

GCC Logs and Exponentials

[SQA] 1. Evaluate $\log_5 2 + \log_5 50 - \log_5 4$.

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	2	C	NC	A28	2	2000 P1 Q9
	1	A/B	NC	A28		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ pd: use $\log_a x + \log_a y = \log_a xy$ •² pd: use $\log_a x - \log_a y = \log_a \frac{x}{y}$ •³ pd: use $\log_a a = 1$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $\log_5 100 - \log_5 4$ •² $\log_5 25$ •³ 2
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2. (a) Given that $\log_4 x = P$, show that $\log_{16} x = \frac{1}{2}P$.

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(b) Solve $\log_3 x + \log_9 x = 12$.

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	3	A	CN	A28	proof	2010 P2 Q7
(b)	3	A	CN	A32	$x = 3^8 (= 6561)$	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ ss: convert from log to exponential form •² ss: know to and convert back to log form •³ pd: process and complete •⁴ ss: use appropriate strategy •⁵ pd: start solving process •⁶ pd: complete process via log to expo form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $x = 4^P$ •² $\log_{16} x = \log_{16} 4^P$ •³ $\log_{16} x = P \times \log_{16} 4$ and complete •⁴ $\log_3 x + \frac{1}{2} \log_3 x = 12$ •⁵ $\log_3 x = 8$ •⁶ $x = 3^8 (= 6561)$
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[SQA] 3. Medical researchers studying the growth of a strain of bacteria observe that the number of bacteria, present after t hours, is given by the formula $N(t) = 40e^{1.5t}$.

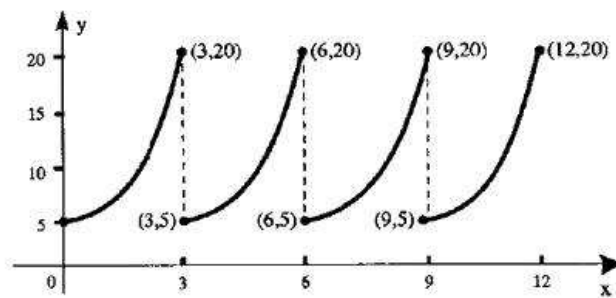
- (a) State the number of bacteria present at the start of the experiment.
- (b) How many minutes will the bacteria take to double in number?

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	1	C	CR	A6		1989 P1 Q20
(b)	1	C	CR	A30		
(b)	3	A/B	CR	A30		

- ¹ 40
- ² $40e^{1.5t} = 80$
- ³ $1.5t = \ln 2$
- ⁴ $t = 0.46$
- ⁵ 28 minutes

[SQA] 4. A medical technician obtains this print-out of a wave form generated by an oscilloscope. The technician knows that the equation of the first branch of the graph (for $0 \leq x \leq 3$) should be of the form $y = ae^{kx}$.



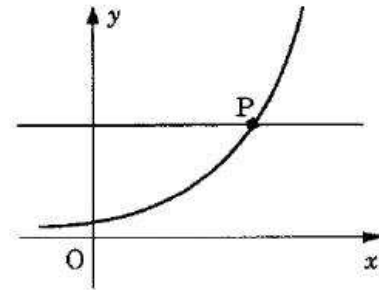
- (a) Find the values of a and k .
- (b) Find the equation of the second branch of the curve (i.e. for $3 \leq x \leq 6$).

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	1	C	CR	A2		1993 P1 Q15
(a)	3	A/B	CR	A30		
(b)	1	A/B	CR	A7		

- ¹ $(0, 5) \Rightarrow a = 5$
- ² $20 = 5e^{3k}$
- ³ e.g. $\ln 20 = \ln 5 + 3k \ln e$
- ⁴ $k = 0.462$ (Accept $\frac{1}{3} \ln 4$)
- ⁵ $y = 5e^{k(x-3)}$

- [SQA] 5. The diagram shows part of the graph with equation $y = 3^x$ and the straight line with equation $y = 42$. These graphs intersect at P.



Solve algebraically the equation $3^x = 42$, and hence write down, correct to 3 decimal places, the coordinates of P.

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	4	A/B	CR	A30		1994 P1 Q20

• ¹ use logs	OR	• ¹ use logs	OR	• ¹ use exponentials
• ² $\ln 3^x = \ln 42$		• ² $x = \log_3 42$		• ² $(e^{1.0986})^x = 42$
• ³ $x \ln 3 = \ln 42$		• ³ $x = \frac{\ln 42}{\ln 3}$		• ³ $1.0986x = \ln 42$
• ⁴ 3.402		• ⁴ 3.402		• ⁴ 3.402

- [SQA] 6. The amount A grams of a radioactive substance at time t minutes is given by $A = A_0 e^{-kt}$ where A_0 is the initial amount of the substance and k is a constant.
In 3 minutes, 10 grams of the substance Bismuth are reduced to 9 grams through radioactive decay.

