

Unit 3.1 Vertex Form**Key Ideas**

## Definitions:

- Vertex Form uses the Vertex  $(p,q)$  to quickly build the equation. Similar to "Slope-Point Form" in Math 10C
- Vertex Form  $y = a(x - p)^2 + q$  is easier to sketch than Standard Form  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$
- In Math 20-2, the vertex is labelled  $(h,k)$ , making the equation  $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$

**Part 1 – Vertex Form Transformations**

In the equation  $f(x) = a(x - p)^2 + q$ , what do adjusting  $a$ ,  $p$ , and  $q$  actually do to the graph?

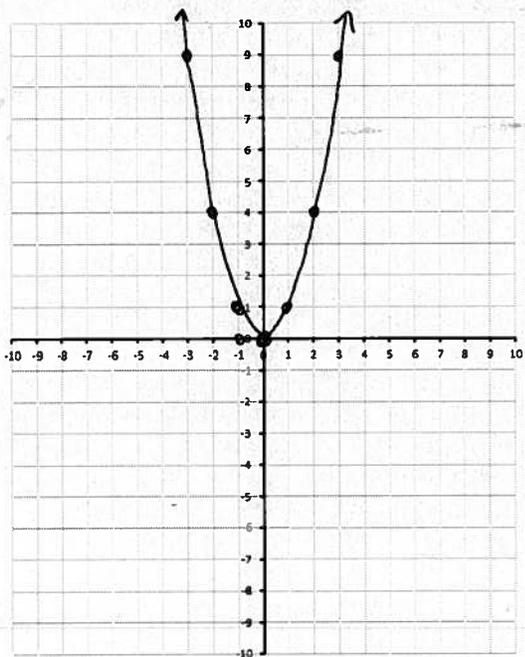
[https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/graphing-quadratics/latest/graphing-quadratics\\_en.html](https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/graphing-quadratics/latest/graphing-quadratics_en.html)

$a$  - Vertical stretch  $\rightarrow$  stretch larger or smaller.

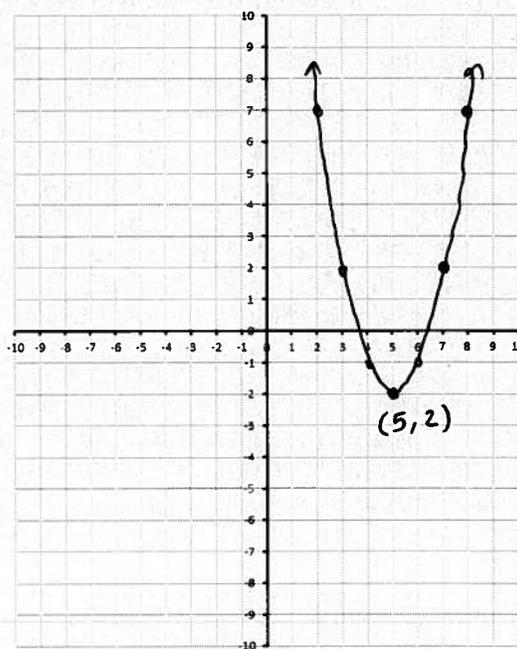
$p$  - Horizontal translation left or right.

$q$  - Vertical translation up or down.

