

A-Level Unit Test: Trigonometry

Solving Trig Equations



- 1a. Express $3\cos x + 4\sin x$ in the form $R\cos(x - \alpha)$, where R and α are constants, $R > 0$ and $0 < \alpha < 90$. (4)
- b. Hence find the maximum value of $3\cos x + 4\sin x$ and the smallest positive value of x for which this maximum occurs. (3)

The temperature, $f(t)$, of a warehouse is modelling using the equation

$$f(t) = 10 + 3\cos(15t) + 4\sin(15t)$$

Where t is the time in hours from midday $0 \leq t < 24$.

- c. Calculate the minimum temperature of the warehouse as given by this model. (2)
- d. Find the value of t when this minimum temperature occurs. (2)

- 2a. Express $2\sin x - 1.5\cos x$ in the form $R\sin(x - \alpha)$, where $R > 0$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$. Give the value of α to 4 decimal places. (3)
- bi. Find the maximum value of $2\sin x - 1.5\cos x$. (1)
- bii. Find the value of x , for $0 \leq x < \pi$, at which this maximum occurs. (2)

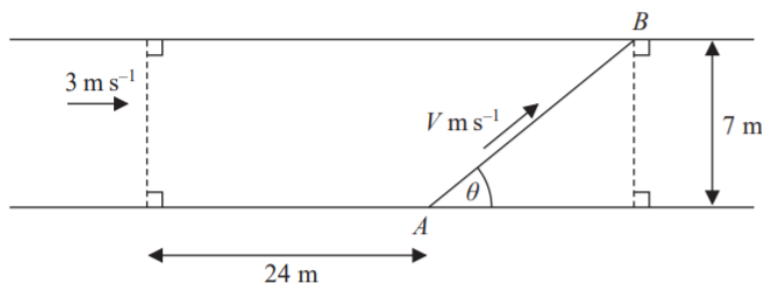
Tom models the height of the sea water, H metres, on a particular day by the equation

$$H = 6 + 2\sin\left(\frac{4\pi t}{25}\right) - 1.5\cos\left(\frac{4\pi t}{25}\right), 0 \leq t < 12$$

Where t hours is the number of hours after midday.

- c. Calculate the maximum value of H predicted by this model and the value of t to 2 decimal places, when this maximum occurs. (3)

3. Kate crosses a road, of constant width 7m in order to take a photograph of a marathon runner, John, approaching at 3ms^{-1} . Kate is 24 m ahead of John when she starts to cross the road from the fixed point A. John passes her as she reaches the other side of the road at a variable point B, as shown in Figure 2. Kate's speed is $V\text{ms}^{-1}$ and she moves in a straight line, which makes an angle x , $0 < x < 150$, with the edge of the road, as shown in the figure below.



You may assume that V is given by the formula,

$$V = \frac{21}{24\sin x + 7\cos x}, 0 < x < 150$$

- a. Express $24\sin x + 7\cos x$ in the form $R\cos(x - \alpha)$, where R and α are constants and where $R > 0$ and $0 < \alpha < 90$, giving the value of α to 2 decimal places. (3)

Given that x varies,

b. Find the minimum value of V

(2)

Given that Kate's speed has the value found in part b,

c. Find the distance AB

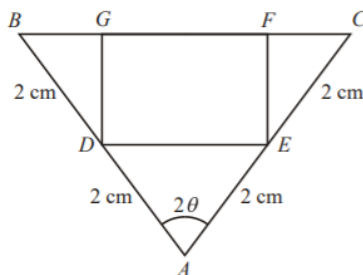
(3)

Given that Kate's speed in 1.68ms^{-1}

d. Find the two possible values of angle x , given that $0 < x < 150$

(5)

4. The diagram below shows an isosceles triangle ABC with $AB = AC = 4\text{cm}$ and angle $BAC = 2x$. The midpoints of AB and AC are D and E respectively. Rectangle $DEFG$ is drawn, with F and G on BC . The perimeter of rectangle $DEFG$ is $P\text{cm}$.



a. Show that $DE = 4 \sin x$

(2)

b. Show that $P = 8 \sin x + 4 \cos x$

(2)

c. Express P in the form $\sin(x - \alpha)$, where $R > 0$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$

(4)

Given that $P = 8.5$

d. Find, to 3 significant figures, the possible values of x .

(4)

Total marks: 84



Mark Scheme

1a.

$R^2 = 3^2 + 4^2$	M1
$R = 5$	M1
$\tan \alpha = \frac{4}{3}$	M1
$\alpha = 53^\circ$	M1

1b.

Maximum value is 5	M1
At maximum $\cos(x - \alpha) = 1$	M1
$x - \alpha = 0$ $x - 53 = 0$ $x = 53^\circ$	M1

1c.

$f(t) = 10 + 5 \cos(15t - \alpha)$ Minimum occurs when $\cos(15t - \alpha) = -1$	M1
The minimum temperature is $(10 - 5) = 5$	M1

1d.

$15t - \alpha = 180$	M1
$t = 15.5$	M1

2a.

$R = \sqrt{6.25} = 2.5$	M1
$\tan \alpha = \frac{1.5}{2}$	M1
$\alpha = 0.6435$	M1

2bi.

Max value = 2.5	M1
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2bii

$\sin(x - 0.6435) = 1$	M1
$x = 2.21$	M1

2c.

$H_{\max} = 8.5$	M1
$\sin(\frac{4\pi t}{25} - 0.6435) = 1$	M1
$t = 4.41$	M1

2d.

$6 + 2 \sin(\frac{4\pi t}{25} - 0.6435) - 1.5 \cos(\frac{4\pi t}{25} - 0.6435) = 7$	M1 M1
$\frac{4\pi t}{25} - 0.6435 = \sin^{-1}(0.4)$	M1
$t = 2.1$	M1
$\frac{4\pi t}{25} - 0.6435 = (\pi - 0.411517)$	M1
$t = 14:06$	
$\frac{4\pi t}{25} - 0.6435 = 2.730076$	M1
$t = 18:43$	

3a.

$R^2 = 7^2 + 24^2$ $R = 5$	M1
$\tan \alpha = \frac{24}{7}$	M1
$\alpha = 73.74^\circ$	M1

3b.

Maximum value of $24\sin x + 7\cos x = 25$	M1
Therefore $V_{\min} = \frac{21}{25} = 0.84$	M1

3c.

Distance $AB = \frac{7}{\sin x}$ $x = \alpha$	M1
Therefore distance = 7.29	M1

3d.

$R\cos(x - \alpha) = \frac{21}{1.68}$	M1
$\cos(x - \alpha) = 0.5$	M1
$x - \alpha = 60$	M1
$x = 133.7$	M1
$x = 13.7$	M1

4a.

Complete method for DE [e.g. split triangle ADE and sin, or sine or cos rule]	M1
$DE = 4 \sin x$	M1

4b.

$P = 2 DE + 2EF$ or equivalent. With attempt at EF	M1
$= 8\sin x + 4\cos x$	M1

4c.

$8\sin x + 4\cos x = R \sin(x + \alpha) = R \sin x \cos \alpha + R \cos x \sin \alpha$	M1
$R^2 = 8^2 + 4^2$ $R = 4\sqrt{5}$	M1
$\tan \alpha = 0.5$	M1
$\alpha = 0.464$	M1

4d.

$4\sqrt{5} \sin(x + \alpha) = 8.5$	M1
$x + 0.464 = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{8.5}{4\sqrt{5}}\right)$	M1
$x = 0.791$	M1
$x = 1.42$	M1

