

3.5 Answers

Further A-Level Pure Mathematics, Core 2 Polar Coordinates

3.5.1 Solution to 3.2 Exercise

Answer 1

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(i)} \quad r(90) &= \frac{8}{2 \cos 90 + \sin 90} \\
 &= 8 \quad \text{yielding the polar coordinate } (8, 90^\circ) \\
 r(270) &= \frac{8}{2 \cos 270 + \sin 270} \\
 &= -8 \quad \text{yielding the polar coordinate } (-8, 270^\circ) \\
 \text{However, } (8, 90^\circ) \text{ and } (-8, 270^\circ) \text{ are the same point} \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]

(ii)

θ (in degrees)	0	45	90	100		135	165
$r = \frac{8}{2 \cos \theta + \sin \theta}$	4	3.8	8	12.5		-11.3	-4.8

θ (in degrees)	180	225	270	280		315	345
$r = \frac{8}{2 \cos \theta + \sin \theta}$	-4	-3.8	-8	-12.5		11.3	4.8

[4 marks]

- (iii) See the graph on the following page
The graph looks suspiciously like a straight line which the next part of the question will prove is indeed the case.

[4 marks]

$$\text{(iv)} \quad r = \frac{c}{a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta}$$

$$r(a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta) = c$$

$$a r \cos \theta + b r \sin \theta = c$$

$$ax + by = c$$

The Cartesian equation of a straight line !