(a) Find the value of k .

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The half-life of a substance is the length of time in which half the substance decays.

(b) Find the half-life of Bismuth.

2

Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	1	C	CR	A30		1995 P1 Q18
(a)	2	A/B	CR	A30, A34		
(b)	2	A/B	CR	A30		

• ¹ $9 = 10e^{-3k}$
• ² $-3k = \log_e 0.9$
• ³ 0.04
• ⁴ $e^{-kt} = 0.5$
• ⁵ a correct value for t

- [SQA] 7. A mug of tea cools according to the law $T_t = T_0 e^{-kt}$ where T_0 is the initial temperature and T_c is the temperature after t minutes. All temperatures are in °C.
- (a) A particular mug of tea cooled from boiling point (100°C) to 75°C in a quarter of an hour. Calculate the value of k . 3
- (b) By how many degrees will the temperature of this tea fall in the next quarter of an hour? 2

Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	1	C	CR	A30		1996 P1 Q19
	4	A/B	CR	A30, A34		

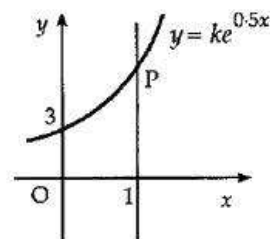
• ¹ $75 = 100e^{-k \times 15}$	• ⁴ $T_{15} = 75e^{-0.0192 \times 15}$ or $T_{30} = 100e^{-0.0192 \times 30}$
• ² $\ln 0.75 = -15k$	• ⁵ fall = 18.75
• ³ $k = 0.0192$	

- [SQA] 8. Before a forest fire was brought under control, the spread of the fire was described by a law of the form $A = A_0 e^{kt}$ where A_0 is the area covered by the fire when it was first detected and A is the area covered by the fire t hours later.
- If it takes one and a half hours for the area of the forest fire to double, find the value of the constant k . 3

Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	3	A/B	CR	A30	$k = 0.46$	2001 P2 Q9

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ ic: form exponential equation •² ss: express exp. equ. as log equation •³ pd: solve log equation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $2A_0 = A_0 e^{k \times 1.5}$ •² e.g. $1.5k = \ln 2$ •³ $k = 0.46$
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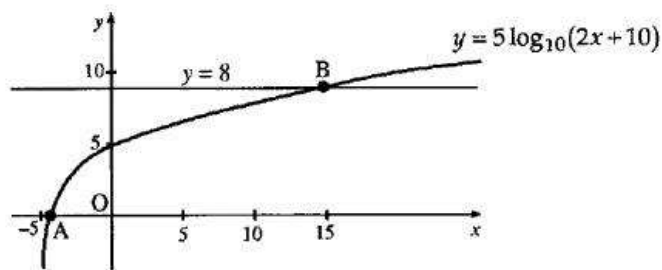
- [SQA] 9. The diagram shows part of the graph of $y = ke^{0.5x}$.
- (a) Find the value of k . 1
- (b) The line with equation $x = 1$ intersects the graph at P. Find the coordinates of the point P. 2



Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	1	C	CR	A30, A34		1991 P1 Q4
(b)	2	C	CR	A6		

• ¹ $3 = ke^0 \Rightarrow k = 3$	
• ² $y = 3e^{0.5}$ or equivalent	
• ³ (1, 4.9)	

- [SQA] 10. Part of the graph of $y = 5 \log_{10}(2x + 10)$ is shown in the diagram. This graph crosses the x -axis at the point A and the straight line $y = 8$ at the point B.



Find algebraically the x -coordinates of A and B.

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	4	A/B	CR	A31		1997 P1 Q17

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $x_A = -4.5$ •² $5 \log_{10}(2x + 10) = 8$ •³ $2x + 10 = 10^{\frac{8}{5}}$ •⁴ $x = 14.9$
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- [SQA] 11. Find the x -coordinate of the point where the graph of the curve with equation $y = \log_3(x - 2) + 1$ intersects the x -axis.

