



THIRD SPACE  
LEARNING

# GCSE Exam Questions

Forming and Solving Equations |  
Algebra



## GCSE Exam Questions: Forming and Solving Equations

- 1) Robert is  $x$  years old.  
Sara is 3 years older.  
Tam is twice as old as Robert.  
The total of their ages is 59.

(a) Write an expression for Sara's age.

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(1)

(b) Write an expression for Tam's age.

-----  
(1)

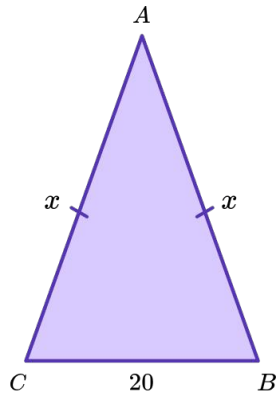
(c) Form an equation in  $x$  and use it to find Robert's age.

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(3)  
(5 marks)



## GCSE Exam Questions: Forming and Solving Equations

- 2) ABC is an isosceles triangle where:  $AB = x$  cm,  $BC = 20$  cm, and  $AC = x$  cm.



- (a) Write a simplified expression, in terms of  $x$ , for the perimeter.

-----  
(2)

- (b) The perimeter of the triangle is 90 cm. Find the value of  $x$ .

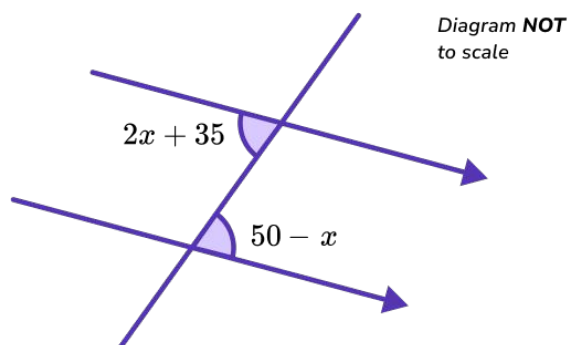
$x =$  -----  
(2)  
(4 marks)



## GCSE Exam Questions: Forming and Solving Equations

- 3) (a) Use the diagram to form an equation in terms of  $x$ .

Give a reason for your equation.



(2)

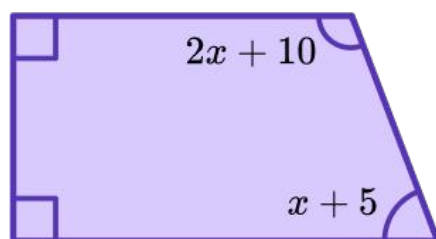
- (b) Use your answer in part (a) to work out the value of  $x$ .

$x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

(2)

(4 marks)

- 4) The diagram shows a trapezium.

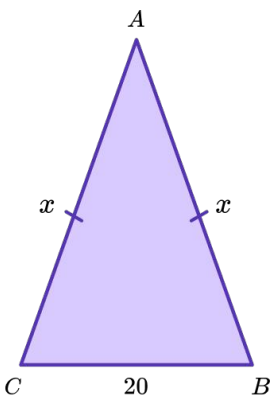


Calculate the size of the largest angle.

(4 marks)

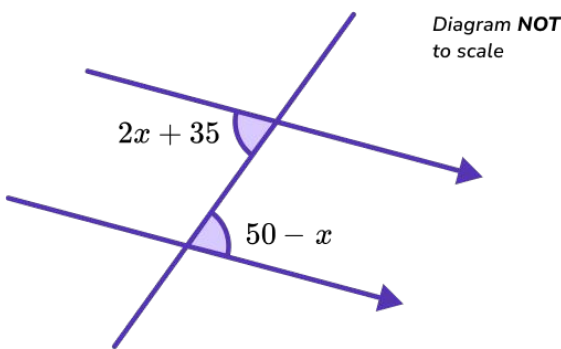
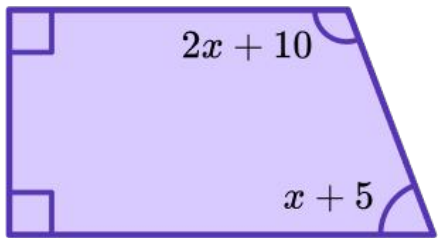


# GCSE Exam Questions: Forming and Solving Equations Answers

	Question	Answer	Marks
<b>1) (a)</b>	Robert is $x$ years old. Sara is 3 years older. Tam is twice as old as Robert. The total of their ages is 59. Write an expression for Sara's age.	<b>(a)</b> $x + 3$	<b>(1)</b>
<b>(b)</b>	Write an expression for Tam's age.	<b>(b)</b> $2x$	<b>(1)</b>
<b>(c)</b>	Form an equation in $x$ and use it to find Robert's age.	<b>(c)</b> $4x + 3 = 59$ $x = 14$ $2x = 28$ <b>or</b> Robert's age is 28 <b>oe</b>	<b>(1)</b> <b>(1)</b> <b>(1)</b>
<b>2)</b>	<p>ABC is an isosceles triangle where <math>AB = x</math>, <math>BC = 20</math>, and <math>AC = x</math>.</p> 		
<b>(a)</b>	Write a simplified expression, in terms of $x$ , for the perimeter.	<b>(a)</b> $x + x + 20$ $2x + 20$	<b>(1)</b> <b>(1)</b>
<b>(b)</b>	The perimeter of the triangle is $90\text{cm}$ . Find the value of $x$ .	<b>(b)</b> $2x + 20 = 90$ $x = 35$	<b>(1)</b> <b>(1)</b>



# GCSE Exam Questions: Forming and Solving Equations Answers

	Question	Answer	Marks
<b>3) (a)</b>	Use the diagram to form an equation in terms of $x$ . Give a reason for your equation. 	<b>(a)</b> $2x + 35 = 50 - x$  Alternate angles are equal	<b>(1)</b>  <b>(1)</b>
<b>(b)</b>	Use your answer in part (a) to work out the value of $x$ .	<b>(b)</b> $3x = 15$ $x = 5$	<b>(1)</b> <b>(1)</b>
<b>4)</b>	The diagram shows a trapezium.   Calculate the size of the largest angle.	$90 + 90 + 2x + 10 + x + 5 = 360$ <b>or</b> $2x + 10 + x + 5 = 180$ <b>or</b> $3x + 15 = 180$  $3x = 165$  $x = 55$  $2x + 10 = 120$	<b>(1)</b>  <b>(1)</b>  <b>(1)</b>  <b>(1)</b>



# Where to go next?

For more diagnostic questions, and GCSE maths revision resources and worksheets to support students in fixing any misconceptions take a look at the free Third Space Learning [GCSE maths revision](#) pages.

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