



# DP IB Maths: AA HL

## 3.1 Geometry Toolkit

### Contents

- \* 3.1.1 Coordinate Geometry
- \* 3.1.2 Radian Measure
- \* 3.1.3 Arcs & Sectors

© 2025 Exam Papers Practice. All Rights Reserved

### 3.1.1 Coordinate Geometry

#### Basic Coordinate Geometry

##### What are cartesian coordinates?

- **Cartesian** coordinates are basically the x-y coordinate system
  - They allow us to label where things are in a two-dimensional plane
- In the 2D cartesian system, the horizontal axis is labelled x and the vertical axis is labelled y

##### What can we do with coordinates?

- If we have two points with coordinates  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  then we should be able to find
  - The **midpoint** of the two points
  - The **distance** between the two points
  - The **gradient** of the line between them

##### How do I find the midpoint of two points?

- The midpoint is the **average (middle) point**
  - It can be found by finding the middle of the x-coordinates and the middle of the y-coordinates
- The coordinates of the midpoint will be

$$\left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

- This is given in the formula booklet under the prior learning section at the beginning

##### How do I find the distance between two points?

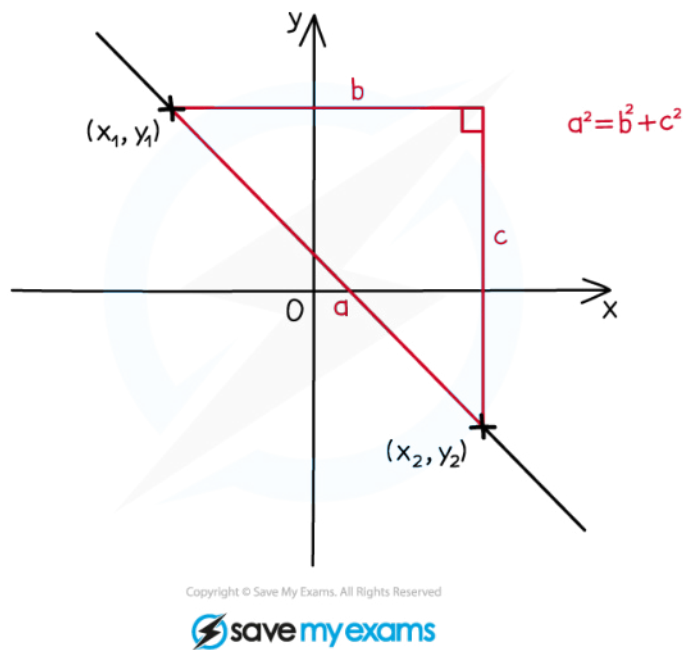
- The distance between two points with coordinates  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  can be found using the formula

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

- This is given in the formula booklet in the *prior learning* section at the beginning
- Pythagoras' Theorem  $a^2 = b^2 + c^2$  is used to find the length of a line between two coordinates
- If the coordinates are labelled A and B then the line segment between them is written with the notation [AB]



Your notes



### How do I find the gradient of the line between two points?

- The gradient of a line between two points with coordinates  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  can be found using the formula

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

- This is given in the formula booklet under section 2.1 Gradient formula

- This is usually known as  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$

### Worked example

Point A has coordinates (3, -4) and point B has coordinates (-5, 2).

- i) Calculate the distance of the line segment AB.

$$\begin{array}{cc} A: (3, -4) & B: (-5, 2) \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow & \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ x_1 \quad y_1 & x_2 \quad y_2 \end{array}$$

Formula for distance between two points:

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

sub coordinates for A and B into the formula :

$$\begin{aligned} d &= \sqrt{(3 - (-5))^2 + (-4 - 2)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{8^2 + (-6)^2} = \sqrt{100} \end{aligned}$$

$$d = 10 \text{ units}$$

- ii) Find the gradient of the line connecting points A and B.

$$A: (3, -4) \quad B: (-5, 2)$$

$\begin{matrix} \nearrow & \nearrow \\ x_1 & y_1 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \nearrow & \nearrow \\ x_2 & y_2 \end{matrix}$