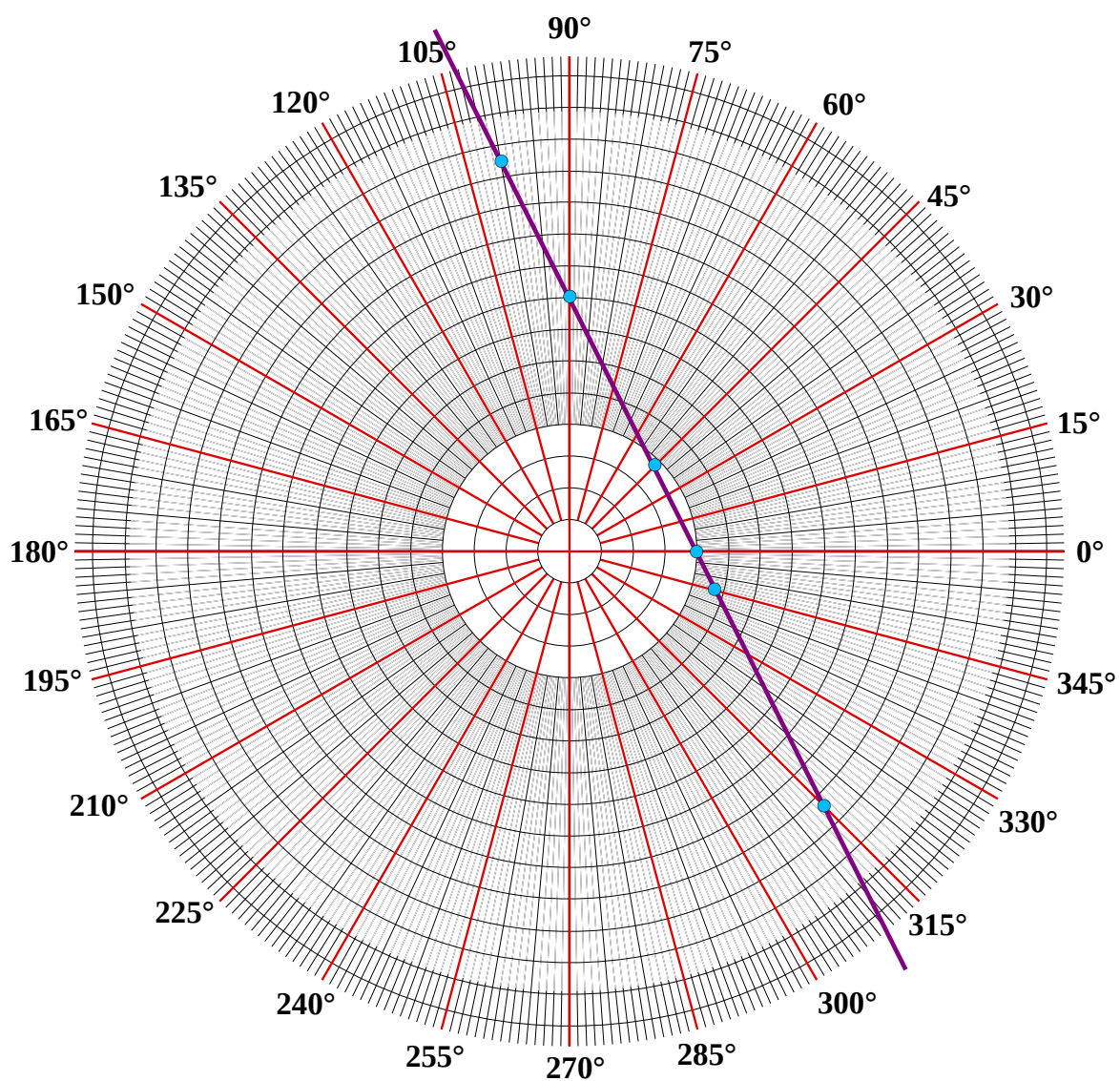
Dividing through by b

$$\frac{a}{b}x + y = \frac{c}{b}$$

$$y = -\frac{a}{b}x + \frac{c}{b}$$

$$y = mx + k \quad \text{with } m = -\frac{a}{b}, \quad k = \frac{c}{b} \quad \square$$

[4 marks]



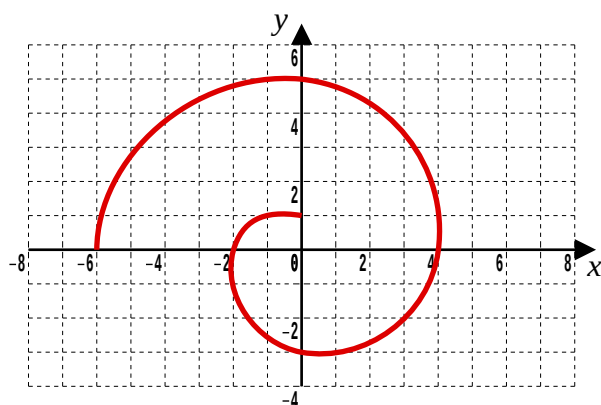
Answer 2

(i)

θ (in degrees)	90	180	270	360	450	540
$r = \frac{\theta}{90}$	1	2	3	4	5	6

[2 marks]

(ii)



[3 marks]

Answer 3

(i) $r(0) = 6 \cos 0 + 8 \sin 0$

$= 6$ yielding the polar coordinate $(6, 0^\circ)$

$r(180) = 6 \cos 180 + 8 \sin 180$

$= -6$ yielding the polar coordinate $(-6, 180^\circ)$

However, $(6, 0^\circ)$ and $(-6, 180^\circ)$ are the same point $\square$

[2 marks]

(ii)

θ (in degrees)	0	10	20	30	45	75	90
$r = 6 \cos \theta + 8 \sin \theta$	6	7.3	8.3	9.2	9.9	9.2	8

θ (in degrees)	100	110	120	140	180	210	270
$r = 6 \cos \theta + 8 \sin \theta$	6.8	5.5	3.9	0.5	-6	-9.2	-8

[5 marks]

(iii) See the graph on the following page.

The graph looks suspiciously like a circle which the next part of the question will prove is indeed the case.

(iv) r is the variable in the polar equation
 R is the constant radius of a given circle

$$r = 2a \cos \theta + 2b \sin \theta$$

Multiply both sides by r

$$r^2 = 2a r \cos \theta + 2b r \sin \theta$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = 2a x + 2b y$$

