

Completing the square and turning points

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RECAP:

Remember, from a previous lesson when we have something in the following form we can find the turning point easily. We call the following **turning point form**.

$y = a(x \pm b)^2 \pm k$

$y = 2(x - 3)^2 + 4$

When seeing this we can see that the turning point of the quadratic equation is $(3, 4)$.

Something to note/remember: A dilation does not affect the position of the turning point as it's simply stretching the graph.

DESMOS $y = x^2$
 $y = 2x^2$ (TP)

Example:

How to complete the square:

E.g. Factorise the following function by completing the square: $y = x^2 + 4x - 3$

$(x + 2)^2 = x^2 + 4x + 4$

$(x + 2)^2 - 4 - 3 = (x + 2)^2 - 7$

TP = $(-2, -7)$

$(x + 2)^2 = (x + 2)(x + 2)$

$= x^2 + 2x + 2x + 4$

$= x^2 + 4x + 4$

$(x + 3)^2 = x^2 + 3x + 3x + 9$

$= x^2 + 6x + 9$

E.g. Factorise the following function by completing the square: $y = x^2 - 6x + 10$

$(x - 3)^2 = x^2 - 3x - 3x + 9$

$= x^2 - 6x + 9$

$(x - 3)^2 - 9 + 10 = (x - 3)^2 + 1$

TP = $(3, 1)$

E.g. Factorise the following function by completing the square: $y = 3x^2 + 9x - 4$

$y = 3(x^2 + 3x - 4/3)$

$= 3[(x + 3/2)^2 - 9/4 - 4/3]$

$= 3[(x + 3/2)^2 - 43/12]$

$= 3(x + 3/2)^2 - 43/4$

$(x + 3/2)^2 = x^2 + 3x + 3/2x + 9/4$

$= x^2 + 3x + 9/4$

$-43/4 = -10.75$

$(4)(3) = 12$

$-43/12$

Solving equations:

E.g. $y = (x - 3)^2 + 4$

$(x - 3)^2 + 4 = 0$

$(x - 3)^2 = -4$

$(x - 3) = \pm \sqrt{-4}$

$(x + 4)^2 - 3 = 0$ (i.e.)

$(x + 4)^2 = 3$ (i.e.)

$x + 4 = \pm \sqrt{3}$

$x = -4 \pm \sqrt{3}$

Decided

Axis of Symmetry

We already know that a quadratic has a line of symmetry down the centre. The x-value happens to coincide with the mid-point of the two solutions to the quadratic equation. When we find the x-value, we can find the y-value and hence the maximum or minimum of the quadratic

$x = -\frac{b}{2a}$

$y = (x - 3)^2 - 6$

TP = $(3, -6)$

Axis of symmetry $\Rightarrow x = 3$

How to do this on the CAS