YEAR 8 — ALGEBRAIC TECHNIQUES...

Sequences

What do I need to be able to do?

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Generate a sequence from term to term or position to term rules
- Recognise arithmetic sequences and find the nth term
- Recognise geometric sequences and other sequences that arise

Keywords

Sequence: items or numbers put in a pre-decided order
Term: a single number or variable
Position: the place something is located
Linear: the difference between terms increases or decreases (+ or -) by a constant value each time
Non-linear: the difference between terms increases or decreases in different amounts, or by x or ÷
Difference: the gap between two terms
Arithmetic: a sequence where the difference between the terms is constant
Geometric: a sequence where each term is found by multiplying the previous one by a fixed non zero number

Linear and Non Linear Sequences

Linear Sequences – increase by addition or subtraction and the same amount each time
Non-linear Sequences – do not increase by a constant amount – quadratic, geometric and Fibonacci

- Do not plot as straight lines when modelled graphically
- The differences between terms can be found by addition, subtraction, multiplication or division

Fibonacci Sequence – look out for this type of sequence

0 1 1 2 3 5 8 ...

Each term is the sum of the previous two terms.

Sequences from algebraic rules

This is substitution!

$3n + 7$ — This will be linear - note the single power of n. The values increase at a constant rate

$3n^2 + 7$ — This is not linear as there is a power for n

$2n - 5$ → Substitute the number of the term you are looking for in place of 'n'

eg
1st term = 2 (1) – 5 = -3
2nd term = 2 (2) – 5 = -1
100th term = 2 (100) – 5 = 195

Checking for a term in a sequence

Form an equation

Is 201 in the sequence 3n – 4?

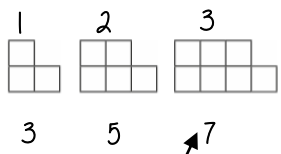
$3n - 4 = 201$ ← Term to check

Algebraic rule

Solving this will find the position of the term in the sequence. ONLY an integer solution can be in the sequence.

Sequence in a table and graphically

Position: the place in the sequence



"The **term** in **position** 3 has 7 squares"

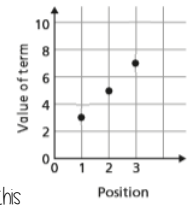
Term: the number or variable (the number of squares in each image)

In a table

Position	1	2	3
Term	3	5	7

+2 +2

Graphically



Because the terms increase by the same addition each time this is **linear** – as seen in the graph

Complex algebraic rules

Misconceptions and comparisons

$2n^2$ — 2 times whatever n squared is

eg
1st term = 2 x 1^2 = 2
2nd term = 2 x 2^2 = 8
100th term = 2 x 100^2 = 2000

$(2n)^2$ — 2 times n then square the answer

eg
1st term = $(2 \times 1)^2$ = 4
2nd term = $(2 \times 2)^2$ = 16
100th term = $(2 \times 100)^2$ = 40000

$n(n + 5)$ ←

eg
1st term = 1 (1 + 5) = 6
2nd term = 2 (2 + 5) = 14
100th term = 100 (100 + 5) = 10500

You don't need to expand the expression

H Finding the algebraic rule

This is the 4 times table → 4, 8, 12, 16, 20....

4n

7, 11, 15, 19, 22 ← This has the same constant difference – but is 3 more than the original sequence

4n + 3

$4n + 3$

This is the constant difference between the terms in the sequence

This is the comparison (difference) between the original and new sequence