



**PROJECT MATHS**  
**Text & Tests**  
**Leaving 3 Certificate**

**Coordinate Geometry –  
 The Line**

chapter

**3**

*Key words*

Cartesian plane    origin    axis    quadrant    vertex    horizontal  
 vertical    slope    parallel    perpendicular    positive    negative  
 linear equation    area    translation    intersection    collinear

**Section 3.2 Distance between two points**

Formula    Log Tables Pg 18

$$|PQ| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

mean  
 Distance

Method : 1) Label the two  
 points  $(x_1, y_1)$   $(x_2, y_2)$

2) Sub the labelled  
 values in the formula

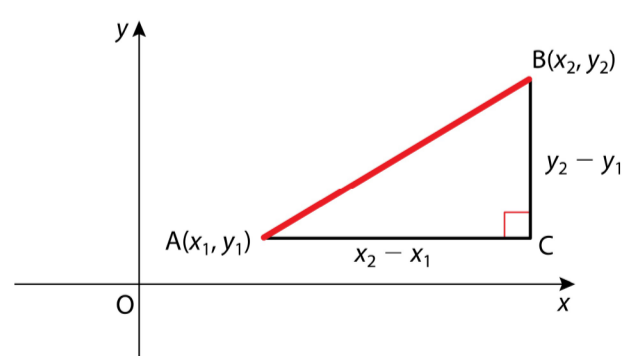
51

**Notes**

**Section 3.2 Distance between two points**

The given diagram shows the points  $A(x_1, y_1)$  and  $B(x_2, y_2)$ .

$|BC| = y_2 - y_1$     and     $|AC| = x_2 - x_1$



Using the Theorem of Pythagoras:

$$|AB|^2 = |AC|^2 + |BC|^2$$

$$= (x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2$$

$$\therefore |AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

The distance between  $A(x_1, y_1)$  and  $B(x_2, y_2)$  is

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

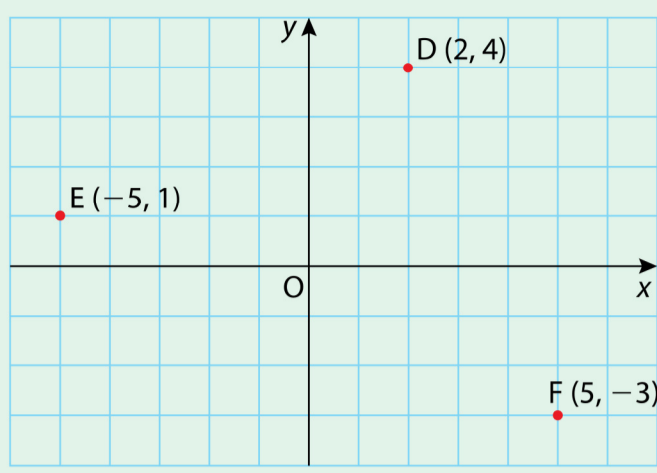
51

### Example 1

Show that D(2, 4) is equidistant from E(-5, 1) and F(5, -3).

Equidistant means the same distance.

The distance between A(x<sub>1</sub>, y<sub>1</sub>) and B(x<sub>2</sub>, y<sub>2</sub>) is  
 $|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$



$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{matrix} D(2, 4) & E(-5, 1) \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \\ (x_1, y_1) & (x_2, y_2) \end{matrix} \\ |DE| &= \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(-5 - 2)^2 + (1 - 4)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(-7)^2 + (-3)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{49 + 9} = \sqrt{58} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{matrix} D(2, 4) & F(5, -3) \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \\ (x_1, y_1) & (x_2, y_2) \end{matrix} \\ |DF| &= \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(5 - 2)^2 + (-3 - 4)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(3)^2 + (-7)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{9 + 49} = \sqrt{58} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|DE| = |DF| = \sqrt{58}$ , D is equidistant from E and F.

51

### Example 2

If the distance between the points (2, 3) and (5, k) is  $\sqrt{10}$ , find two possible values of k.

