



Requesting Adapted or Digital Question Papers: Guidance for Centres

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Adapted question paper terminology guide

An adapted question paper is a bespoke question paper that is adapted to best suit the requirements of each individual learner and assist them when sitting examinations. The current adaptations offered include **adapted print, braille, coloured paper, modified content and optionality**. Examples of some of these adaptations are provided in this guidance, where possible. As each adapted question paper is produced on request for a specific learner's exam each year, we cannot guarantee that past paper examples are available with the specific adaptations your learner may require.

You can request the following types of adapted question papers from us using the Assessment Arrangements Request (AAR) system. Please also refer to the AAR system user guide, which you can find on SQA Secure under NQ then Assessment Arrangements.

Adapted question papers include:

1. Digital question papers
2. Question papers printed on a specified colour
3. Standard large print question papers
4. Adapted print question papers
5. Modified large print question papers
6. Brailled question papers
7. Tactile diagrams with braille or print labels
8. Question papers modified as for braille
9. Optionality

The terminology above is explained in Section 1 below, against the corresponding number.

You can also request the following adaptations using the AAR system:

10. Adapted, enlarged/proportionately enlarged artwork
11. Simplified artwork (where possible)
12. No artwork
13. Question paper with colour-indicating arrows (for learners with colour blindness)
14. Diagrams with greyscaling/shading removed
15. Double line spacing
16. Bold font
17. Enlarged geography maps
18. Other arrangements
19. Additional comments

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You must submit your requests for adapted question papers using the AAR system before the production deadline date of **30 January 2026**.

Requests for adapted and digital coursework for Administration and IT and Accounting must be submitted by **19 December 2025**.

Section 1

1. Digital question papers

This is a direct replica of the mainstream question paper supplied as a PDF for on-screen display and, where appropriate, completion. SQA does not adapt or modify a digital question paper in any way but learners can adjust screen colours or change the size of the text to suit individual requirements. For this reason, a digital question paper cannot be used as a digital reader if an adapted or modified question paper has been requested in conjunction with a DQP.

A DQP should not be used with an adapted or modified QP as questions and/or line references may differ.

You must read the guidance on digital question papers on the Digital Question Papers' webpage at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/digitalquestionpapers>. To ensure full functionality of DQPs, it is essential that the relevant software must be up to date.

When a digital question paper is requested, AAR automatically populates the **Separate Accommodation** and **Use of ICT with spellchecker** options.

2. Question paper printed on a specified colour

SQA question papers are printed on white paper and can be printed on coloured paper for an assessment arrangement. SQA can only supply the seven standard colours shown below from the Kaskad paper range.

Any colour outwith this range must be supplied by the centre, in A3, to allow the same booklet format as the mainstream copy. You must contact the Assessment Arrangements team on 0345 213 6890 and confirm that you will supply SQA with your required coloured paper in A3 size.



Answer booklets can only be provided in white or coloured paper. We are unable to provide adapted answer booklets however this can be provided by the centre as stationery items. We will provide adapted answer booklets for the following subjects: AH Engineering Science, AH Mathematics, AH Matamataig, AH Mathematics of Mechanics, AH Statistics, H Mathematics and H Matamataig.

Where question papers contain colour images (Art and Design, Design and Manufacture, Environmental Science, Fashion and Textile Technology, Graphic Communication, Media and Photography) coloured question papers will be printed in black and white. Learners must refer to the question paper from the main supply to access the colour images.

Learners can also choose to use the colour overlay they use in teaching and learning in the exam, coloured overlay or tinted glasses info must be provided to Assessment Arrangements when inputting AA requests for the learner.

Section 1 (continued)

3. Standard large print question papers

This is the original question paper enlarged to 18pt, in standard SQA font, on A3 white paper or one of the colours shown on page 3.

4. Adapted print question papers

This is the original question paper produced in one of the following

Font sizes 14pt, 18pt, 24pt, 36pt and 48pt.

Font styles Standard SQA (Trebuchet), Arial, *Comic Sans*, *OpenDyslexic* with **single** or **double** line spacing.

5. Modified large print question papers

This is the question paper produced in [print using any of the above font sizes](#) and/or font styles, in either portrait or landscape orientation. This can be requested for A4 and A3 paper and with any visual content simplified or removed to ensure it is accessible.

The question paper is modified in a way that ensures that the same skills, knowledge and understanding are assessed as in the original paper and that it is of an equivalent level of difficulty.

This question paper is available to select using the drop down options.

6. Brailled question papers

This is the question paper produced in braille with the layout and presentation of the standard print question paper appropriately modified for braille. This means that:

- visual content may be removed or replaced by tactile diagrams and graphs.
- questions may be appropriately modified or replaced..

A print copy of the braille (PCB) question paper will be supplied for use by a Reader/Scribe and Invigilator.

7. Tactile diagrams with braille or print labels

Raised/tactile diagrams can be requested with 'braille' or with 'print' labels.

The print labels can also be requested in the font and sizes listed on page 4. The braille diagrams automatically come with braille labels unless specified.

8. Question papers modified as for braille (MAFB)

This is a question paper where the questions are modified as they would be for a brailled question paper. The modifications ensure that the same skills, knowledge and understanding are assessed as in the original paper and that it is of an equivalent level of difficulty.

A MAFB question paper can also be requested in the standard font and size options listed in part 4. To request a MAFB version in AAR, request a braille question paper with a comment in 'additional comments' stating 'MAFB version is required'.

A copy of the MAFB question paper will be supplied for use by a Reader/Scribe and Invigilator.

Section 1 (continued)

9. Optionality

Important: If you have not selected Optionality for these subjects and you have requested an increase in line spacing and/or enlarged font of 18pt and above, this will result in a delay. The Assessment Arrangements Team will need to contact you to update the request. The question paper can be reduced in size to only include questions for the contexts the learner has studied. This section must be completed for the following subjects at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher when you have requested an increase in line spacing and/or enlarged font size of 18pt and above: History Modern Studies Religious and Moral and Philosophical Studies.