Formula for gradient of a line segment:

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

Sub coordinates for A and B into the formula:

$$m = \frac{2 - (-4)}{-5 - 3} = \frac{6}{-8} = -\frac{3}{4}$$

$$m = -\frac{3}{4}$$

iii) Find the midpoint of [AB].

$$A: (3, -4) \quad B: (-5, 2)$$

$\begin{matrix} \nearrow & \nearrow \\ x_1 & y_1 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \nearrow & \nearrow \\ x_2 & y_2 \end{matrix}$

Formula for the midpoint of two coordinates:

$$\left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

Sub values in:

$$\text{Midpoint} = \left( \frac{3 + (-5)}{2}, \frac{-4 + 2}{2} \right) = (-1, -1)$$

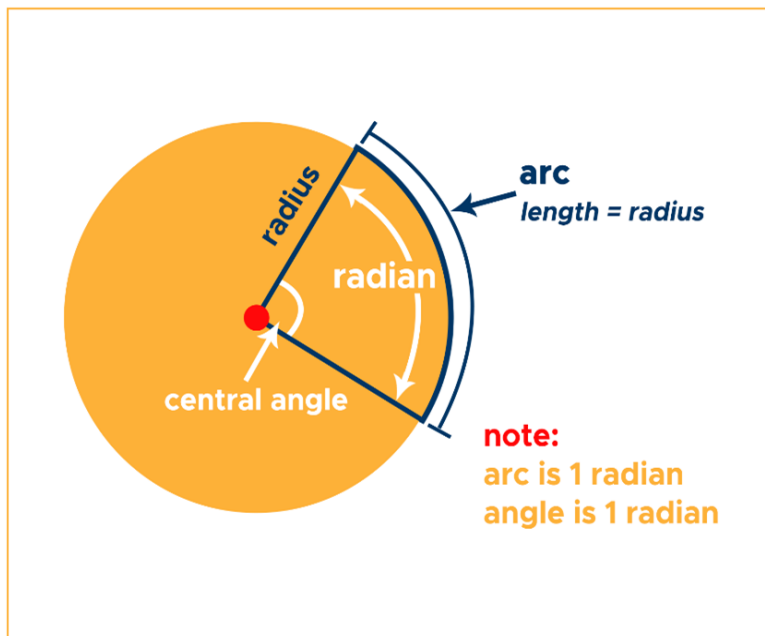
$$\text{Midpoint} = (-1, -1)$$

### 3.1.2 Radian Measure

## Radian Measure

### What are radians?

- Radians are an alternative to degrees for measuring angles
- 1 radian is the angle in a **sector** of radius 1 and arc length 1
  - A circle with radius 1 is called a **unit circle**
- Radians are normally quoted in terms of  $\pi$ 
  - $2\pi$  radians =  $360^\circ$
  - $\pi$  radians =  $180^\circ$
- The symbol for radians is  $^\circ$  but it is more usual to see **rad**
  - Often, when  $\pi$  is involved, no symbol is given as it is obvious it is in radians
  - Whilst it is okay to omit the symbol for radians, you should never omit the symbol for degrees
- In the exam you should use radians unless otherwise indicated



### How do I convert between radians and degrees?

- Use  $\pi^\circ = 180^\circ$  to convert between radians and degrees
  - To convert from radians to degrees multiply by  $\frac{180}{\pi}$

- To convert from degrees to radians multiply by  $\frac{\pi}{180}$
- Some of the common conversions are:
  - $2\pi^{\circ} = 360^{\circ}$
  - $\pi^{\circ} = 180^{\circ}$
  - $\frac{\pi^{\circ}}{2} = 90^{\circ}$
  - $\frac{\pi^{\circ}}{3} = 60^{\circ}$
  - $\frac{\pi^{\circ}}{4} = 45^{\circ}$
  - $\frac{\pi^{\circ}}{6} = 30^{\circ}$
- It is a good idea to remember some of these and use them to work out other conversions
- Your GDC will be able to work with both radians and degrees

