . (2)

(b) Find the value of the constant p . (3)

(c) Find the acute angle between l_1 and l_2 , giving your answer in degrees to 2 decimal places. (3)

The point B lies on l_2 where $\mu = 1$

(d) Find the shortest distance from the point B to the line l_1 , giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (3)

21. Relative to a fixed origin O , the point A has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$

and the point B has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$

The line l_1 passes through the points A and B .

(a) Find the vector \overrightarrow{AB} . (2)

(b) Hence find a vector equation for the line l_1 (1)

The point P has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

Given that angle PBA is θ ,

(c) show that $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{3}$ (3)

The line l_2 passes through the point P and is parallel to the line l_1

(d) Find a vector equation for the line l_2 (2)

The points C and D both lie on the line l_2

Given that $AB = PC = DP$ and the x coordinate of C is positive,

(e) find the coordinates of C and the coordinates of D . (3)

(f) find the exact area of the trapezium $ABCD$, giving your answer as a simplified surd. (4)

22. With respect to a fixed origin, the point A with position vector $\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$ lies on the line l_1 with equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{where } \lambda \text{ is a scalar parameter,}$$

and the point B with position vector $4\mathbf{i} + p\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$, where p is a constant, lies on the line l_2 with equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 0 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{where } \mu \text{ is a scalar parameter.}$$

- (a) Find the value of the constant p . (1)
- (b) Show that l_1 and l_2 intersect and find the position vector of their point of intersection, C . (4)
- (c) Find the size of the angle ACB , giving your answer in degrees to 3 significant figures. (3)
- (d) Find the area of the triangle ABC , giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (2)

23. With respect to a fixed origin O , the line l has equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 13 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where } \lambda \text{ is a scalar parameter.}$$

The point A lies on l and has coordinates $(3, -2, 6)$.

The point P has position vector $(-p\mathbf{i} + 2p\mathbf{k})$ relative to O , where p is a constant.

Given that vector \vec{PA} is perpendicular to l ,

(a) find the value of p . **(4)**

Given also that B is a point on l such that $\angle BPA = 45^\circ$,

(b) find the coordinates of the two possible positions of B . **(5)**

24. Relative to a fixed origin O , the point A has position vector $21\mathbf{i} - 17\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k}$ and the point B has position vector $25\mathbf{i} - 14\mathbf{j} + 18\mathbf{k}$.

The line l has vector equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ c \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where a , b and c are constants and λ is a parameter.

Given that the point A lies on the line l ,

- (a) find the value of a . (3)

Given also that the vector \overrightarrow{AB} is perpendicular to l ,

- (b) find the values of b and c , (5)

- (c) find the distance AB . (2)

The image of the point B after reflection in the line l is the point B' .

- (d) Find the position vector of the point B' . (2)

25. With respect to a fixed origin O , the line l_1 has vector equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -9 \\ 8 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

where μ is a scalar parameter.

The point A is on l_1 where $\mu = 2$.

(a) Write down the coordinates of A . (1)

The acute angle between OA and l_1 is θ , where O is the origin.

(b) Find the value of $\cos \theta$. (3)

The point B is such that $\vec{OB} = 3\vec{OA}$.

The line l_2 passes through the point B and is parallel to the line l_1 .

(c) Find a vector equation of l_2 . (2)

(d) Find the length of OB , giving your answer as a simplified surd. (1)

The point X lies on l_2 . Given that the vector \vec{OX} is perpendicular to l_2 ,

(e) find the length of OX , giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (3)

26. With respect to a fixed origin O , the lines l_1 and l_2 are given by the equations

$$l_1 : \mathbf{r} = (9\mathbf{i} + 13\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k})$$

$$l_2 : \mathbf{r} = (2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) + \mu(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$$

where λ and μ are scalar parameters.

(a) Given that l_1 and l_2 meet, find the position vector of their point of intersection. (5)

(b) Find the acute angle between l_1 and l_2 , giving your answer in degrees to 1 decimal place. (3)

Given that the point A has position vector $4\mathbf{i} + 16\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$ and that the point P lies on l_1 such that AP is perpendicular to l_1 ,

(c) find the exact coordinates of P . (6)

27. Relative to a fixed origin O , the point A has position vector $(10\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k})$, and the point B has position vector $(8\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k})$.

The line l passes through the points A and B .

(a) Find the vector \overrightarrow{AB} . (2)

(b) Find a vector equation for the line l . (2)

The point C has position vector $(3\mathbf{i} + 12\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k})$.

The point P lies on l . Given that the vector \overrightarrow{CP} is perpendicular to l ,

(c) find the position vector of the point P . (6)

28. Relative to a fixed origin O , the point A has position vector $(2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k})$, the point B has position vector $(5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 10\mathbf{k})$, and the point D has position vector $(-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k})$.

The line l passes through the points A and B .

- (a) Find the vector \overrightarrow{AB} . **(2)**
- (b) Find a vector equation for the line l . **(2)**
- (c) Show that the size of the angle BAD is 109° , to the nearest degree. **(4)**

The points A , B and D , together with a point C , are the vertices of the parallelogram $ABCD$, where $\overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{DC}$.