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	2	C	CN	A31		2002 P2 Q7
	1	A/B	CN	A32	$x = 2\frac{1}{3}$	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ ss: know to isolate log term •² pd: express log equation as exp. equ. •³ pd: process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $\log_3(x - 2) = -1$ •² $x - 2 = 3^{-1}$ •³ $x = 2\frac{1}{3}$
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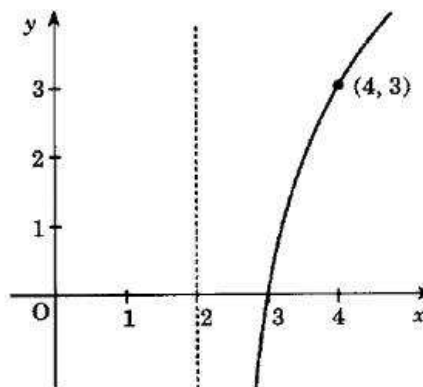
- [SQA] 12. Given $x = \log_5 3 + \log_5 4$, find algebraically the value of x .

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	1	C	NC	A31		1998 P1 Q19
	3	A/B	NC	A28		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $x = \log_5 12$ •² $5^x = 12$ •³ $\log 5^x = \log 12$ •⁴ $\frac{\log_{10} 12}{\log_{10} 5}$ or $\frac{\log_e 12}{\log_e 5}$ or $\frac{\log 12}{\log 5} = 1.54$
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- [SQA] 13. The diagram shows a sketch of the graph of $y = f(x)$ where $f(x) = a \log_2(x - b)$. Find the values of a and b .

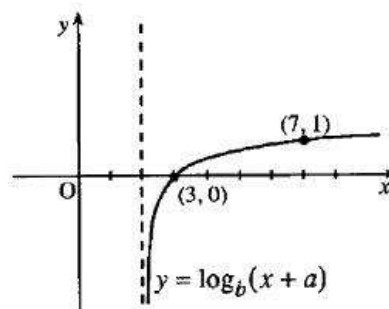


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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	
	3	A/B	CN	A31, A2		U3 OC3 1995 P1 Q19

- ¹ $b = 2$
- ² $3 = a \log_2 2$ stated or implied
or $(4 - b)^a = 8$
- ³ $a = 3$

- [SQA] 14. The diagram shows part of the graph of $y = \log_b(x + a)$. Determine the values of a and b .



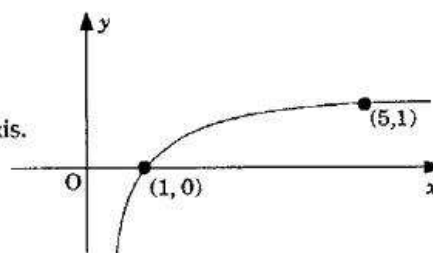
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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	
	3	A/B	CN	A31, A2		U3 OC3 1999 P1 Q15

- ¹ $a = -2$ OR
- ² $1 = \log_b(7 - 2)$
- ³ $b = 5$
- ¹ $1 = \log_b(7 + a)$ and $0 = \log_b(a + 3)$
- ² $7 + a = b$ and $a + 3 = b^0$
- ³ $a = -2, b = 5$

[SQA] 15. The diagram shows a sketch of part of the graph of $y = \log_5 x$.

(a) Make a copy of the graph of $y = \log_5 x$.
On your copy, sketch the graph of $y = \log_5 x + 1$.
Find the coordinates of the point where it crosses the x -axis.



(b) Make a second copy of the graph of $y = \log_5 x$.
On your copy, sketch the graph of $y = \log_5 \frac{1}{x}$.

Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	2	C	NC	A32		1994 P1 Q16
(a)	1	A/B	NC	A3		
(b)	2	A/B	NC	A28, A3		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ sketch of new function •² $\log_5 x + 1 = 0$ •³ $(\frac{1}{5}, 0)$ 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •⁴ $\log_5 \frac{1}{x} = -\log_5 x$ •⁵ reflect in x-axis 	
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[SQA] 16.

(a) (i) Show that $x = 1$ is a root of $x^3 + 8x^2 + 11x - 20 = 0$.
(ii) Hence factorise $x^3 + 8x^2 + 11x - 20$ fully.

(b) Solve $\log_2(x + 3) + \log_2(x^2 + 5x - 4) = 3$.

Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	4	C	CN	A21	$(x - 1)(x + 4)(x + 5)$	2009 P2 Q3
(b)	5	B	CN	A32	$x = 1$	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ ss: know and use $f(a) = 0 \Leftrightarrow a$ is a root •² ic: start to find quadratic factor •³ ic: complete quadratic factor •⁴ pd: factorise fully •⁵ ss: use log laws •⁶ ss: know to & convert to exponential form •⁷ ic: write cubic in standard form •⁸ pd: solve cubic •⁹ ic: interpret valid solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $f(1) = 1 + 8 + 11 - 20 = 0$ so $x = 1$ is a root •² $(x - 1)(x^2 \dots)$ •³ $(x - 1)(x^2 + 9x + 20)$ •⁴ $(x - 1)(x + 4)(x + 5)$ •⁵ $\log_2((x + 3)(x^2 + 5x - 4))$ •⁶ $(x + 3)(x^2 + 5x - 4) = 2^3$ •⁷ $x^3 + 8x^2 + 11x - 20 = 0$ •⁸ $x = 1$ or $x = -4$ or $x = -5$ •⁹ $x = 1$ only
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[SQA] 17. Find x if $4 \log_x 6 - 2 \log_x 4 = 1$.

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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	3	C	NC	A32, A28, A31	$x = 81$	2001 P1 Q8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ pd: use log-to-index rule •² pd: use log-to-division rule •³ ic: interpret base for $\log_x a = 1$ and simplify 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $\log_x 6^4 - \log_x 4^2$ •² $\log_x \frac{6^4}{4^2}$ •³ all processing leading to $x = 81$ 		

- [SQA] 18. When the switch in this circuit was closed, the computer printed out a graph of the current flowing (I microamps) against the time (t seconds). This graph is shown in fig. 1.

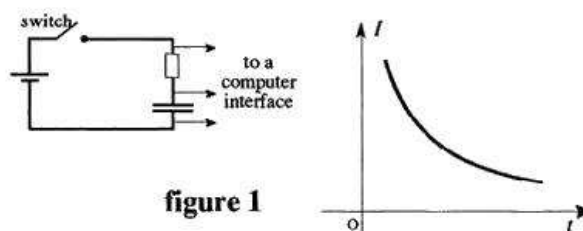


figure 1

In order to determine the equation of the graph shown in figure 1, values of $\log_e I$ were plotted against $\log_e t$ and the best fitting straight line was drawn as shown in figure 2.

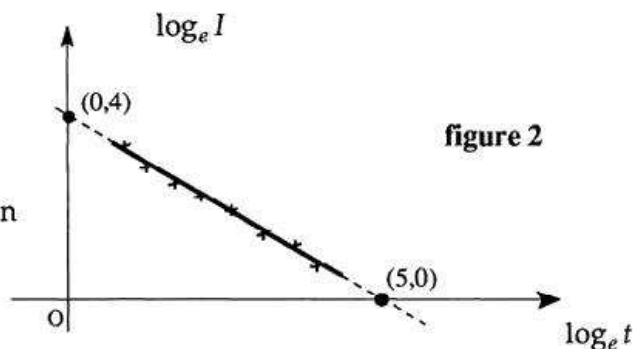


figure 2

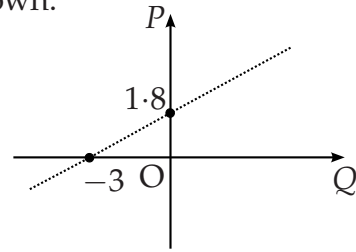
- (a) Find the equation of the line shown in figure 2 in terms of $\log_e I$ and $\log_e t$. (3)
- (b) Hence or otherwise show that I and t satisfy a relationship of the form $I = kt^r$ stating the values of k and r . (4)

Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	3	C	CR	G2, G3		1993 P2 Q10
(b)	4	A/B	CR	A33		

- (a)
- ¹ $m = -\frac{4}{5}$ stated or implied
 - ² $y = mx + 4$ stated or implied
 - ³ $\log_e I = -\frac{4}{5}\log_e t + 4$
- (b)
- ⁴ $\log_e t^{-\frac{4}{5}}$
 - ⁵ $\log_e 54.6$
 - ⁶ $\log_e 54.6t^{-\frac{4}{5}}$
 - ⁷ $I = 54.6t^{-0.8}$

[SQA] 19. The results of an experiment give rise to the graph shown.

(a) Write down the equation of the line in terms of P and Q .



2

It is given that $P = \log_e p$ and $Q = \log_e q$.

(b) Show that p and q satisfy a relationship of the form $p = aq^b$, stating the values of a and b .

