Edexcel

New GCE A Level Maths workbook

Straight line graphs

Parallel and Perpendicular lines.

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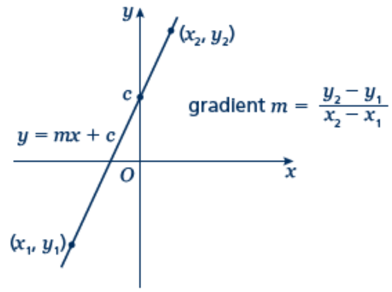
Straight line graphs

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

Key points

- A straight line has the equation $y = mx + c$, where m is the gradient and c is the y-intercept (where $x = 0$).
- The equation of a straight line can be written in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers.
- When given the coordinates (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) of two points on a line the gradient is calculated using the formula $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$



Examples

Example 1 A straight line has gradient $-\frac{1}{2}$ and y-intercept 3.

Write the equation of the line in the form $ax + by + c = 0$.

$m = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $c = 3$ So $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 3$ $\frac{1}{2}x + y - 3 = 0$ $x + 2y - 6 = 0$	**1** A straight line has equation $y = mx + c$. Substitute the gradient and y-intercept given in the question into this equation. **2** Rearrange the equation so all the terms are on one side and 0 is on the other side. **3** Multiply both sides by 2 to eliminate the denominator.

Example 2 Find the gradient and the y-intercept of the line with the equation $3y - 2x + 4 = 0$.

$3y - 2x + 4 = 0$ $3y = 2x - 4$ $y = \frac{2}{3}x - \frac{4}{3}$ Gradient $= m = \frac{2}{3}$ y-intercept $= c = -\frac{4}{3}$	**1** Make y the subject of the equation. **2** Divide all the terms by three to get the equation in the form $y = \ldots$ **3** In the form $y = mx + c$, the gradient is m and the y-intercept is c.

Example 3 Find the equation of the line which passes through the point (5, 13) and has gradient 3.

$m = 3$ $y = 3x + c$	**1** Substitute the gradient given in the question into the equation of a straight line $y = mx + c$.
$13 = 3 \times 5 + c$	**2** Substitute the coordinates $x = 5$ and $y = 13$ into the equation.
$13 = 15 + c$ $c = -2$	**3** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = 3x - 2$	**4** Substitute $c = -2$ into the equation $y = 3x + c$

Example 4 Find the equation of the line passing through the points with coordinates (2, 4) and (8, 7).

$x_1 = 2$, $x_2 = 8$, $y_1 = 4$ and $y_2 = 7$ $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{7-4}{8-2} = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$	**1** Substitute the coordinates into the equation $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ to work out the gradient of the line.
$y = \frac{1}{2}x + c$	**2** Substitute the gradient into the equation of a straight line $y = mx + c$.
$4 = \frac{1}{2} \times 2 + c$	**3** Substitute the coordinates of either point into the equation.
$c = 3$	**4** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = \frac{1}{2}x + 3$	**5** Substitute $c = 3$ into the equation $y = \frac{1}{2}x + c$

Practice

1 Find the gradient and the y-intercept of the following equations.

a $y = 3x + 5$ **b** $y = -\frac{1}{2}x - 7$

c $2y = 4x - 3$ **d** $x + y = 5$

e $2x - 3y - 7 = 0$ **f** $5x + y - 4 = 0$

Hint
Rearrange the equations to the form $y = mx + c$

2 Copy and complete the table, giving the equation of the line in the form $y = mx + c$.

Gradient	y-intercept	Equation of the line
5	0	
–3	2	
4	–7	

3 Find, in the form $ax + by + c = 0$ where a, b and c are integers, an equation for each of the lines with the following gradients and y-intercepts.

a gradient $-\frac{1}{2}$, y-intercept –7

b gradient 2, y-intercept 0

c gradient $\frac{2}{3}$, y-intercept 4

d gradient –1.2, y-intercept –2

4 Write an equation for the line which passes though the point (2, 5) and has gradient 4.

5 Write an equation for the line which passes through the point (6, 3) and has gradient $-\frac{2}{3}$

6 Write an equation for the line passing through each of the following pairs of points.

a (4, 5), (10, 17)

b (0, 6), (–4, 8)

c (–1, –7), (5, 23)

d (3, 10), (4, 7)