© 2025 Exam Papers Practice. All Rights Reserved

**Worked example**

i) Convert  $43.8^\circ$  to radians.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 43.8^\circ \\
 \underline{73} \\
 300
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \div 180^\circ \\
 \times \pi^\circ
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 (\pi^\circ = 180^\circ) \\
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 73\pi \\
 \underline{\phantom{73\pi}} \\
 300^\circ
 \end{array}$$

$$43.8^\circ = 0.764^\circ \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

ii) Convert  $\frac{5\pi}{4}$  to degrees.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \frac{5\pi}{4} \\
 \frac{5}{4}
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \div \pi^\circ \\
 \times 180^\circ
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 (\pi^\circ = 180^\circ) \\
 \end{array}$$

$$225^\circ$$

$$\frac{5\pi}{4} = 225^\circ$$



### 3.1.3 Arcs & Sectors

## Length of an Arc

### What is an arc?

- An arc is a part of the **circumference** of a circle
  - It is easiest to think of it as the crust of a single slice of pizza
- The length of an arc depends on the size of the angle at the centre of the circle
- If the angle at the centre is **less than 180°** then the arc is known as a **minor arc**
  - This could be considered as the crust of a single slice of pizza
- If the angle at the centre is **more than 180°** then the arc is known as a **major arc**
  - This could be considered as the crust of the remaining pizza after a slice has been taken away

### How do I find the length of an arc?

- The length of an arc is simply a fraction of the circumference of a circle
  - The fraction can be found by dividing the angle at the centre by 360°
- The formula for the length,  $l$ , of an arc is

$$l = \frac{\theta}{360} \times 2\pi r$$

- Where  $\theta$  is the angle measured in degrees
- $r$  is the radius
- This is **in the formula booklet for radian measure only**
  - Remember  $2\pi$  radians = 360°

### Worked example

A circular pizza has had a slice cut from it, the angle of the slice that was cut was  $38^\circ$ . The radius of the pizza is 12 cm. Find

- i) the length of the outside crust of the slice of pizza (the minor arc),

A diagram will help:



Formula for the length of an arc:

$$l = \frac{\theta}{360} \times 2\pi r$$

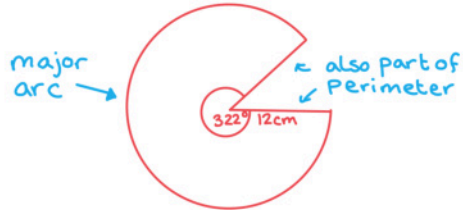
Substitute:

$$\begin{aligned} l &= \frac{38}{360} \times 2\pi (12) \\ &= \frac{38\pi}{15} = 7.9587... \text{ cm} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{length of crust} = 7.96 \text{ cm (3sf)}$$

- ii) the perimeter of the remaining pizza.

A diagram will help:



Formula for the Length of an arc:

$$L = \frac{\theta}{360} \times 2\pi r$$

Substitute:

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \frac{322}{360} \times 2\pi (12) \\ &= \frac{322\pi}{15} \leftarrow \text{Length of major arc} \end{aligned}$$

Find perimeter:

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \text{major arc} + \text{radius} + \text{radius} \\ &= \frac{322\pi}{15} + 12 + 12 = 91.4395... \text{ cm} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Perimeter} = 91.4 \text{ cm (3sf)}$$

## Area of a Sector

### What is a sector?

- A sector is a part of a circle enclosed by two radii (radiuses) and an arc
  - It is easier to think of this as the shape of a single slice of pizza
- The area of a sector depends on the size of the angle at the centre of the sector
- If the angle at the centre is **less than 180°** then the sector is known as a **minor sector**
  - This could be considered as the shape of a single slice of pizza
- If the angle at the centre is **more than 180°** then the sector is known as a **major sector**
  - This could be considered as the shape of the remaining pizza after a slice has been taken away

