

Direct & Inverse Proportion



Speed (s)	Distance Covered (d)
8 m/s	240m
16 m/s	480m
4 m/s	120m
24 m/s	720m

Where one quantity directly scales with another (e.g. as one doubles, the other doubles) we say they are **directly proportional**.

$$d \propto s$$

Based on our discussion that there's a 'constant scale factor' between the two, we can also write:

y is directly proportional to x . When $x = 3$, $y = 7.5$.
Find a formula for y in terms of x and hence find the value of y when $x = 4.4$.

A r is directly proportional to q . When $q = 12$, $r = 9$.

- a) Find a formula for r in terms of q .
- b) Find the value of r when $q = 17$.

B b is directly proportional to the square root of a .

When $a = 9$, $b = 15$.

Find the value of b when $a = 25$.

A b is directly proportional to the square of a . When $a = 6$, $b = 18$. Find a when $b = 32$.

B b is directly proportional to the cube root of a . When $a = 27$, $b = 4.5$. Find a when $b = 7.5$.

C $y \propto x^2$
Write a formula for y in terms of x

x	5	6
y	400	576

Speed (s)	Time (t)
6.47 m/s	773s (his PB)
5 m/s	1000s
10 m/s	500s

We say they are **indirectly or inversely proportional**.

$$s \propto \frac{1}{t}$$
$$s = \frac{k}{t}$$

Question...	First thing you'd write...
y is directly proportional to x .	
y is inversely proportional to x .	
y is directly proportional to the square of x .	
y is inversely proportional to the square root of x .	
y is inversely proportional to the cube of x .	
y is proportional to the cube root of x .	
$y \propto \frac{1}{x^3}$	

Reminder:

- For “(directly) proportional to”, use “ $= k \times$ ”
- For “inversely proportional to”, use “ $= k \div$ ”

y is inversely proportional to x .

When $x = 6, y = 8$.

Find y when $x = 9$.

b is inversely proportional to the square root of a .

When $a = 4, b = 10$.

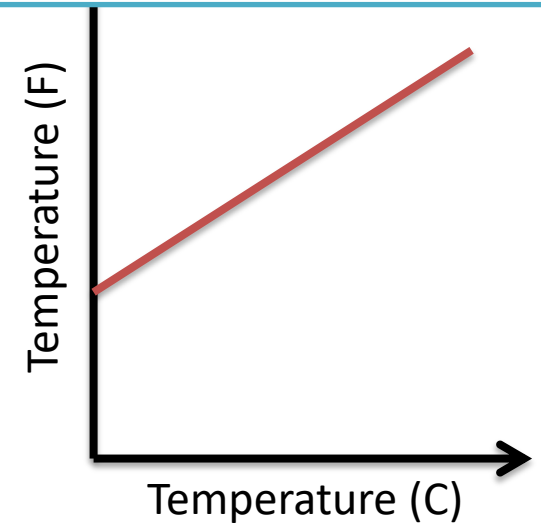
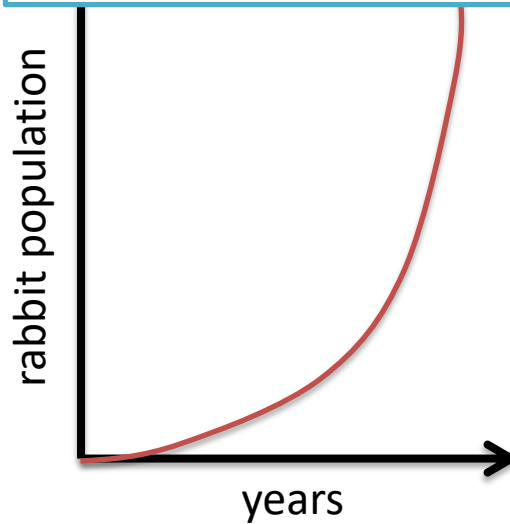
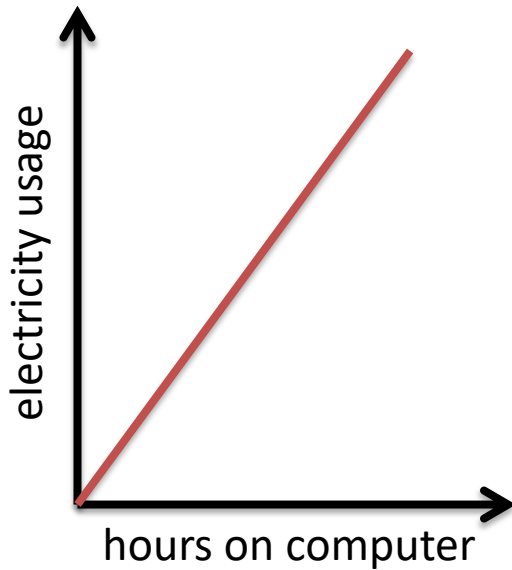
Find b when $a = 25$.