Optionality for 18pt font and above can be requested for the following subjects: History; Modern Studies; and Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies.

While optionality can also be requested for English for learners with enlarged or braille question papers, this reduces the questions available to the learner. In these instances, you must have consent from the learner (and their parent/carer where required) to request this type of adaptation.

Selecting specific options for adapted papers can be done within the Assessment Arrangement Request system (AAR)

In the adapted paper tab tick 'Optionality' For assistance on inputting optionality, please see AAR user guide.

Select 'Part' if you wish to only include the study contexts your learner has studied in the academic year. Then note the study contexts in the 'Details' box.

If the full question paper is required (with all available contexts modified), please select 'All' and insert 'Full Question Paper required' into the 'Details' box.

Difficulties & Certs	Adapted Paper	Arrangements 1	Arrangements 2	Additional
Adapted Paper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Adapted Print	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Braille	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Coloured Paper	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Modified Contents	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Optionality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please Select	Part	Details
Digital Question Paper	<input type="checkbox"/>			

10. Adapted, enlarged/proportionately enlarged artwork

These are question papers where size of graphs, diagrams and photographs are increased. Where a request is made for font size to be enlarged, graphs, diagrams and photographs will be proportionally enlarged. Depending on the question paper content in the mainstream paper, for example graphics size, page orientation and paper size may differ from the requested font size, page size and orientation.

Please see enlarged artwork samples starting on page 16.

11. Simplified artwork (where possible)

These are question papers where images are removed or diagrams 'de-cluttered', for example removing finer graph background lines. Diagrams will only be removed or de-cluttered where they are not critical to the question/answer.

Section 1 (continued)

12. No artwork

These are question papers where all artwork is removed.

13. Question paper with colour-indicating arrows

This adaptation is only available for question papers that contain diagrams or images in colour. Colour-indicating arrows are printed directly onto question papers where colour content is key to a particular question. Colour indicating arrows are available for the following subjects: Art & Design N5 & H, Design & Manufacture N5, H & AH, Environmental Science N5 and H, Fashion and Textile Technology H, Graphic Communication N5, H & AH, Media N5 & Higher and Higher Photography. It is not always possible to indicate all colours in images. Only main colours are indicated.

Note: Geography OS Maps cannot be provided with colour indicating arrows.

Due to copyright, Geography OS Maps cannot be provided with colour indicating arrows. There are also limitations to the adaptations we can provide for OS Maps.

14. Diagrams with greyscaling/shading removed

These are question papers with all or some shading within diagrams removed when requested, if possible.

15. Double line spacing

These are question papers with [double line spacing](#). This is the only alternative to single line spacing we provide.

Double line spacing relates to the spacing between lines of text and graphics within an adapted Question Paper.

Please note that double line spacing will double the page extent of an Adapted Question Paper request. Please consider any increase in font size requested with double line spacing.

16. Bold font

Question papers replicated in bold font. Bold text in mainstream paper will be underlined in a bold font request.

17. Enlarged geography maps

Ordnance Survey maps for learners with requests for font size 16pt and above, are provided at one standard enlargement at 150% and will be included in the yellow adapted QP packet. All other learners must use the OS Map from the main supply.

18. Other arrangements

'Other arrangements' section should be used for additional software information.

19. Additional comments

'Additional comments' section should be used for 'sitting at' information, where the accommodating centre is different to the presenting centre. If sitting at information is not added to the additional comments box this will result in the examination materials being despatched to the presenting centre.

Due to character limitations in the Adapted Paper open text boxes, this section can also be used to include additional modification/adaptation details if the centre ran out of space in the relevant adapted paper text box.

If your learner is sitting an exam at another SQA approved Centre, these details must be provided in the additional comments box.

Section 2

Font and Size Examples

In the examples below, the impact of font size on increasing the number of pages on A4 paper page extent is shown and can be summarised as follows:

11pt - 9 lines, approx. ¼ page (Standard SQA font (Trebuchet))

14pt – 10 lines, approx. ¼ page

18pt – 12 lines, approx. ½ page

24pt – 16 lines, approx. 1 page

36pt – 27 lines, approx. 1.5 pages

48pt – 37 lines, approx. 3 pages

See also page 26 for impact of font size on page extents.

11pt SQA Standard Text. (11pt is standard font size)

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, hoping to flee danger. If cornered, however, it will fight. Ferociously.

- 5 Psychologists call it the fight-flight-freeze response, and it emerged very early in evolution. We know this because it is common to all vertebrates. The response starts in a part of the brain which reacts when an animal is confronted by a threat, and is controlled by the automatic nervous system. This is the same system that manages digestion and respiration, and is independent of conscious will.

Section 2 (continued)

14pt Standard Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, hoping to flee danger. If cornered, however, it will fight. Ferociously.

- 5 Psychologists call it the fight-flight-freeze response, and it emerged very early in evolution. We know this because it is common to all vertebrates. The response starts in a part of the brain which reacts when an animal is confronted by a threat, and is controlled by the automatic nervous system. This is the same system that manages
- 10 digestion and respiration, and is independent of conscious will.

Section 2 (continued)

18pt Standard Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, hoping to flee

5 danger. If cornered, however, it will fight. Ferociously.

Psychologists call it the fight-flight-freeze response, and it emerged very early in evolution. We know this because it is common to all vertebrates. The response starts in a part of the brain which reacts when an animal is confronted by

10 a threat, and is controlled by the automatic nervous system. This is the same system that manages digestion and respiration, and is independent of conscious will.

Section 2 (continued)

24pt Standard Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a 5 corner of the room, hoping to flee danger. If cornered, however, it will fight. Ferociously. Psychologists call it the fight-flight-freeze response, and it emerged very early in evolution. We know this because it is 10 common to all vertebrates. The response starts in a part of the brain which reacts when an animal is confronted by a threat, and is controlled by the automatic nervous system. This is the same system that 15 manages digestion and respiration, and is independent of conscious will.

Section 2 (continued)

36pt Standard Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming

5 completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection.

Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, hoping to flee danger. If cornered,

10 however, it will fight. Ferociously.