### How do I find the area of a sector?

- The area of a sector is simply a fraction of the area of the whole circle
  - The fraction can be found by dividing the angle at the centre by 360°
- The formula for the area,  $A$ , of a sector is

$$A = \frac{\theta}{360} \times \pi r^2$$

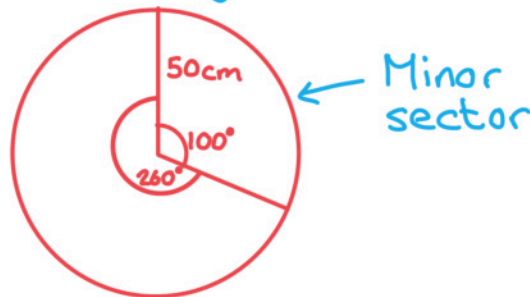
- Where  $\theta$  is the angle measured in degrees
- $r$  is the radius
- This is **in the formula booklet for radian measure only**
  - Remember  $2\pi$  radians = 360°

### Worked example

Jamie has divided a circle of radius 50 cm into two sectors; a minor sector of angle  $100^\circ$  and a major sector of angle  $260^\circ$ . He is going to paint the minor sector blue and the major sector yellow. Find

- i) the area Jamie will paint blue,

Start with a diagram:



Formula for the area of a sector:

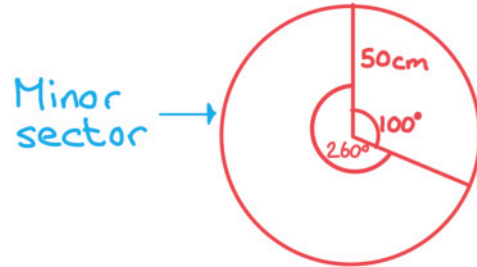
$$A = \frac{\theta}{360^\circ} \times \pi r^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Substitute: } A &= \frac{100}{360} \times \pi \times 50^2 \\ &= \frac{6250}{9} \pi \\ &= 2181.66... \text{ cm}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Blue area} = 2180 \text{ cm}^2 (3\text{sf})$$

- ii) the area Jamie will paint yellow.

Start with a diagram:



Formula for the area of a sector:

$$A = \frac{\theta}{360^\circ} \times \pi r^2$$

Substitute:  $A = \frac{260}{360} \times \pi \times 50^2$

$$= \frac{16250}{9} \pi$$
$$= 5672.32... \text{ cm}^2$$

Yellow area = 5670 cm<sup>2</sup> (3sf)

## Arcs & Sectors Using Radians

### How do I use radians to find the length of an arc?

- As the radian measure for a **full turn** is  $2\pi$ , the fraction of the circle becomes  $\frac{\theta}{2\pi}$
- Working in radians, the formula for the length of an arc will become

$$l = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \times 2\pi r$$

- Simplifying, the formula for the length,  $l$ , of an arc is

$$l = r\theta$$

- $\theta$  is the angle measured in **radians**
- $r$  is the radius
- This is **given in the formula booklet**, you do not need to remember it

### How do I use radians to find the area of a sector?

- As the radian measure for a **full turn** is  $2\pi$ , the fraction of the circle becomes  $\frac{\theta}{2\pi}$
- Working in radians, the formula for the area of a sector will become

$$A = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \times \pi r^2$$

- Simplifying, the formula for the area,  $A$ , of a sector is

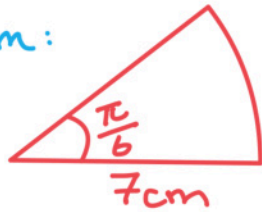
$$A = \frac{1}{2} r^2 \theta$$

- $\theta$  is the angle measured in **radians**
- $r$  is the radius
- This is **given in the formula booklet**, you do not need to remember it

### Worked example

A slice of cake forms a sector of a circle with an angle of  $\frac{\pi}{6}$  radians and radius of 7 cm. Find the area of the surface of the slice of cake and its perimeter.

Draw a diagram:



Area of a sector:  $A = \frac{1}{2}r^2\theta$

Substitute:  $r = 7$ ,  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(7)^2\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) = \frac{49\pi}{12}$$

$$\text{Area} = 12.8 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

Perimeter = arc length + 2(radius)

Length of an arc:  $l = r\theta$

$$P = 7\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) + 2(7)$$

$$\text{Perimeter} = 17.7 \text{ cm (3 s.f.)}$$