

Unit 3 volume notes

Introduction

Area and volume questions often involve "problem solving" where one has a wordy question that may need answering in several stages. The most reliable method for such questions is to (i) **write an equation**, then (ii) **solve it**. To help you, many examination papers start with a page of formulae.

Volume

$$\text{Volume of a prism} = (\text{base area}) \times \text{height}$$

(A prism is anything with a constant cross-section, like a stick of Blackpool rock).

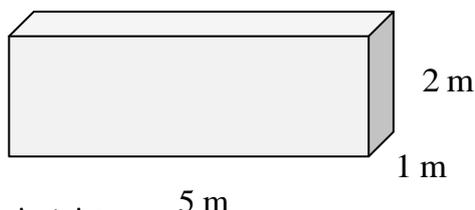
Prisms can be:

- a cuboid (rectangular cross-section)
- a cylinder (circular cross-section)

but also triangular prisms, hexagonal prisms etc

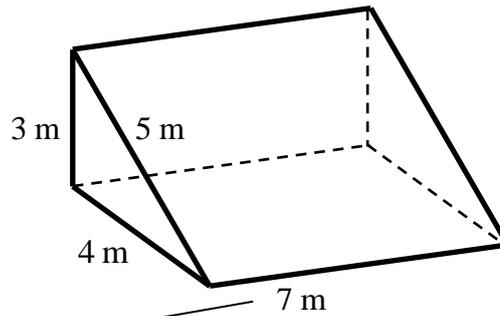
Examples

Volume of a cuboid.



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Volume} &= \text{width} \times \text{depth} \times \text{height} \\ &= 5 \times 1 \times 2 = 10 \text{ m}^3.\end{aligned}$$

Volume of a triangular prism.



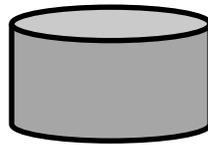
$$\text{Cross-section area} = \frac{wh}{2} = \frac{3 \times 4}{2} = 6 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\text{Volume} = A \times L = 6 \text{ m}^2 \times 7 \text{ m} = 42 \text{ m}^3.$$

Cylinders

(i) Diameter $D=6\text{m}$, height $h=5\text{ m}$

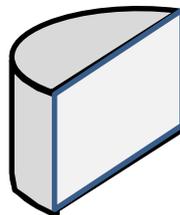
$$\text{Volume } \pi r^2 h = \pi \times 3^2 \times 5 = 141.4 \text{ m}^3$$



$$r = 3 \text{ m}$$

(ii) Half of this cylinder, sliced vertically

$$\text{Volume } \frac{1}{2} \pi r^2 h = \pi \times 3^2 \times 5 \div 2 = 70.7 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (half the whole-cylinder value)}$$



(iii) Volume of a thick-walled pipe

A steel pipe has an outer diameter of 200mm, "bore" (the internal diameter) = 170 mm and length 3 m. Find the volume of **steel** used in making the pipe.

$$\text{External radius} = \frac{200}{2} = 100 \text{ mm} = 0.1 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{Internal radius} = \frac{170}{2} = 85 \text{ mm} = 0.085 \text{ m}$$



Volume = (cross-section area)×length

$$= (\pi \times 0.1^2 - \pi \times 0.085^2) \times 3$$

$$= 0.0262 \text{ m}^3.$$

Your calculation must use the same units throughout (all metres, or all mm)

Problems where a length must be found

- Decide which of the above circumference, area of volume formulae you need
 - *If unsure, I suggest you sketch the shape as you read the question, marking the dimensions on your sketch*
- Write an equation in the form "formula = value"
- Solve the equation

Examples:

(a) A cylinder has radius 5 m and volume 200 m³. Find the length.

$$\pi r^2 L = 200 \text{ (equation)}$$

$$L = \frac{200}{\pi \times 5^2} = 2.546 \text{ m}$$

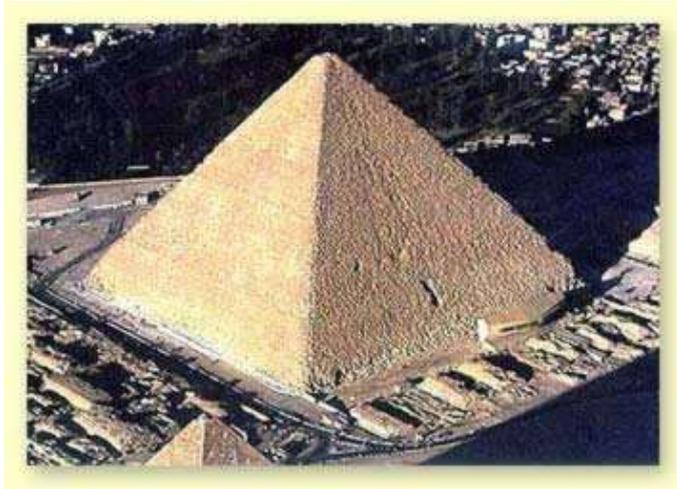
(b) A cylinder has volume 20 m³ and length 3 m. Find the radius.

$$\pi r^2 L = 20 \text{ (equation)}$$

$$r^2 = \frac{20}{\pi L} = \frac{20}{3\pi} \text{ on calculator, then } r = \sqrt{\text{ANS}} = 1.457 \text{ m}$$

Pyramids

- Volume of any pyramid = $\frac{1}{3}(\text{base area}) \times (\text{vertical height})$
 - e.g. volume of a cone = $\frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$ where h is the vertical height.



The Great Pyramid of Khufu has sides of length 230 m and is 147 m high
It contains 2.4 million blocks of stone, density 2400 kg/m³

- (a) What is the mass of each block, if they are all the same?
- (b) The world production of concrete is 6×10^9 m³/year. How many pyramids per year could this produce?

You need to plan your method:

- find the total volume
- find the total mass, using the volume and density
- then find the mass of each block, based on the number of blocks
- finally, use proportion to find how many concrete pyramids could be built

$$\text{Volume} = \frac{1}{3}(\text{base area}) \times \text{height} = \frac{230 \times 230 \times 147}{3} = 2592100 \text{ m}^3 = 2.592 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Mass} = \text{volume} \times \text{density} = 2.592 \times 10^6 \times 2400 = 6.22 \times 10^9 \text{ kg}$$

Use ANS button to continue calculation

$$\text{Mass of each block} = \frac{\text{total mass}}{\text{number of blocks}} = \text{ANS} \div 2.4 \times 10^6 = 2592 \text{ kg} \approx 2.6 \text{ tonnes}$$

Be very careful to use the $\times 10^x$ or EXP button to enter a standard form number, not the 10^\bullet button

$$\text{Number of pyramids/year} = \frac{6 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3/\text{yr}}{2.6 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{pyramid}} = 2308$$

Spheres

- Volume of a sphere = $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

Example

The moon is 2000 miles diameter. What is its volume? Give your answer in standard form.

$$r = \frac{D}{2} = 1000 \text{ miles}$$

$$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 = 4\pi \times 1000^3 \div 3 = 4.19 \times 10^9 \text{ cubic miles}$$

Tip: The ENG button will display a number as a multiple of 10^3 , 10^6 , 10^9 etc. This is not necessarily "standard" form but it makes the conversion easier. Try it! Pressing ENG again reduces the exponent in steps of 3 (giga, mega, kilo etc), pressing \leftarrow increases the exponent.