

4.6 Conic Sections

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS conic section 圆锥曲线

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **conic sections**.

You must be able to:

- identify a **conic section** 圆锥曲线 (circle, ellipse, parabola, hyperbola) from its equation

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ Conic sections

Curves formed by slicing a cone. Standard equations:

- **circle:** $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$;
- **ellipse:** $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$;
- **parabola:** $y = ax^2$;
- **hyperbola:** $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$.

■ Example

$\frac{x^2}{9} + \frac{y^2}{4} = 1$ is an ellipse (sum of squared terms = 1).

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four conic sections.

[1]

2.2 State the standard equation of an ellipse.

[1]

2.3 Identify the conic $\frac{x^2}{9} + \frac{y^2}{4} = 1$. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The equation $\frac{x^2}{16} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$ is [1]

- **A** a circle
 - **B** an ellipse
 - **C** a parabola
 - **D** a hyperbola
-

3.2 The equation $x^2 - y^2 = 1$ is [1]

- **A** a circle
 - **B** an ellipse
 - **C** a hyperbola
 - **D** a line
-

3.3 Classify each conic.

(a) $x^2 + y^2 = 25$. [1]

(b) $y = x^2$. [1]

(c) $\frac{x^2}{4} - \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$. [1]

Solutions

2.1 circle, ellipse, parabola, hyperbola.

2.2 $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1.$

2.3 an ellipse.

3.1 B.

3.2 C.

3.3 (a) circle. (b) parabola. (c) hyperbola.