

Practice Set A – Routine Practice

1. The first term of a geometric sequence is 7 and the common ratio is 4.
Find the 6th term.
2. In a geometric sequence, $u_1 = 1250$, and $r = 0.8$. Find the 5th term.
3. A geometric sequence has $u_3 = 81$, and $r = 3$. Find the value of u_1 .
4. Find the sum of the first 5 terms of the geometric series where the first term is 2 and $r = 5$.
5. A geometric series has $u_1 = 640, r = \frac{1}{2}$. Find the sum of the first 6 terms. Write your answer in standard form.
6. The 4th term of a geometric series is 54 and the common ratio is 3.
Find the sum of the first 4 terms.

Practice Set B – IB-Style Questions (10 Total)

1. Leo starts a lawn mowing business during the summer. On his first day, he charges \$40 per lawn and completes 2 lawns. Each day, he increases the number of lawns by 1 and raises his rate by \$5 per lawn.

By the 6th day, Leo is charging \$65 per lawn.

- a. (i) Show that Leo charges \$45 per lawn on the second day.
(ii) Find the expression for the amount he charges per lawn on day n .
(iii) Find the number of lawns he mows on day n . [5]
 - b. On which day will Leo first charge more than \$100 per lawn? [2]
 - c. On which day will Leo first mow 10 lawns in a single day? [2]
2. Ava subscribes to a digital art platform. The subscription starts at \$10 per month. Each year, the subscription cost increases by \$2 per month. She keeps the subscription for 4 years.
 - a. Show that Ava pays \$10 per month during the first year and \$12 per month during the second year.
(ii) Write an expression for the monthly cost during year n .
(iii) Hence, calculate the total cost Ava pays over the 4 years. [5]

- b. After 4 years, Ava cancels her subscription. Her friend Bea signs up at the same starting rate of \$10 per month but her plan increases by 5% each year.
- Write an expression for Bea's monthly cost during year n . [2]
 - Calculate Bea's monthly cost in the third year, rounded to the nearest penny. [2]
 - Compare Ava's and Bea's monthly costs during the fourth year. Who is paying more? [2]
3. A group of friends is training for a cycling race. On the first day, they ride 12 km. Each day, they increase their distance by a **constant factor** of 1.15.
- Write an expression for the distance ridden on day n . [1]
 - On which day will they first ride more than **50 km**? [2]
 - Determine the distance ridden on day 7, rounded to one decimal place. [2]
4. A coffee shop offers a loyalty program where the price per coffee starts at \$3.20 and increases by **10%** each year due to inflation.
- Write an expression for the price of a coffee during year n . [1]
 - Find the price of a coffee in the **5th year**, to the nearest cent. [2]
 - In which year will the price first exceed \$5? [2]
5. A scientist observes a bacterial culture. The initial population is 1,200 cells, and the population triples every 8 hours.
- Write an expression for the population after n 8-hour periods. [1]
 - Find the population after 3 days. [2]
 - After how many 8-hour periods will the population exceed **1,000,000 cells**? [2]

Answer Key — 1.3.1 Geometric Sequences (Part 1)

Practice Set A — Routine Practice

1) $a_1=7$, $r=4$. Find a_6 .

Formula: $a_n = a_1r^{n-1}$

Substitute: $a_6 = 7 \cdot 4^5$

Simplify: $4^5 = 1024 \Rightarrow a_6 = 7 \cdot 1024 = 7168$

Answer: 7168

2) $a_1=1250$, $r=0.8$. Find a_5 .

Formula: $a_n = a_1r^{n-1}$

Substitute: $a_5 = 1250 \cdot (0.8)^4$

Simplify: $(0.8)^4 = 0.4096 \Rightarrow a_5 = 1250 \cdot 0.4096 = 512$

Answer: 512

3) $a_3=81$, $r=3$. Find a_1 .

Formula: $a_n = a_1r^{n-1}$

Substitute: $81 = a_1 \cdot 3^2$

Solve: $a_1 = 81/9 = 9$

Answer: 9

4) Sum of first 5 terms, $a_1=2$, $r=5$.

Formula: $S_n = a_1(1 - r^n) / (1 - r)$

Substitute: $S_5 = 2(1 - 5^5)/(1 - 5)$

Simplify: $2(1 - 3125)/(-4) = 1562$

Answer: 1562

5) $a_1=640$, $r=1/2$. Find S_6 .

Formula: $S_n = a_1(1 - r^n)/(1 - r)$

Substitute: $S_6 = 640(1 - (1/2)^6)/(1 - 1/2)$

Simplify: $(1/2)^6=1/64 \Rightarrow S_6=640(63/64) \cdot 2=1260$

Answer: 1260

6) $a_4=54$, $r=3$. Find S_4 .

Find a_1 : $a_4 = a_1 \cdot r^3 \Rightarrow a_1 = 54/27 = 2$

Formula: $S_n = a_1(1 - r^n)/(1 - r)$

Substitute: $S_4 = 2(1 - 3^4)/(1 - 3) = 80$

Answer: 80

Practice Set B — IB-Style (Sequences Only)

Leo's Lawn Business

a(i) Day 2 price = $40 + 5 = 45$.

a(ii) Price on day n : $p_n = 40 + 5(n - 1) = 35 + 5n$.

a(iii) Lawns on day n : $\ell_n = 2 + (n - 1) = n + 1$.

b) $35 + 5n > 100 \Rightarrow n > 13 \Rightarrow n = 14$.

c) $\ell_n = 10 \Rightarrow n + 1 = 10 \Rightarrow n = 9$.

2) Ava's Subscription vs Bea's Subscription

a(i) Year 1 = \$10, Year 2 = \$12.

a(ii) $c_n = 10 + 2(n - 1) = 2n + 8$.

a(iii) $c_4 = 2(4) + 8 = \$16$.

b(i) $b_n = 10(1.05)^{n-1}$.

b(ii) $b_3 = 10(1.05)^2 \approx \11.03 .

b(iii) Year 4: Ava = \$16, Bea = $10(1.05)^3 \approx \$11.58 \Rightarrow$ Ava pays more.

3) Cycling Distance

$d_n = 12(1.15)^{n-1}$.

$12(1.15)^{n-1} > 50 \Rightarrow n \approx 12$.

$d_7 = 12(1.15)^6 \approx 27.8$ km.

4) Coffee Price

$p_n = 3.20(1.10)^{n-1}$.

$p_5 = 3.20(1.10)^4 \approx \4.69 .

$3.20(1.10)^{n-1} > 5 \Rightarrow n \approx 6$.

5) Bacterial Culture

$$P_n = 1200 \cdot 3^n.$$

$$P_9 = 1200 \cdot 3^9 \approx 23,619,600.$$

$$1200 \cdot 3^n > 1,000,000 \Rightarrow n \approx 7.$$

PREVIEW