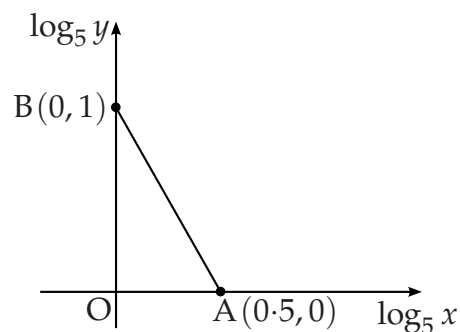
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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
(a)	2	A/B	CR	G3	$P = 0.6Q + 1.8$	2000 P2 Q11
(b)	4	A/B	CR	A33	$a = 6.05, b = 0.6$	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ ic: interpret gradient •² ic: state equ. of line •³ ic: interpret straight line •⁴ ss: know how to deal with x of $x \log y$ •⁵ ss: know how to express number as log •⁶ ic: interpret sum of two logs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ $m = \frac{1.8}{3} = 0.6$ •² $P = 0.6Q + 1.8$ <p>Method 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •³ $\log_e p = 0.6 \log_e q + 1.8$ •⁴ $\log_e q^{0.6}$ •⁵ $\log_e 6.05$ •⁶ $p = 6.05q^{0.6}$ <p>Method 2</p> <p>$\ln p = \ln aq^b$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •³ $\ln p = \ln a + b \ln q$ •⁴ $\ln p = 0.6 \ln q + 1.8$ <i>stated or implied by •⁵ or •⁶</i> •⁵ $\ln a = 1.8$ •⁶ $a = 6.05, b = 0.6$
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[SQA] 20. The graph illustrates the law $y = kx^n$.

If the straight line passes through A(0.5,0) and B(0,1), find the values of k and n .



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Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	4	A/B	NC	A33	$y = 5x^{-2}$	2002 P1 Q11

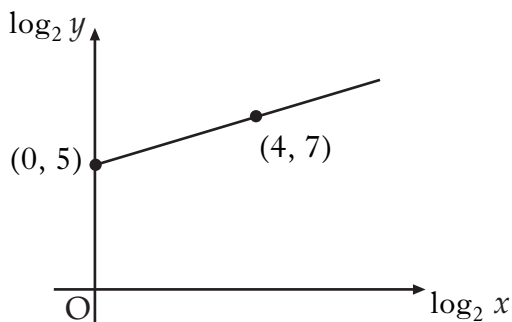
- ¹ ic: interpret graph
- ² ss: use log laws
- ³ ss: use log laws
- ⁴ pd: solve log equation

- ¹ $\log_5 y = -2(\log_5 x) + 1$
- ² $\log_5 y = \log_5 x^{-2} + \dots$
- ³ $\dots + \log_5 5$
- ⁴ $y = 5x^{-2}$

21. Variables x and y are related by the equation $y = kx^n$.

The graph of $\log_2 y$ against $\log_2 x$ is a straight line through the points (0,5) and (4,7), as shown in the diagram.

Find the values of k and n .



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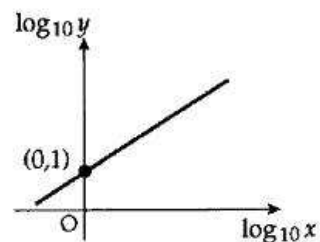
Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	U3 OC3
	5	A	CN	A33	$k = 32, n = \frac{1}{2}$	2011 P2 Q5

- ¹ ss: introduce logarithms to $y = kx^n$
- ² ic: use laws of logarithms
- ³ ic: interpret intercept
- ⁴ ic: solve for k
- ⁵ ic: interpret gradient

- ¹ $\log_2 y = \log_2 kx^n$
- ² $\log_2 y = n \log_2 x + \log_2 k$
- ³ $\log_2 k = 5$ or $\log_2 y = 5$
- ⁴ $k = 32$ or 2^5
- ⁵ $n = \frac{1}{2}$

- [SQA] 22. As shown in the diagram, a set of experimental results gives a straight line graph when $\log_{10} y$ is plotted against $\log_{10} x$. The straight line passes through $(0, 1)$ and has a gradient of 2.

Express y in terms of x .



6

Part	Marks	Level	Calc.	Content	Answer	
	2	C	CN	G3		U3 OC3
	4	A/B	CN	A33, A34		1990 P1 Q14

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •¹ use $y = mx + c$ •² $\log_{10} y = 2 \log_{10} x + 1$ •³ $\log_{10} y = 2 \log_{10} x + \log_{10} 10$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •⁴ $\log_{10} y = \log_{10} x^2 + 1$ •⁵ $\log_{10} y = \log_{10} 10x^2$ •⁶ $y = 10x^2$
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[END OF QUESTIONS]