$$x^2 - 2ax + y^2 - 2ay = 0$$

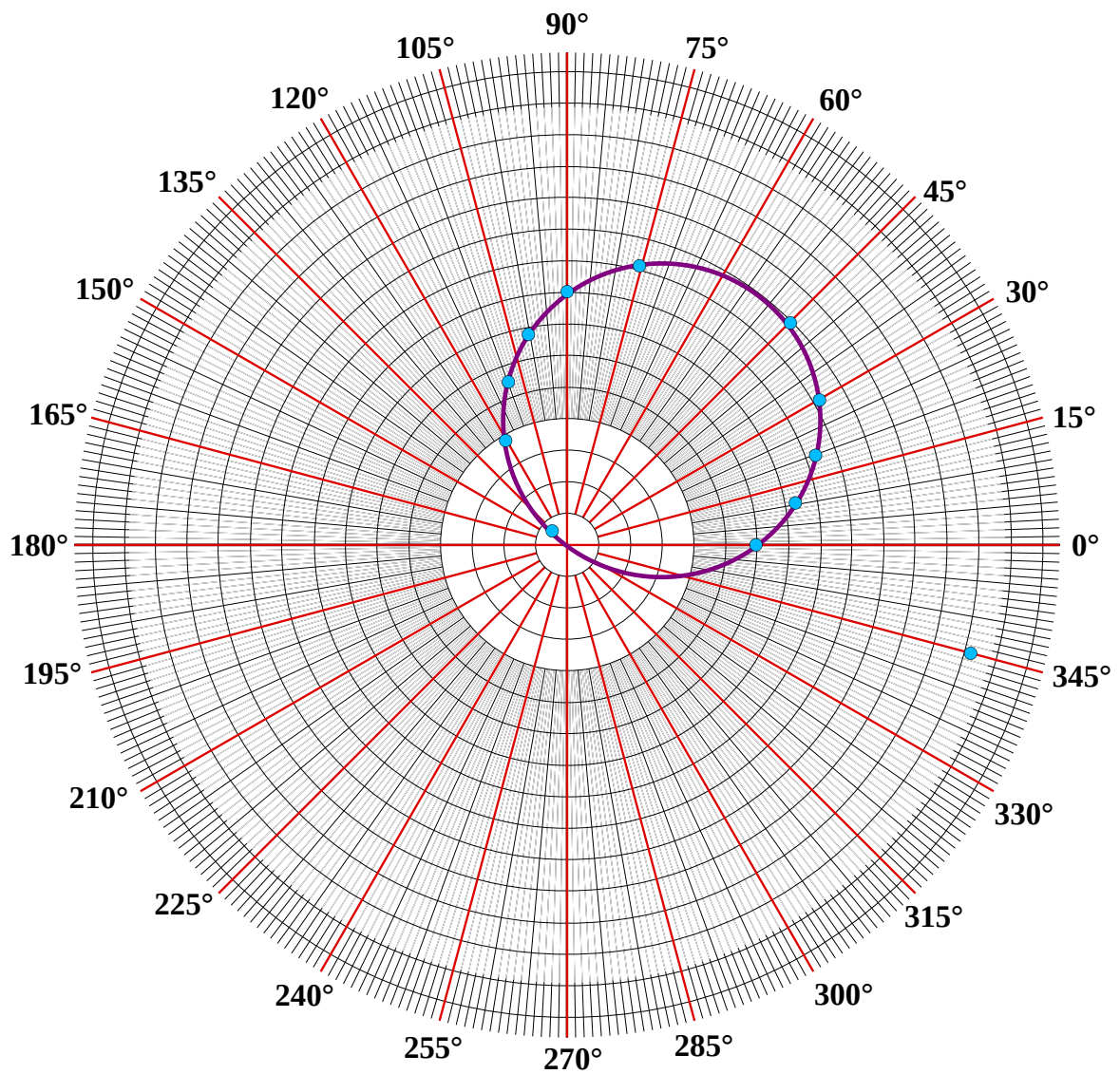
$$(x - a)^2 - a^2 + (y - b)^2 - b^2 = 0$$

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

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

which is the Cartesian equation of a circle, centre (a, b) , Radius R

[5 marks]



[5 marks]