- (d) Find the position vector of C . **(2)**
- (e) Find the area of the parallelogram $ABCD$, giving your answer to 3 significant figures. **(3)**
- (f) Find the shortest distance from the point D to the line l , giving your answer to 3 significant figures. **(2)**

29. With respect to a fixed origin O , the lines l_1 and l_2 are given by the equations

$$l_1: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad l_2: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 15 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where λ and μ are scalar parameters.

(a) Show that l_1 and l_2 meet and find the position vector of their point of intersection A . (6)

(b) Find, to the nearest 0.1° , the acute angle between l_1 and l_2 . (3)

The point B has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(c) Show that B lies on l_1 . (1)

(d) Find the shortest distance from B to the line l_2 , giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (4)

Question 29 continued

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines for writing, intended for the student's answer to Question 29.

(Total 14 marks)

30. Relative to a fixed origin O , the point A has position vector $\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and the point B has position vector $-2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$. The points A and B lie on a straight line l .

(a) Find \vec{AB} . (2)

(b) Find a vector equation of l . (2)

The point C has position vector $2\mathbf{i} + p\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$ with respect to O , where p is a constant. Given that AC is perpendicular to l , find

(c) the value of p , (4)

(d) the distance AC . (2)

31. The line l_1 has equation $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, where λ is a scalar parameter.

The line l_2 has equation $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 9 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$, where μ is a scalar parameter.

Given that l_1 and l_2 meet at the point C , find

(a) the coordinates of C . (3)

The point A is the point on l_1 where $\lambda = 0$ and the point B is the point on l_2 where $\mu = -1$.

(b) Find the size of the angle ACB . Give your answer in degrees to 2 decimal places. (4)

(c) Hence, or otherwise, find the area of the triangle ABC . (5)

32. The line l_1 has vector equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the line l_2 has vector equation

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where λ and μ are parameters.

The lines l_1 and l_2 intersect at the point A and the acute angle between l_1 and l_2 is θ .

(a) Write down the coordinates of A . (1)

(b) Find the value of $\cos \theta$. (3)

The point X lies on l_1 where $\lambda = 4$.

(c) Find the coordinates of X . (1)

(d) Find the vector \overrightarrow{AX} . (2)

(e) Hence, or otherwise, show that $|\overrightarrow{AX}| = 4\sqrt{26}$. (2)

The point Y lies on l_2 . Given that the vector \overrightarrow{YX} is perpendicular to l_1 ,

(f) find the length of AY , giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (3)

33. Relative to a fixed origin O , the point A has position vector $(8\mathbf{i} + 13\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k})$, the point B has position vector $(10\mathbf{i} + 14\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k})$, and the point C has position vector $(9\mathbf{i} + 9\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k})$.

The line l passes through the points A and B .

(a) Find a vector equation for the line l . (3)

(b) Find $|\vec{CB}|$. (2)

(c) Find the size of the acute angle between the line segment CB and the line l , giving your answer in degrees to 1 decimal place. (3)

(d) Find the shortest distance from the point C to the line l . (3)

The point X lies on l . Given that the vector \vec{CX} is perpendicular to l ,

(e) find the area of the triangle CXB , giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (3)

34. With respect to a fixed origin O the lines l_1 and l_2 are given by the equations

$$l_1: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ 2 \\ 17 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad l_2: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 11 \\ p \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} q \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where λ and μ are parameters and p and q are constants. Given that l_1 and l_2 are perpendicular,

(a) show that $q = -3$. (2)

Given further that l_1 and l_2 intersect, find

(b) the value of p , (6)

(c) the coordinates of the point of intersection. (2)

The point A lies on l_1 and has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 3 \\ 13 \end{pmatrix}$. The point C lies on l_2 .

Given that a circle, with centre C , cuts the line l_1 at the points A and B ,

(d) find the position vector of B . (3)

35. With respect to a fixed origin O , the lines l_1 and l_2 are given by the equations

$$l_1: \mathbf{r} = (-9\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k})$$

$$l_2: \mathbf{r} = (3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 17\mathbf{k}) + \mu(3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k})$$

where λ and μ are scalar parameters.

(a) Show that l_1 and l_2 meet and find the position vector of their point of intersection. **(6)**

(b) Show that l_1 and l_2 are perpendicular to each other. **(2)**

The point A has position vector $5\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$.

(c) Show that A lies on l_1 . **(1)**

The point B is the image of A after reflection in the line l_2 .

(d) Find the position vector of B . **(3)**

36. The points A and B have position vectors $2\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ and $3\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ respectively.

The line l_1 passes through the points A and B .

(a) Find the vector \overrightarrow{AB} . (2)

(b) Find a vector equation for the line l_1 . (2)

A second line l_2 passes through the origin and is parallel to the vector $\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}$. The line l_1 meets the line l_2 at the point C .

(c) Find the acute angle between l_1 and l_2 . (3)

(d) Find the position vector of the point C . (4)

Question 36 continued

(Total 11 marks)