Extend

7 The equation of a line is $2y + 3x - 6 = 0$.
Write as much information as possible about this line.

Answers

1 **a** $m = 3, c = 5$

b $m = -\frac{1}{2}, c = -7$

c $m = 2, c = -\frac{3}{2}$

d $m = -1, c = 5$

e $m = \frac{2}{3}, c = -\frac{7}{3}$ or $-2\frac{1}{3}$

f $m = -5, c = 4$

2

Gradient	*y*-intercept	Equation of the line
5	0	$y = 5x$
–3	2	$y = -3x + 2$
4	–7	$y = 4x - 7$

3 **a** $x + 2y + 14 = 0$

b $2x - y = 0$

c $2x - 3y + 12 = 0$

d $6x + 5y + 10 = 0$

4 $y = 4x - 3$

5 $y = -\frac{2}{3}x + 7$

6 **a** $y = 2x - 3$

b $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 6$

c $y = 5x - 2$

d $y = -3x + 19$

7 $y = -\frac{3}{2}x + 3$, the gradient is $-\frac{3}{2}$ and the *y*-intercept is 3.

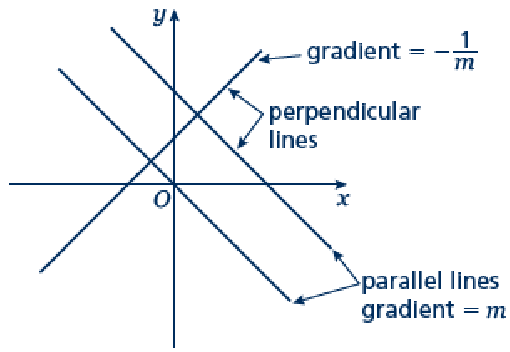
The line intercepts the axes at (0, 3) and (2, 0).

Students may sketch the line or give coordinates that lie on the line such as $\left(1, \frac{3}{2}\right)$ or $(4, -3)$.

Parallel and perpendicular lines

Key points

- When lines are parallel they have the same gradient.
- A line perpendicular to the line with equation $y = mx + c$ has gradient $-\frac{1}{m}$.



Examples

Example 1 Find the equation of the line parallel to $y = 2x + 4$ which passes through the point (4, 9).

$y = 2x + 4$ $m = 2$ $y = 2x + c$	**1** As the lines are parallel they have the same gradient. **2** Substitute $m = 2$ into the equation of a straight line $y = mx + c$.
$9 = 2 \times 4 + c$	**3** Substitute the coordinates into the equation $y = 2x + c$
$9 = 8 + c$ $c = 1$	**4** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = 2x + 1$	**5** Substitute $c = 1$ into the equation $y = 2x + c$

Example 2 Find the equation of the line perpendicular to $y = 2x - 3$ which passes through the point (−2, 5).

$y = 2x - 3$ $m = 2$ $-\frac{1}{m} = -\frac{1}{2}$	**1** As the lines are perpendicular, the gradient of the perpendicular line is $-\frac{1}{m}$.
$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + c$	**2** Substitute $m = -\frac{1}{2}$ into $y = mx + c$.
$5 = -\frac{1}{2} \times (-2) + c$	**3** Substitute the coordinates (–2, 5) into the equation $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + c$
$5 = 1 + c$ $c = 4$	**4** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 4$	**5** Substitute $c = 4$ into $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + c$.

Example 3 A line passes through the points (0, 5) and (9, −1).
Find the equation of the line which is perpendicular to the line and passes through its midpoint.

$x_1 = 0$, $x_2 = 9$, $y_1 = 5$ and $y_2 = -1$ $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{-1-5}{9-0}$ $= \frac{-6}{9} = -\frac{2}{3}$	**1** Substitute the coordinates into the equation $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ to work out the gradient of the line.
$-\frac{1}{m} = \frac{3}{2}$	**2** As the lines are perpendicular, the gradient of the perpendicular line is $-\frac{1}{m}$.
$y = \frac{3}{2}x + c$	**3** Substitute the gradient into the equation $y = mx + c$.
Midpoint = $\left(\frac{0+9}{2}, \frac{5+(-1)}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{9}{2}, 2\right)$	**4** Work out the coordinates of the midpoint of the line.
$2 = \frac{3}{2} \times \frac{9}{2} + c$	**5** Substitute the coordinates of the midpoint into the equation.
$c = -\frac{19}{4}$	**6** Simplify and solve the equation.
$y = \frac{3}{2}x - \frac{19}{4}$	**7** Substitute $c = -\frac{19}{4}$ into the equation $y = \frac{3}{2}x + c$.