Psychologists call it the fight-flight-freeze response, and it emerged very early in

Section 2 (continued)

48pt Standard Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By 5 becoming completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, 10 hoping to flee danger.

Section 2 (continued)

Example of Double line spacing

11pt Arial Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, hoping to flee danger. If cornered, however, it will fight. Ferociously.

5 Psychologists call it the fight-flight-freeze response, and it emerged very early in evolution. We know this because it is common to all vertebrates. The response starts in a part of the brain which reacts when an animal is confronted by a threat, and is controlled by the automatic nervous system. This is the same system that manages digestion and respiration, and is independent of conscious will.

12pt Arial Text Double Line Spacing Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, hoping to flee danger. If cornered, however, it will fight. Ferociously.

Psychologists call it the fight-flight-freeze response, and it emerged very early in evolution.

5 We know this because it is common to all vertebrates. The response starts in a part of the brain which reacts when an animal is confronted by a threat, and is controlled by the automatic nervous system. This is the same system that manages digestion and respiration, and is independent of conscious will.

Section 2 (continued)

36pt Arial Text.

On the spot

If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming

5 completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection. Then, it will dart into a corner of the room, hoping to flee danger. If cornered,

10 however, it will fight. Ferociously.

Section 2 (continued)

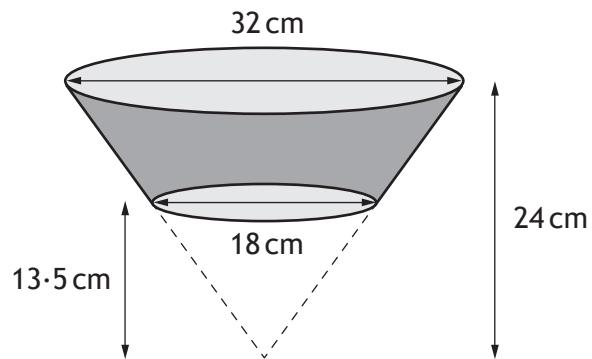
36pt Arial Double Line Spacing Text.

On the spot

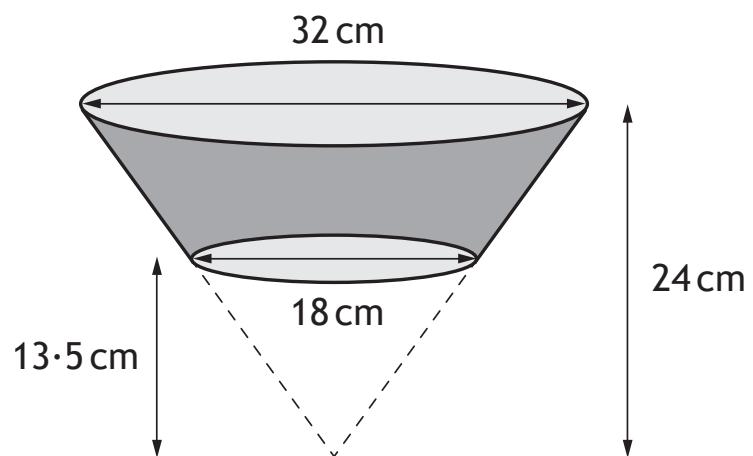
If you throw a rat into the middle of a room full of humans, it will instinctively freeze. By becoming 5 completely still, it is more likely to avoid detection.