Answer 4

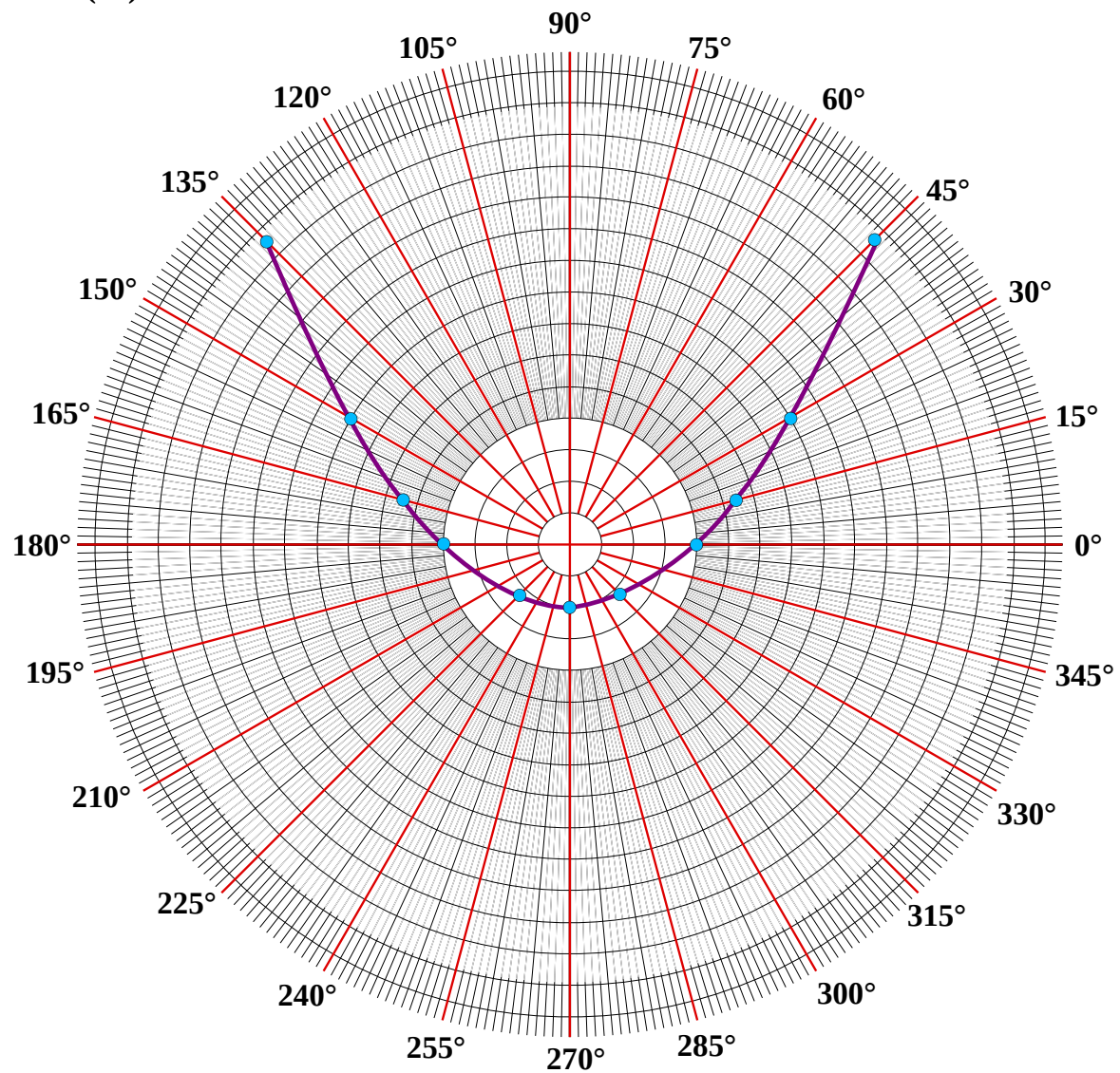
(i)

θ (in degrees)	0	15	30	45		135
$r = \frac{4}{1 - \sin \theta}$	4	5.4	8	13.7		13.7

θ (in degrees)	150	165	180	225	270	315
$r = \frac{4}{1 - \sin \theta}$	8	5.4	4	2.3	2	2.3

[4 marks]

(ii)



[4 marks]

This looks suspiciously like a parabola.

The next part of the question will prove that this is indeed the case !

(iii)

$$r = \frac{p}{1 - \sin \theta}$$

$$r(1 - \sin \theta) = p$$

$$r - r \sin \theta = p$$

$$r - y = p$$

$$r = p + y$$

square both sides

$$r^2 = (p + y)^2$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = p^2 + 2py + y^2$$

$$x^2 = p^2 + 2py$$

$$2py = x^2 - p^2$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2p} x^2 - \frac{p}{2}$$

Which is the form of a parabola

[6 marks]