Practice

1 Find the equation of the line parallel to each of the given lines and which passes through each of the given points.

a $y = 3x + 1$ (3, 2) **b** $y = 3 - 2x$ (1, 3)

c $2x + 4y + 3 = 0$ (6, –3) **d** $2y - 3x + 2 = 0$ (8, 20)

2 Find the equation of the line perpendicular to $y = \frac{1}{2}x - 3$ which passes through the point (–5, 3).

> **Hint**
> If $m = \frac{a}{b}$ then the negative reciprocal $-\frac{1}{m} = -\frac{b}{a}$

3 Find the equation of the line perpendicular to each of the given lines and which passes through each of the given points.

a $y = 2x - 6$ (4, 0) **b** $y = -\frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1}{2}$ (2, 13)

c $x - 4y - 4 = 0$ (5, 15) **d** $5y + 2x - 5 = 0$ (6, 7)

4 In each case find an equation for the line passing through the origin which is also perpendicular to the line joining the two points given.

a $(4, 3)$, $(-2, -9)$ **b** $(0, 3)$, $(-10, 8)$

Extend

5 Work out whether these pairs of lines are parallel, perpendicular or neither.

a $y = 2x + 3$
$y = 2x - 7$

b $y = 3x$
$2x + y - 3 = 0$

c $y = 4x - 3$
$4y + x = 2$

d $3x - y + 5 = 0$
$x + 3y = 1$

e $2x + 5y - 1 = 0$
$y = 2x + 7$

f $2x - y = 6$
$6x - 3y + 3 = 0$

6 The straight line $\mathbf{L_1}$ passes through the points A and B with coordinates $(-4, 4)$ and $(2, 1)$, respectively.

a Find the equation of $\mathbf{L_1}$ in the form $ax + by + c = 0$

The line $\mathbf{L_2}$ is parallel to the line $\mathbf{L_1}$ and passes through the point C with coordinates $(-8, 3)$.

b Find the equation of $\mathbf{L_2}$ in the form $ax + by + c = 0$

The line $\mathbf{L_3}$ is perpendicular to the line $\mathbf{L_1}$ and passes through the origin.

c Find an equation of $\mathbf{L_3}$

Answers

1 **a** $y = 3x - 7$ **b** $y = -2x + 5$

c $y = -\frac{1}{2}x$ **d** $y = \frac{3}{2}x + 8$

2 $y = -2x - 7$

3 **a** $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 2$ **b** $y = 3x + 7$

c $y = -4x + 35$ **d** $y = \frac{5}{2}x - 8$

4 **a** $y = -\frac{1}{2}x$ **b** $y = 2x$

5 **a** Parallel **b** Neither **c** Perpendicular

d Perpendicular **e** Neither **f** Parallel

6 **a** $x + 2y - 4 = 0$ **b** $x + 2y + 2 = 0$ **c** $y = 2x$

Q1.

The point A (–6, 4) and the point B (8, –3) lie on the line L.

(a) Find an equation for L in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers.

(4)

(b) Find the distance AB, giving your answer in the form $k\sqrt{5}$, where k is an integer.

(3)

Q2.

The points P and Q have coordinates (−1, 6) and (9, 0) respectively.

The line l is perpendicular to PQ and passes through the mid-point of PQ.

Find an equation for l, giving your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers.

(5)

Q3.

The line l_1 has equation $3x + 5y - 2 = 0$

(a) Find the gradient of l_1.

(2)

The line l_2 is perpendicular to l_1 and passes through the point (3, 1).

(b) Find the equation of l_2 in the form $y = mx + c$, where m and c are constants.

(3)

Q4.

The line l_1 has equation $y = -2x + 3$

The line l_2 is perpendicular to l_1 and passes through the point (5, 6).

(a) Find an equation for l_2 in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a , b and c are integers.