Section 3 Artwork Examples

Original Artwork

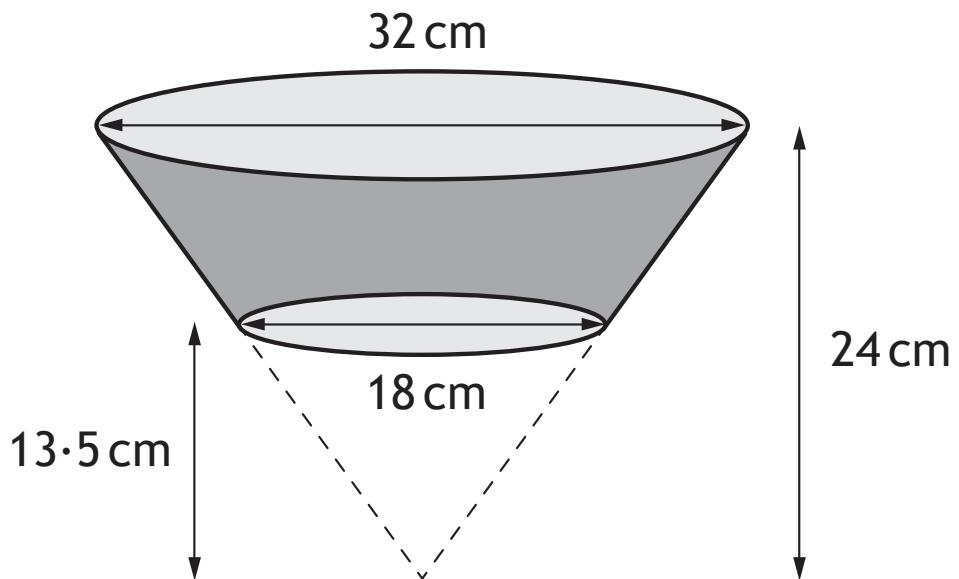


14pt Artwork

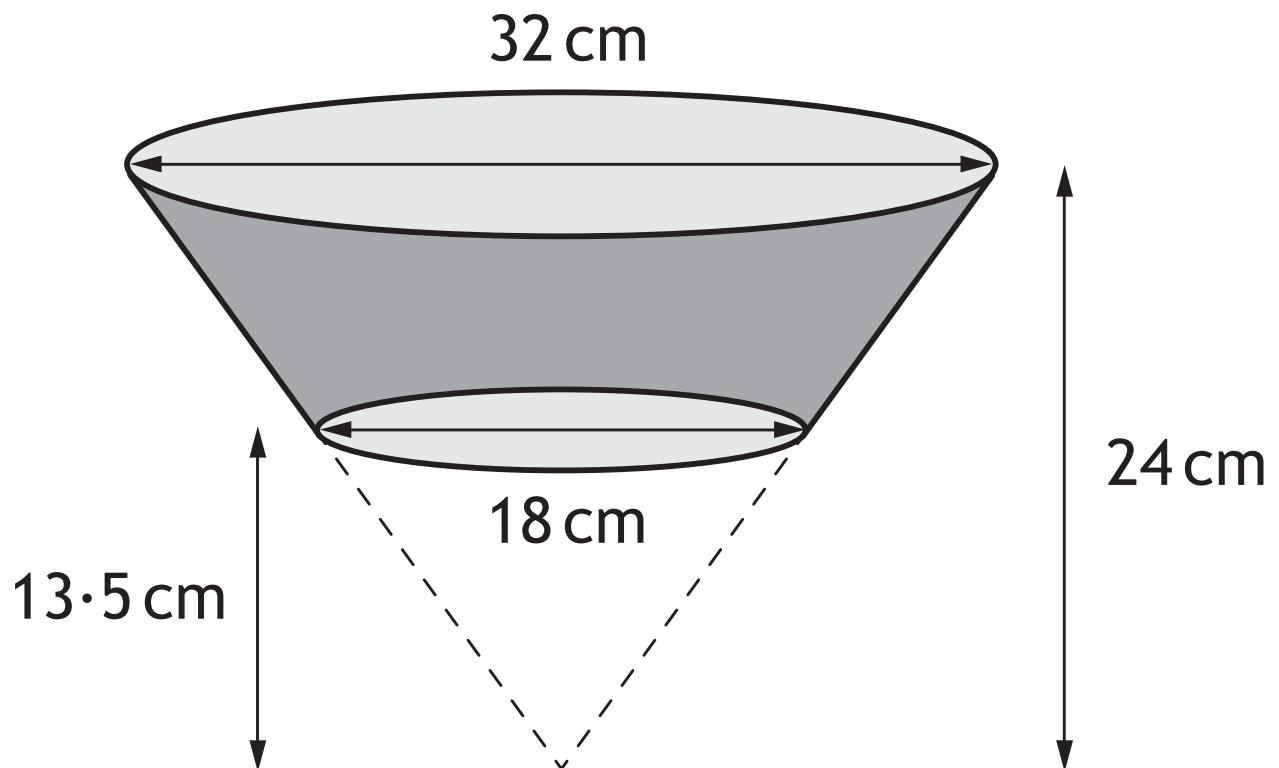


Section 3 Artwork Examples (continued)

