



| Essential Knowledge | Teaching Points |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise, sketch and interpret graphs of the reciprocal function $y = \frac{1}{x}$ with $x \neq 0$ • State the value of x for which the equation is not defined; • Recognise, sketch and interpret graphs of exponential functions $y = k^x$ for positive values of k and integer values of x; • Use calculators to explore exponential growth and decay; • Set up, solve and interpret the answers in growth and decay problems; • Interpret and analyse transformations of graphs of functions and write the functions algebraically, e.g. write the equation of $f(x) + a$, or $f(x - a)$: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply to the graph of $y = f(x)$ the transformations $y = -f(x)$, $y = f(-x)$ for linear, quadratic, cubic functions; • apply to the graph of $y = f(x)$ the transformations $y = f(x) + a$, $y = f(x - a)$ for linear, quadratic, cubic functions; • Estimate area under a quadratic or other graph by dividing it into trapezia; • Interpret the gradient of linear or non-linear graphs, and estimate the gradient of a quadratic or non-linear graph at a given point by sketching the tangent and finding its gradient; • Interpret the gradient of non-linear graph in curved distance–time and velocity–time graphs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for a non-linear distance–time graph, estimate the speed at one point in time, from the tangent, and the average speed over several seconds by finding the gradient of the chord; • for a non-linear velocity–time graph, estimate the acceleration at one point in time, from the tangent, and the average acceleration over several seconds by finding the gradient of the chord; • Interpret the gradient of a linear or non-linear graph in financial contexts; • Interpret the area under a linear or non-linear graph in real-life contexts; • Interpret the rate of change of graphs of containers filling and emptying; • Interpret the rate of change of unit price in price graphs. • Recognise and interpret graphs showing direct and inverse proportion; • Identify direct proportion from a table of values, by comparing ratios of values, for x squared and x cubed relationships; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal function notation along with inverse and composite functions will have been encountered but are topics that students may need to be reminded about. • Financial contexts could include percentage or growth rate. • Emphasise when interpreting rates of change with graphs of containers filling and emptying, a steeper gradient means a faster rate of change. • When interpreting rates of change of unit price in price graphs, a steeper graph means larger unit price. • Translations and reflections of functions are included in this specification, but not rotations or stretches. • Students must understand that when two quantities are in direct proportion, the ratio between them remains constant. • Students need to know the symbol for 'is proportional to'. • Consider using science contexts for problems involving inverse proportionality, e.g. volume of gas inversely proportional to the pressure or frequency is inversely proportional to wavelength. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write statements of proportionality for quantities proportional to the square, cube or other power of another quantity; • Set up and use equations to solve word and other problems involving direct proportion; • Use $y = kx$ to solve direct proportion problems, including questions where students find k, and then use k to find another value; • Solve problems involving inverse proportion using graphs by plotting and reading values from graphs; • Solve problems involving inverse proportionality; • Set up and use equations to solve word and other problems involving direct proportion or inverse proportion. | | |
| Assumed Prior Knowledge/ Links / Interleaving | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be able to draw linear and quadratic graphs. • Students should be able to calculate the gradient of a linear function between two points. • Students should recall transformations of trigonometric functions. • Students should have knowledge of writing statements of direct proportion and forming an equation to find values. | | |
| Potential Barriers to Access / Misconceptions | | Opportunities for Reasoning/Problem Solving/Proofs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of transforming functions is often confused. • Direct and inverse proportion can get mixed up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why you cannot find the area under a reciprocal or tan graph. • Interpreting many of these graphs in relation to their specific contexts. • Justify and infer relationships in real-life scenarios to direct and inverse proportion such as ice cream sales and sunshine. | |
| Key Mathematical Vocabulary | Reciprocal, linear, gradient, quadratic, exponential, functions, direct, indirect, proportion, estimate, area, rate of change, distance, time, velocity, transformations, cubic, transformation, constant of proportionality | |