(3)

The line l_2 crosses the x-axis at the point A and the y-axis at the point B.

(b) Find the x-coordinate of A and the y-coordinate of B.

(2)

Q5.

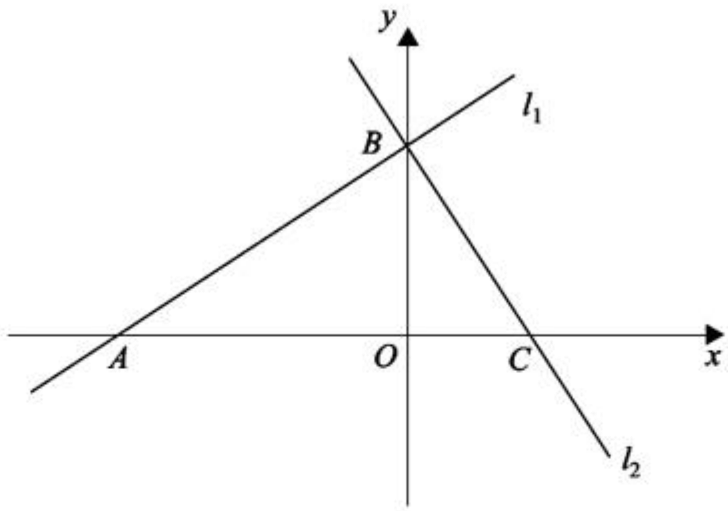


Figure 1

The line l_1 has equation $2x - 3y + 12 = 0$

(a) find the gradient of l_1.

(1)

The line l_1 crosses the x-axis at the point A and the y-axis at the point B, as shown in Figure 1.

The line l_2 is perpendicular to l_1 and passes through B.

(b) Find an equation of l_2.

(3)

The line l_2 crosses the x-axis at the point C.

(c) Find the area of triangle ABC.

(4)

Q6.

The line L_1 has equation $2y - 3x - k = 0$, where k is a constant.

Given that the point A (1, 4) lies on L_1, find

(a) the value of k,

(1)

(b) the gradient of L_1.

(2)

The line L_2 passes through A and is perpendicular to L_1

(c) Find an equation of L_2 giving your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers.

(4)

The line L_2 crosses the x-axis at the point B.

(d) Find the coordinates of B.

(2)

(e) Find the exact length of AB.

(2)

Q7.