18pt Artwork

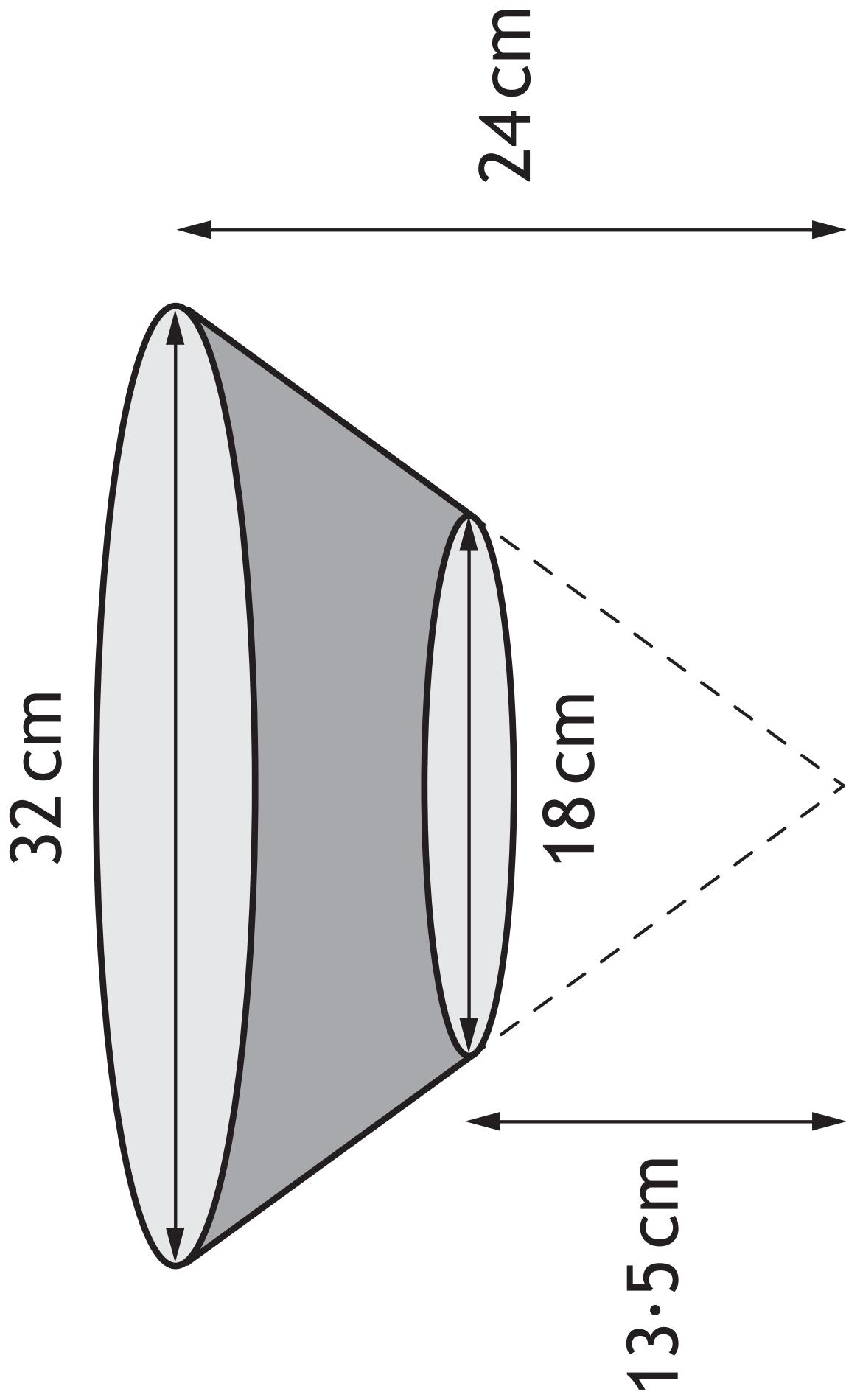


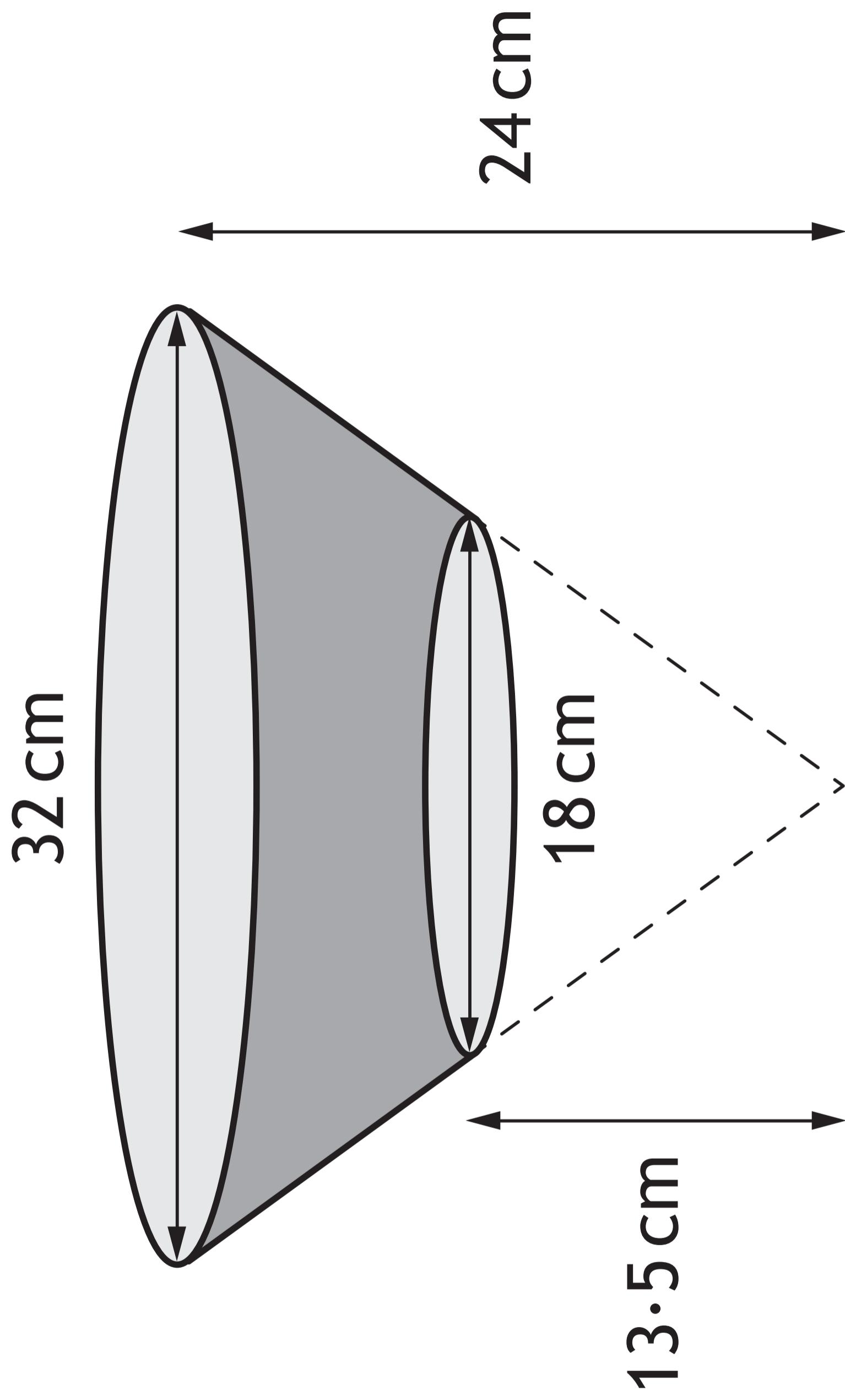
24pt Artwork



Section 3 Artwork Examples (continued)