U y is inversely proportional to x .
 $y = 3$ when $x = 15$. Find a
formula for y in terms of x .

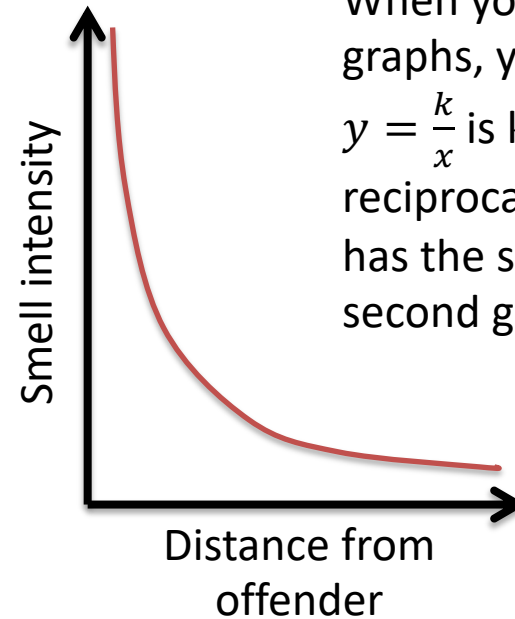
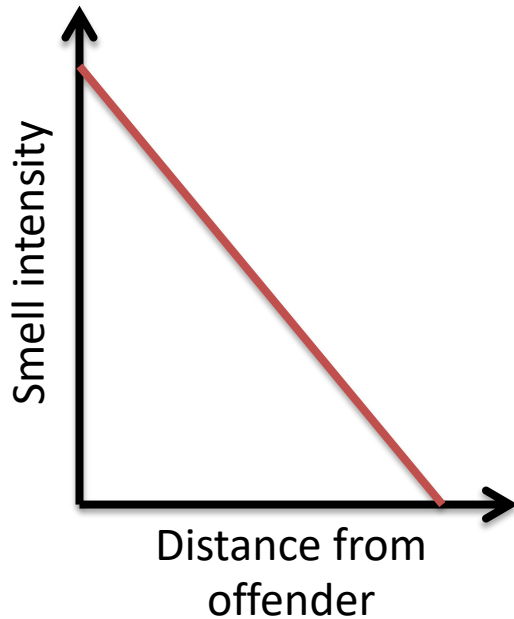
V A , r and T are three variables. A is proportional to T^2 . A is
also proportional to r^3 . $T = 47$ when $r = 0.25$.
Find r when $T = 365$. Give your answer correct to 3sf.

Which of these graphs represent variables which are directly proportional to each other?

For proportional variables y and x , $y = kx$. This is the equation of a straight line **that goes through the origin**.



Which of these graphs represent variables which are inversely proportional to each other?



When you do curved graphs, you'll see that $y = \frac{k}{x}$ is known as a reciprocal graph, which has the shape of the second graph.