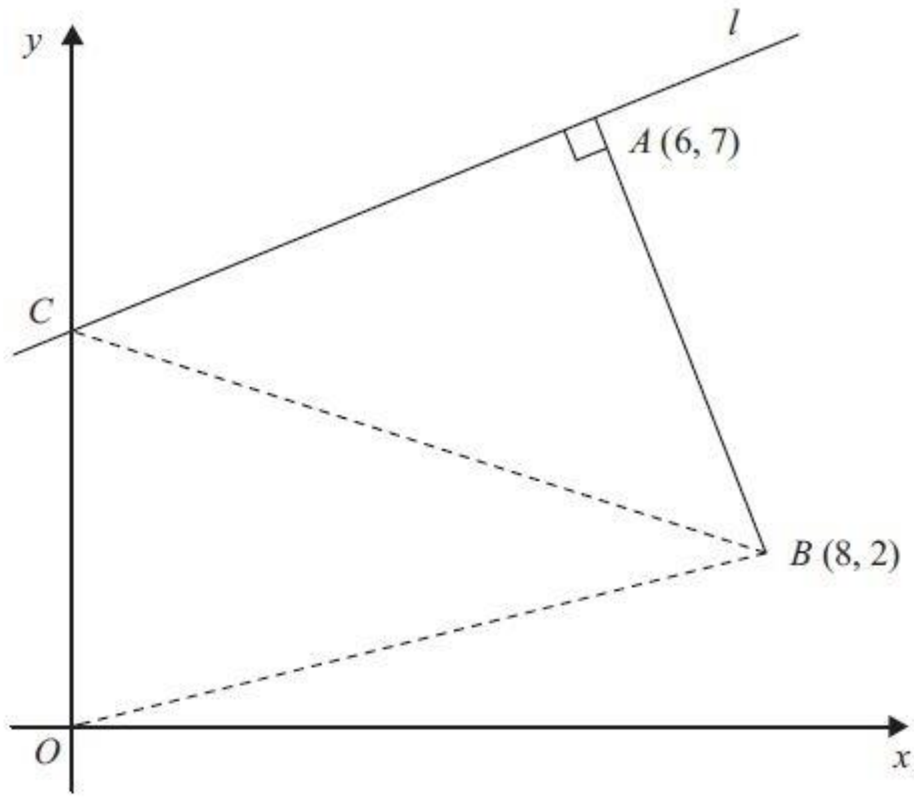


Figure 1

The points A and B have coordinates (6, 7) and (8, 2) respectively.

The line l passes through the point A and is perpendicular to the line AB, as shown in Figure 1.

(a) Find an equation for l in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers.

(4)

Given that l intersects the y-axis at the point C, find

(b) the coordinates of C,

(2)

(c) the area of ΔOCB, where O is the origin.

(2)

Q8.

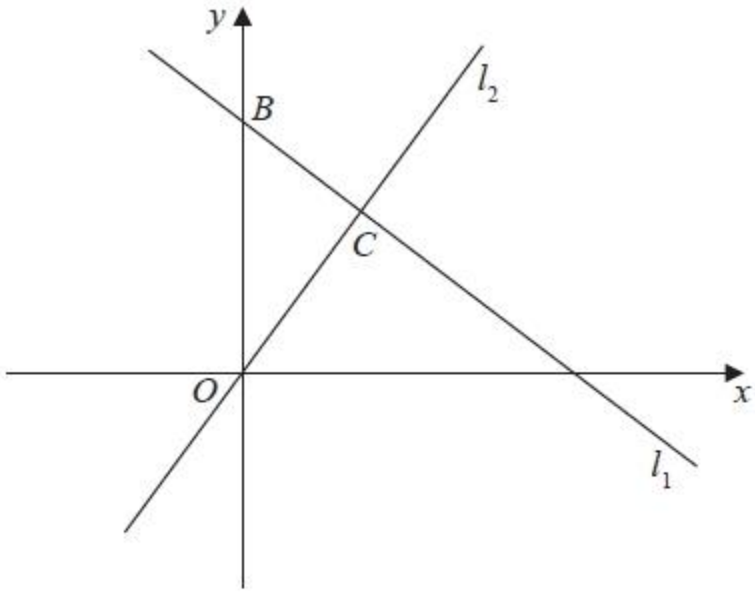


Figure 2

The line l_1, shown in Figure 2 has equation $2x + 3y = 26$

The line l_2 passes through the origin O and is perpendicular to l_1

(a) Find an equation for the line l_2

(4)

The line l_2 intersects the line l_1 at the point C.

Line l_1 crosses the y-axis at the point B as shown in Figure 2.

(b) Find the area of triangle OBC.

Give your answer in the form a/b, where a and b are integers to be determined.

(6)

Q9.