36pt Artwork

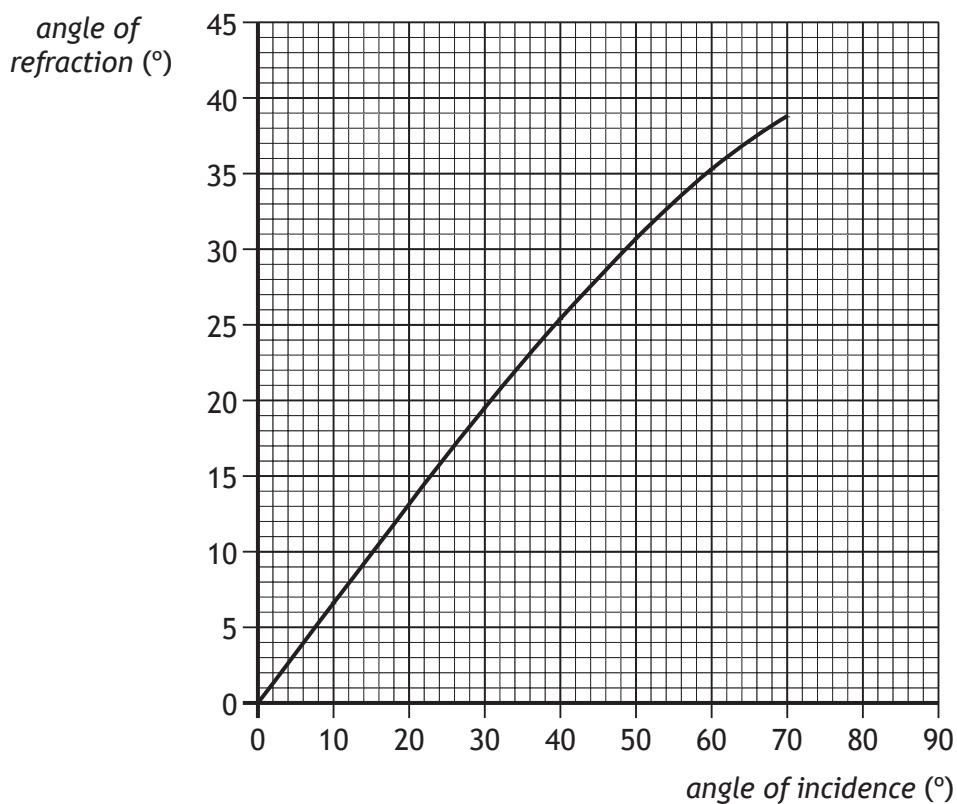




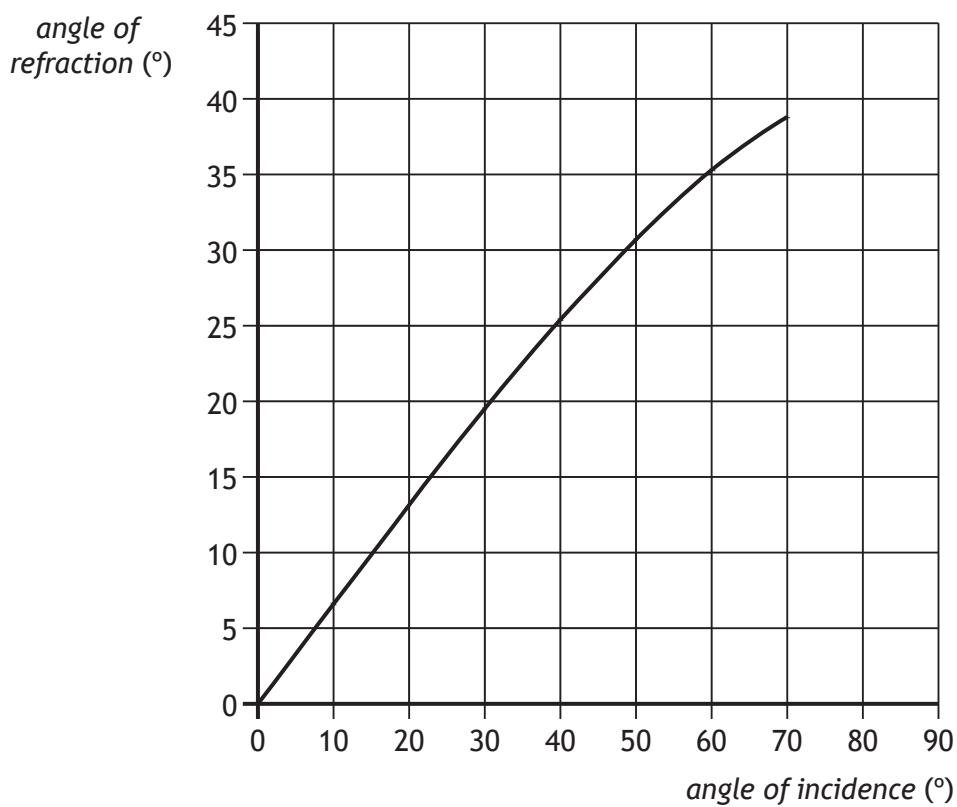
Section 3 Artwork Examples (continued)

Simplified Artwork

Original Artwork



Simplified Artwork



Section 3 Artwork Examples (continued)

