



# Upper bound - Lower bound

## IGCSE

Reference - IGCSE past papers

## Question 1

A fence is made from 32 identical pieces of wood, each of length 2 metres correct to the nearest centimetre.

Calculate the lower bound for the total length of the wood used to make this fence.

Write down your full calculator display.

[Click to display solution](#)

## Question 2

Helen measures a rectangular sheet of paper as 197mm by 210 mm. Calculate the upper bound of the perimeter of the sheet of the paper.

[Click to display solution](#)

### Question 3

The length of each side of an equilateral triangle is 74 mm, correct to the nearest millimetre.

Calculate the smallest possible perimeter of the triangle.

[Click to display solution](#)

## Question 4

In 2005 there were 9 million bicycles in Beijing, correct to the nearest million.

The average distance travelled by each bicycle in one day was 6.5 km correct to one decimal place.

Work out the upper bound for the total distance travelled by all the bicycles in one day.

[Click to display solution](#)

## Question 5

If the distance travelled by train is 68 km correct to 100 m and the time taken is 65 minutes correct to 1 minute, calculate the upper bound and lower bound of speed of the train.

[Click to display solution](#)

## Question 6

Calculate the lower and upper bound of density when the mass of an object is 640 g nearest to 10 grams and the volume of the object is  $1600 \text{ cm}^3$  nearest to  $50 \text{ cm}^3$ .

[Click to display solution](#)

## Question 1 - solution

$$2\text{m} = 200\text{cm.} \quad (\text{to nearest cm} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = 0.5)$$
$$\text{So } 199.5 < 200 < 200.5$$
$$L = 199.5$$
$$\text{length of 32 identical pieces} = 32 \times 199.5$$
$$= 6384\text{ cm.}$$

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## Question 2 - solution

$$L = 210 \text{ mm to nearest mm}$$

$$\Rightarrow 209.5 < 210 < 210.5$$

$$B = 197 \text{ mm to nearest mm}$$

$$\Rightarrow 196.5 < 197 < 197.5$$

$$P = 2(L + B)$$

$$= 2(210.5 + 197.5) = 816 \text{ mm.}$$

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## Question 3 - solution

Side = 74 mm  $\rightarrow$  to nearest mm

$$\Rightarrow 73.5 < 74 < 74.5$$

$$P = 3 \times \text{side}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Smallest perimeter} &= 3 \times 73.5 \\ &= 220.5 \text{ mm.} \end{aligned}$$

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## Question 4

distance = 6.5 km  $\rightarrow$  to one decimal place

$$\Rightarrow 6.4 < 6.5 < 6.6$$

$\rightarrow$  upper bound of total distance

$$\begin{aligned} \text{travelled} &= 6.6 \times (9 \times 10^6) \\ &= 59.4 \times 10^6 \text{ km.} \end{aligned}$$

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## Question 5 - solution

$$\text{distance} = 68 \text{ km} = 68000 \text{ m}$$

→ correct to 100 m

$$\Rightarrow \text{uncertainty} = 100/2 = 50$$

$$\Rightarrow 67950 < 68000 < 68050$$

$$\text{time} = 65 \text{ minutes}$$

→ correct to 1 minute  $\therefore 1/2 = 0.5$

$$\Rightarrow 64.5 < 65 < 65.5$$

upper bound of speed

$$= \frac{68050}{64.5} = 1055 \text{ m/min}$$

$$\text{lower bound of speed} = \frac{67950}{65.5}$$

$$= 1037 \text{ m/min}$$

Go to question 5

Go to question 6

## Question 6 - solution

Mass  $\rightarrow$  640 g nearest to 10 grams  
 $\therefore$  uncertainty is  $10/2 = 5$  grams

$$\Rightarrow 635 < 640 < 645$$

Volume  $\rightarrow$  1600 nearest to 50  $\text{cm}^3$

$$\therefore \text{uncertainty} = 50/2 = 25$$

$$\Rightarrow 1575 < 1600 < 1625$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{upper bound of density} \\ &= \frac{645}{1575} = 0.4095 \text{ g/cm}^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lower bound of density} \\ &= \frac{635}{1625} = 0.3908 \text{ g/cm}^3 \end{aligned}$$

Go to question 6

End