

Determining the rule for a parabola (4B)

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Recap

We have been looking at how quadratics can be solved and how writing them in various forms can aid in sketching them. A lot of work in Mathematics seems to be taught unidirectionally, i.e. we teach it one way and then we hope you'll be able to apply the learning and do it in reverse.

TD axis symmetry
x-axis
y-axis

★ Work to be completed at the end of teaching:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------|
| Quadratic rules (important and vital) | 4B | 1-9(s) |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------|

The different ways of writing quadratics

The standard form of a quadratic:

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$

3 points needed to find a, b and c at 3 equations!
3 points on graph

Turning point form:

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

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

Turning point and one co-ordinate needed.

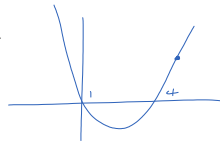
Intercept

Crossing point form:

$$y = a(x-b)(x-c)$$

This is best used when they give you two "solutions" where they cross the x-axis.

roots



We can use the above equations and apply them in information given in a questions to find the "equation of the quadratic".

Examples:

E.g. 1: Determine the rule for a parabola which passes through the points (-2, 5) and (0, -3) and (2, 13)

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$(-2, 5) \quad 5 = a(-2)^2 + b(-2) + c$$

$$5 = 4a - 2b + c \quad (1)$$

$$(0, -3) \quad -3 = a(0)^2 + b(0) + c$$

$$c = -3 \quad (2)$$

$$(2, 13) \quad 13 = a(2)^2 + b(2) + c$$

$$13 = 4a + 2b + c \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{cases} 4a - 2b + c = 5 \\ c = -3 \\ 4a + 2b + c = 13 \end{cases} \quad a, b, c$$

CAS

$$a = 3 \quad b = 2 \quad c = -3$$

$$y = 3x^2 + 2x - 3$$

$$y = 3(x-1)(x-4)$$

E.g. 2: Determine the rule for a parabola if you are told the turning point is (-3, 4) and it passes through the point (-1, 12)

$$y = a(x-b)^2 + c$$

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

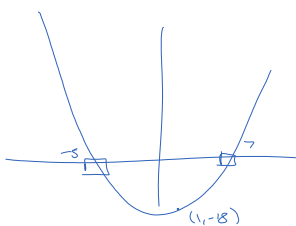
$$(-1, 12) \quad 12 = a(-1+3)^2 + 4$$

$$8 = a \cdot 4$$

$$a = 2$$

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

E.g. 3: Find the rule for a parabola if you are told that it has two x-axis intercepts at (-5, 0) and (7, 0) and passes through the point (1, -18)



$$y = a(x-b)(x-c)$$

$$y = a(x+5)(x-7)$$

$$(1, -18) \quad -18 = a(1+5)(1-7)$$

$$-18 = a(6)(-6)$$

$$-18 = -36a$$

$$a = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2}(x+5)(x-7)$$