Colour-Indicating Arrows Samples

Art and Design

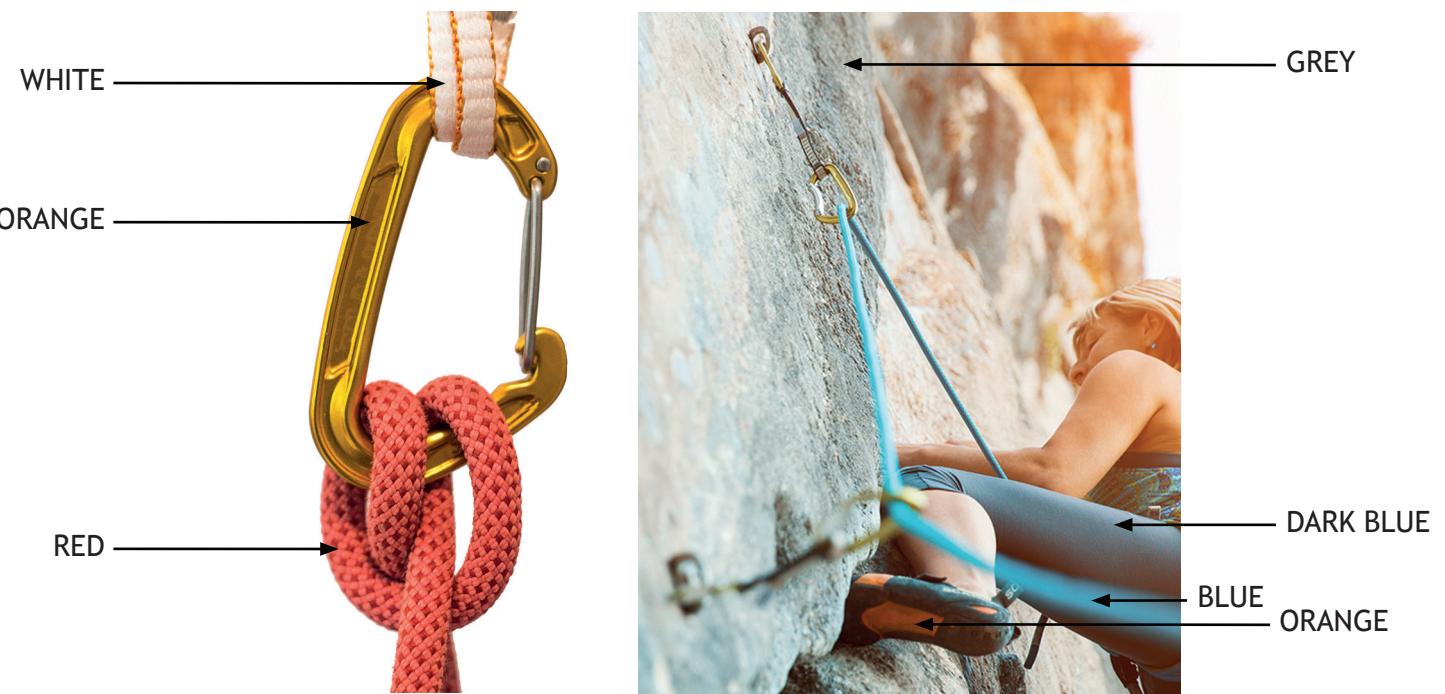


Graphic Communication

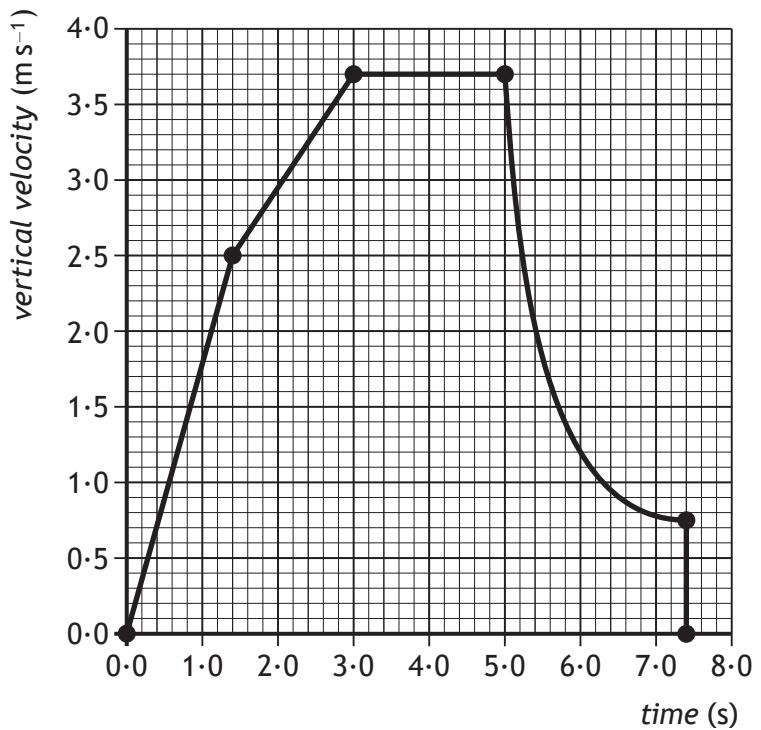


Section 3 Artwork Examples (continued)

Design and Manufacture

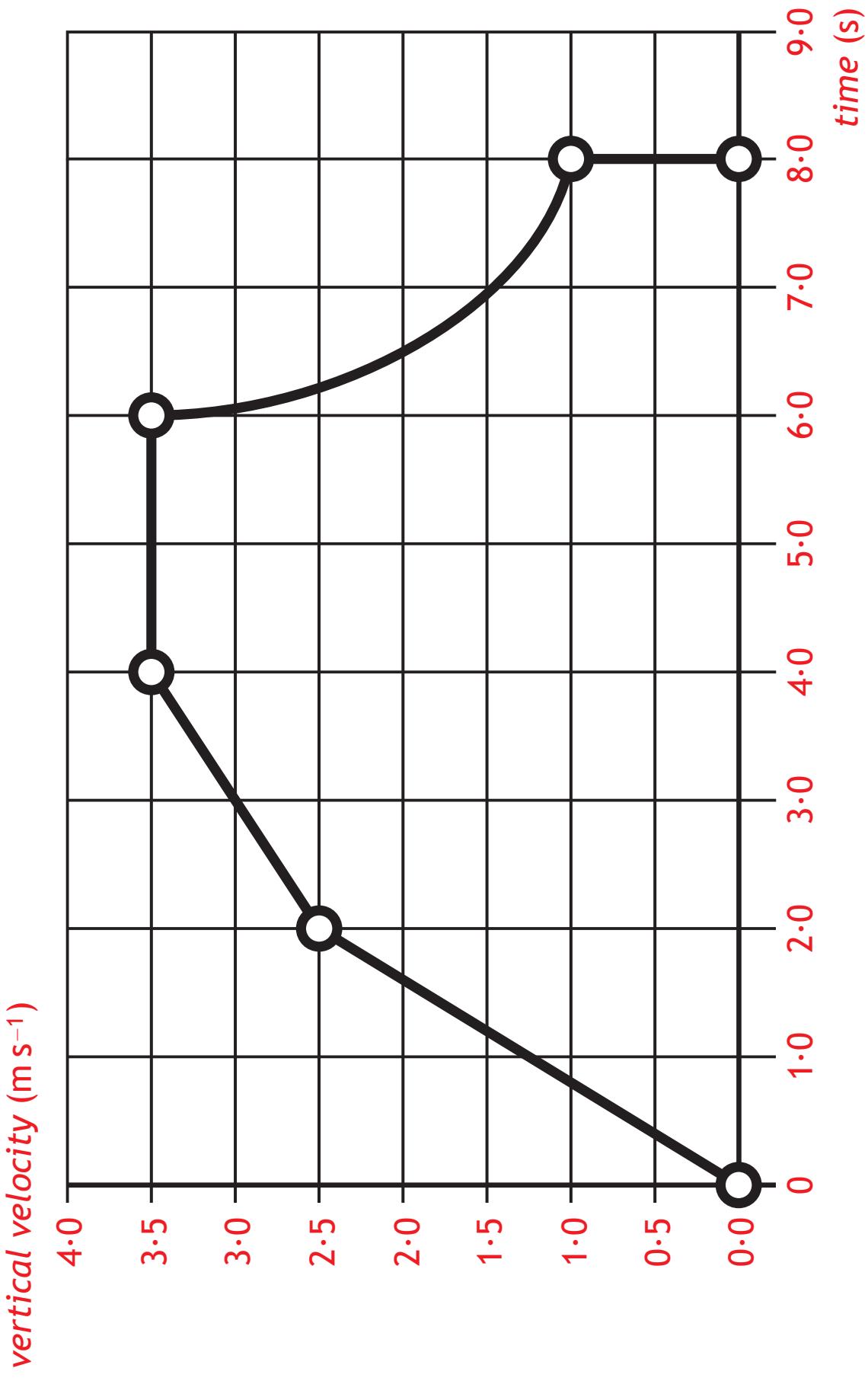


Braille (original)