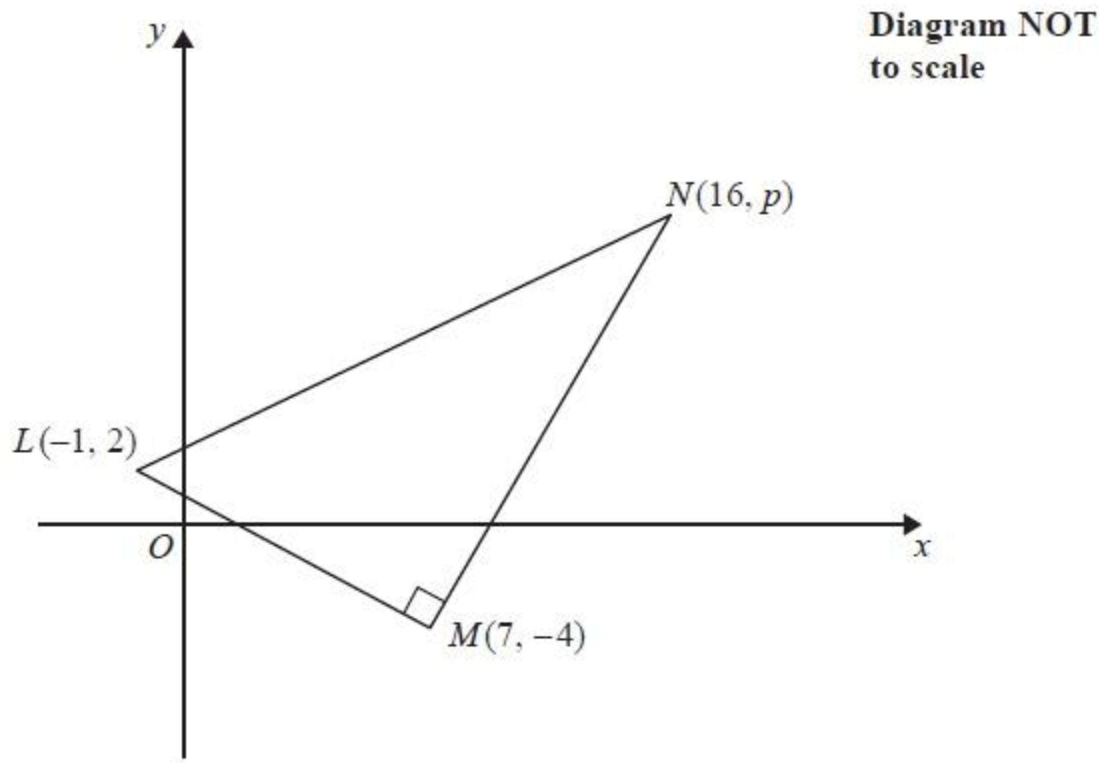


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a right angled triangle *LMN*.

The points *L* and *M* have coordinates (−1, 2) and (7, −4) respectively.

(a) Find an equation for the straight line passing through the points *L* and *M*.

Give your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers.

(4)

Given that the coordinates of point *N* are (16, *p*), where *p* is a constant, and angle *LMN* = 90°,

(b) find the value of *p*.

(3)

Given that there is a point *K* such that the points *L*, *M*, *N*, and *K* form a rectangle,

(c) find the *y* coordinate of *K*.

(2)

Q10.

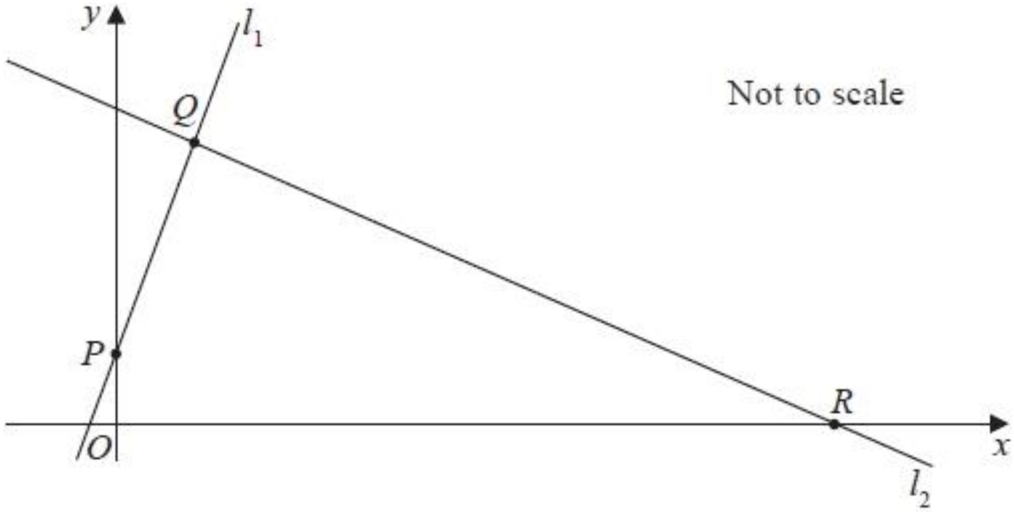


Figure 2

The points P (0, 2) and Q (3, 7) lie on the line l_1, as shown in Figure 2.

The line l_2 is perpendicular to l_1, passes through Q and crosses the x-axis at the point R, as shown in Figure 2.

Find

(a) an equation for l_2, giving your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers,

(5)

(b) the exact coordinates of R,

(2)

(c) the exact area of the quadrilateral $ORQP$, where O is the origin.

(5)