The distance between A(x<sub>1</sub>, y<sub>1</sub>) and B(x<sub>2</sub>, y<sub>2</sub>) is  
 $|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$

$$\begin{matrix} (x_1, y_1) & (x_2, y_2) \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \\ (2, 3) & (5, k) \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Distance} &= \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(5 - 2)^2 + (k - 3)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{9 + k^2 - 6k + 9} \\ &= \sqrt{k^2 - 6k + 18} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Distance} = \sqrt{10} &\Rightarrow \sqrt{k^2 - 6k + 18} = \sqrt{10} \\ &\Rightarrow k^2 - 6k + 18 = 10 \\ &\Rightarrow k^2 - 6k + 8 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (k - 2)(k - 4) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow k = 2 \text{ or } k = 4 \end{aligned}$$

52

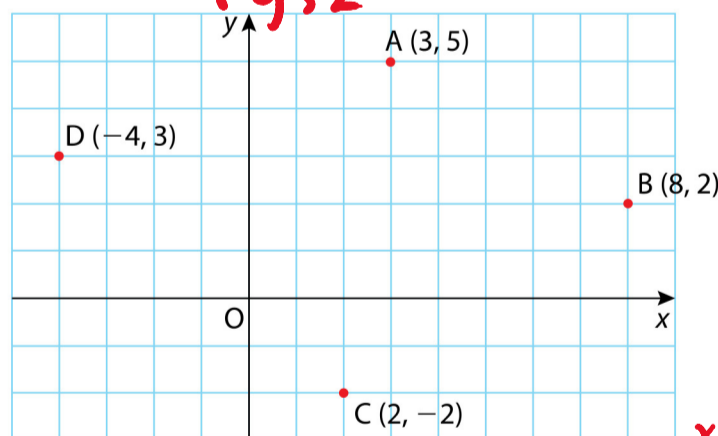
### Exercise 3.2

1. The points A, B, C and D are shown.

- Find (i)  $|AB|$   
 (ii)  $|AC|$   
 (iii)  $|AD|$ .

Is  $|DC| = |BC|$ ?

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$



i)  $A(x_1, y_1) B(x_2, y_2) \quad |AB|$

$$\begin{aligned} |AB| &= \sqrt{(8 - 3)^2 + (2 - 5)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(5)^2 + (-3)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{25 + 9} \\ &= \sqrt{34} \text{ surd [SD]} \\ &= \text{Decimal } 5.831 \end{aligned}$$

ii)  $A(x_1, y_1) C(x_2, y_2)$

$$\begin{aligned} |AC| &= \sqrt{(2 - 3)^2 + (-2 - 5)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (-7)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{1 + 49} \\ &= \sqrt{50} \text{ surd form} \\ &= 7.071 \end{aligned}$$

iii)  $A(x_1, y_1) D(x_2, y_2)$

$$\begin{aligned} |AD| &= \sqrt{(-4 - 3)^2 + (3 - 5)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(-7)^2 + (-2)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{49 + 4} \\ &= \sqrt{53} \\ &= 7.280 \end{aligned}$$

52

$$\begin{aligned} |DC| &= D(x_1, y_1) C(x_2, y_2) \\ &= \sqrt{(2 - (-4))^2 + (-2 - 3)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{6^2 + (-5)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{36 + 25} \\ &= \sqrt{61} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |BC| &= B(x_1, y_1) C(x_2, y_2) \\ &= \sqrt{(2 - 8)^2 + (-2 - 2)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(-6)^2 + (-4)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{36 + 16} \end{aligned}$$

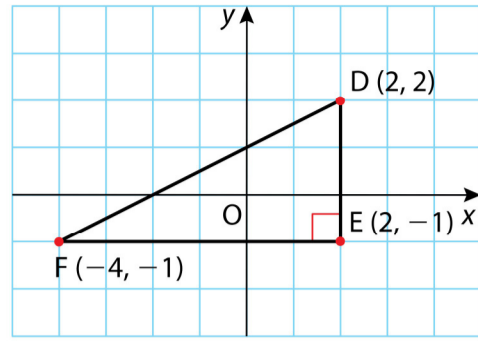
Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

2. The given diagram shows the points D, E and F.

- (i) Write down the lengths of [FE] and [ED].
- (ii) Find |DF|.

Use the Theorem of Pythagoras to show that the triangle DEF is right-angled.



$$\sqrt{52}$$

$$|BC| \neq |DC|$$

$$\sqrt{52} \neq \sqrt{61}$$

Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

H/w

3. Find the distance between each of the following pairs of points:

- (i) (2, 1) and (3, 4)
- (ii) (1, 5) and (2, 3)
- (iii) (-1, 4) and (2, 6)
- (iv) (3, -2) and (-5, 3)
- (v) (-6, -1) and (1, -3)
- (vi) (4, -2) and (0, -5)

Pg 53 Q3 H/w.

Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

4. Find |AB| in each of the following:

- (i) A = (2, -4), B = (3, 1)
- (ii) A = (0, 3), B = (-2, 5)
- (iii) A = (0, -2), B = (3, -1)
- (iv) A = (5, -2), B = (3, -4)

Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

5. A(1, 1), B(3, 6) and C(5, 1) are the vertices of a triangle. Show that  $|AB| = |BC|$ .

53

Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

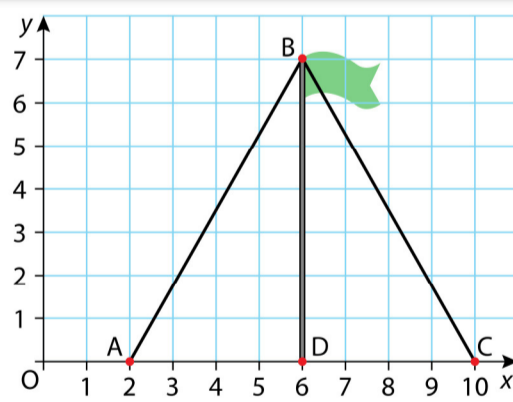
6. X(1, 6), Y(-3, -1) and Z(2, -2) are the vertices of a triangle.  
Find the lengths of the 3 sides and then state which two sides are equal in length.  
Hence state what type of triangle is XYZ.

53

Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

7. A wire ABC is used to support a flag pole [BD], as shown on the right.  
Write down the coordinates of A, B, C and D.  
Calculate the length of wire needed to support the pole.



53

**Exercise 3.2**

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

8. The centre of a circle is  $(-3, 1)$  and  $(4, 3)$  is a point on the circle.  
Find the length of the radius of the circle.

53

**Exercise 3.2**

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

9. The points  $A(2, 1)$ ,  $B(6, 1)$ ,  $C(5, -2)$  and  $D(1, -2)$  are the vertices of a parallelogram.  
Plot the parallelogram on a coordinated plane.  
Find (i)  $|AC|$  (ii)  $|BD|$ .  
Are the diagonals equal in length?

53

**Exercise 3.2**

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

10. The distance between the points  $(5, 2)$  and  $(4, k)$  is  $\sqrt{2}$ .  
Find two possible values for  $k$ .

53

Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

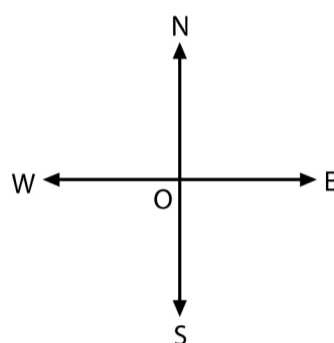
11.  $X(3, k)$  and  $Y(-1, 2)$  are two points.  
If  $|XY| = 5$ , find two possible values for  $k$ .

53

Exercise 3.2

$$|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

12. Jordan lives (3 km West, 4 km South) of the centre of the town marked O in the given diagram.  
Michelle lives (2 km West, 3 km North) of Jordan's house.  
How far does Michelle live from the centre of town?



54

Exercise 3.2 Answers

1. (i)  $\sqrt{34}$       (ii)  $\sqrt{50}$       (iii)  $\sqrt{53}$ ; No
2. (i)  $|FE| = 6, |ED| = 3$       (ii)  $\sqrt{45}$
3. (i)  $\sqrt{10}$       (ii)  $\sqrt{5}$       (iii)  $\sqrt{13}$   
(iv)  $\sqrt{89}$       (v)  $\sqrt{53}$       (vi) 5
4. (i)  $\sqrt{26}$       (ii)  $\sqrt{8}$       (iii)  $\sqrt{10}$       (iv)  $\sqrt{8}$
6.  $|XY| = \sqrt{65}; |XZ| = \sqrt{65}; |YZ| = \sqrt{26};$   
 $|XY| = |XZ| \Rightarrow \triangle XYZ$  is isosceles
7.  $A(2, 0), B(6, 7), C(10, 0), D(6, 0); 2\sqrt{65}$  units
8.  $\sqrt{53}$
9. (i)  $\sqrt{18}$       (ii)  $\sqrt{34}$ ; No
10.  $k = 1$  or  $k = 3$
11.  $k = 5$  or  $k = -1$
12.  $\sqrt{26}$  km

**Answers**