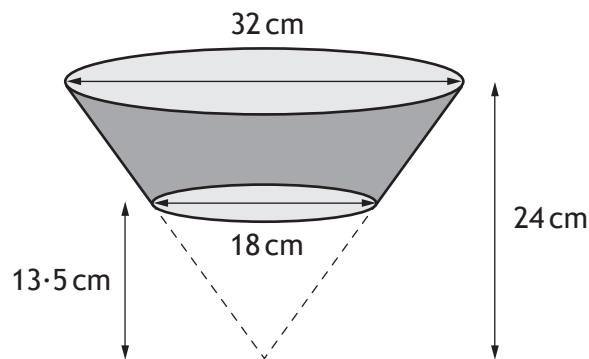
Section 3 Artwork Examples (continued)

Braille Artwork (Braille Characters added by Braille Press)

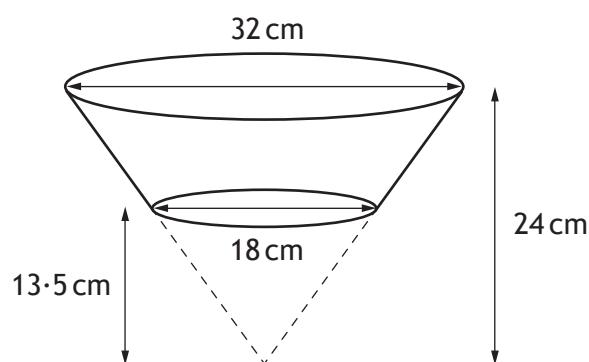


Section 3 Artwork Examples (continued)

Original Artwork



No Greyscaling



Section 4

SQA Glossary - an example of terminology used within SQA in relation to adapted Question Papers, and where to request it.

ARRANGEMENT INPUT BY COURSE

Centre Code: 5010130 Centre Name: EA Secondary School Test1

Product Code	X707	Biology	<input type="button" value="Submit Arrangements"/>
Product Level	76	Higher	
Completion Date	May 2017		

120000330	22 Dec 1993	Amy Lawson	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrangement Exists
120000096	13 Nov 1997	Stuart John Adamson	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrangement Exists
120000290	04 Sept 1994	Caroline Armour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrangement Exists
120000394	12 Jan 1997	Keith Andrew James Barber	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrangement Exists
120000495	28 Dec 1997	Jack L Bell	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrangement Exists

Adapted Paper

Adapted Print

Font Size Font Type Paper Size Paper Orientation

Braille

Coloured Paper Please Select

Modified Contents Details simplified diagrams and graphs, unnecessary lines removed, thickened lines 72 Chars left

Optionality Please Select

Digital Question Paper

This is a screenshot of the Adapted Paper tab on the Assessment Arrangements Request (AAR) system. The screen is already pre-populated with the “Standard Enlarged” Question Paper Details.

N18 Standard SQA Font, A3, Portrait.

Any changes to the “Standard Enlarged” request are made using the alternative drop down menus.

The alternative drop down menus provide the options for fonts and sizes available.

Fonts available: Standard SQA (Trebuchet), Arial, *Comic Sans*, **OpenDyslexic** and Other. Standard SQA font will include any other fonts used in the mainstream paper.

Sizes available: N14, N18, N24, N36, N48 and Other.

When selecting “Other” please give full details in the Additional Comments free text box within the ‘Additional’ tab’. You must explain why none of the SQA standard options are suitable.

Section 4 (continued)

You must ensure that the adaptations requested are familiar to the learner and that these match the adapted materials you produce in teaching and learning. The font size and paper size requested can have an impact on the size of the question paper which may disadvantage the learner - see examples below.

Example of how the page extents increase with enlarged font size.

Human Biology Higher Question Paper = 36 pages.

Human Biology Higher Adapted Question Paper 48 Arial A4 Landscape = 191 pages.

Computing Higher Question Paper = 28 pages

Computing Higher Adapted Question Paper 36 Comic Sans A4 Portrait = 149 pages.

National 5 Spanish Reading Question Paper = 12 pages.

National 5 Spanish Reading Question Paper 24 Standard A4 = 23 pages.

Most requested page extent comparison table

	Standard 11pt A4	14pt on A4	18pt on A4	24pt on A4	24pt on A3
English N5 Critical Reading	28	32	41	57	43
Biology N5 Paper 2	28	34	37	51	38
Geography N5	24	29	39	42	37
Biology H Paper 2	33	35	46	61	46

Please reference “Assessment Arrangements Request system (AAR) 2025-26 A guide for centres” which can be found on the Assessment Arrangements page of the SQA Secure site under NQ, then Assessment Arrangements.

Section 5

Frequently asked questions

Can a Geography OS Map be provided with colour indicating arrows?

Geography maps cannot be provided with colour indicating arrows.

Why can't we use adapted question papers and digital question papers together?

Line references will not match up.

When should I send in samples of the learners request?

Samples of adaptions must be provided where the request is not covered in one of the options within this document.

This content is valid.

Important: From 1 February 2026, Qualifications Scotland becomes fully operational, replacing SQA and becoming the new national awarding body. This document will remain current and you can continue to use it. It will be updated in the style of Qualifications Scotland when it's next due for review.

Any emails that are sent from 1 February 2026 to an SQA email address (@sqa.org.uk) will be redirected to the new Qualifications Scotland email address (@qualifications.gov.scot). For example, visiting. examining@sqa.org.uk will change to visiting.examining@qualifications.gov.scot from 1 February 2026.