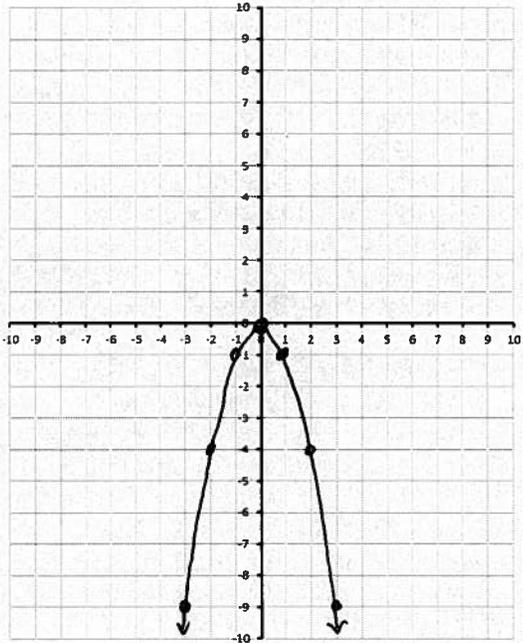
$$f(x) = 1(x - 0)^2 + 0$$



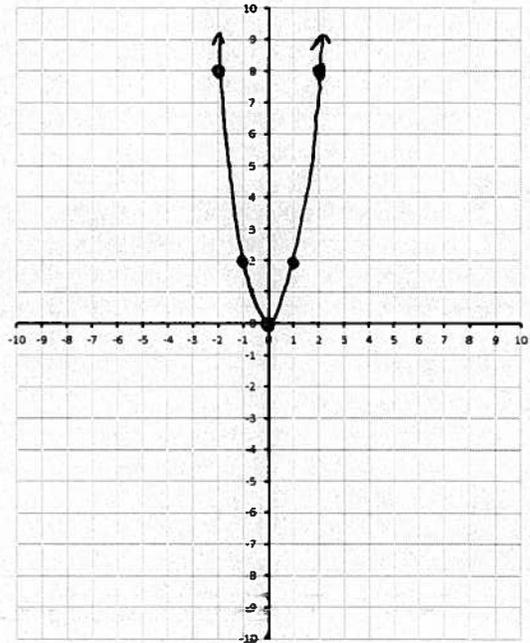
$$g(x) = 1(x - 5)^2 - 2$$



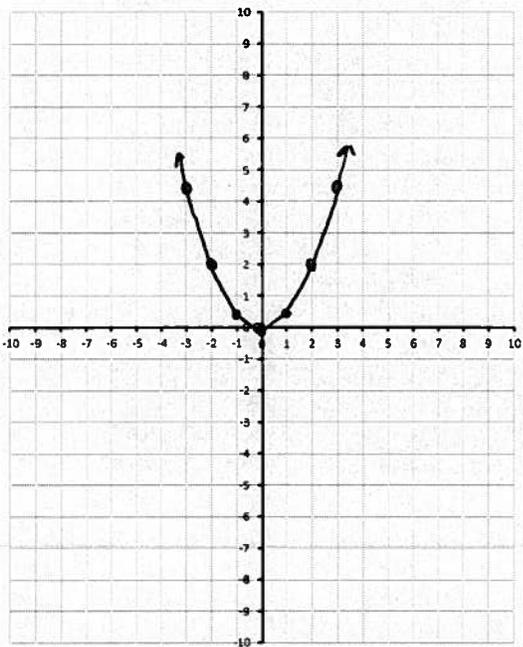
$$h(x) = -1(x - 0)^2 + 0$$



$$k(x) = 2(x - 0)^2 + 0$$

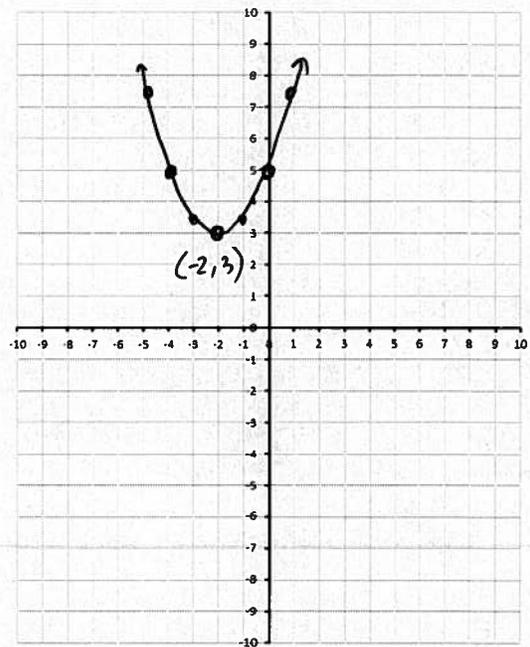


$$m(x) = 0.5(x - 0)^2 + 0$$



$$n(x) = 0.5(x - 2)^2 + 3$$

$$n(x) = 0.5(x + 2)^2 + 3$$



## Part 2 – Building an Equation using Vertex and a Point

Q1: A parabola has a vertex at (3,5) and passes through the point (1,9). Determine the equation of the line in Vertex Form.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= a(x-p)^2 + q \\
 y &= a(x-3)^2 + 5 \quad \text{Use } (1,9) \\
 9 &= a(-3)^2 + 5 \\
 9 &= a(-2)^2 + 5 \\
 9 &= a(4) + 5 \\
 -5 & \quad -5 \\
 4 &= a(4) \\
 \div 4 \quad \div 4 \\
 1 &= a
 \end{aligned}
 \rightarrow \boxed{y = 1(x-3)^2 + 5}$$

Q2: A parabola has a vertex at (-4,6) and passes through the point (-2,2). Determine the equation of the line in Vertex Form.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= a(x-p)^2 + q \\
 y &= a(x+4)^2 + 6 \quad \text{Use } (-2,2) \\
 2 &= a(-2+4)^2 + 6 \\
 2 &= a(2)^2 + 6 \\
 2 &= a(4) + 6 \\
 -6 & \quad -6 \\
 -4 &= a(4) \\
 \div 4 \quad \div 4 \\
 -1 &= a
 \end{aligned}
 \rightarrow \boxed{y = -1(x+4)^2 + 6}$$

Q3: A parabola has a vertex at (0,6) and passes through the point (3,3). Determine the equation of the line in Vertex Form.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= a(x-p)^2 + q \\
 y &= a(x-0)^2 + 6 \quad \text{Use } (3,3) \\
 3 &= a(3-0)^2 + 6 \\
 3 &= a(9) + 6 \\
 -6 & \quad -6 \\
 -3 &= a(9) \\
 \div 9 \quad \div 9 \\
 -\frac{1}{3} &= a
 \end{aligned}
 \rightarrow \boxed{y = -\frac{1}{3}(x-0)^2 + 6}$$

**Part 3 – Converting to Standard Form,  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$** **Q4:** Convert  $y = 2(x - 3)^2 + 6$  into Standard Form.

$$\begin{aligned}y &= 2(x-3)(x-3) + 6 \\y &= 2(x^2 - 6x + 9) + 6 \\y &= (2x^2 - 12x + 18) + 6 \\y &= 2x^2 - 12x + 24\end{aligned}$$

**Q5:** Convert  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}(x + 2)^2 - 8$  into Standard Form.

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= \frac{1}{2}(x+2)(x+2) - 8 \\&= \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + 4x + 4) - 8 \\&= \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + 2x + 2\right) - 8 \\&= \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 2x - 6\end{aligned}$$

**Q6:** Convert  $g(x) = 3(x - 1)^2 + 12$  into Standard Form.

$$\begin{aligned}g(x) &= 3(x-1)(x-1) + 12 \\&= 3(x^2 - 2x + 1) + 12 \\&= (3x^2 - 6x + 3) + 12 \\&= 3x^2 - 6x + 15\end{aligned}$$

## Part 4 – Finding the Vertex, Axis of Symmetry, and Zeroes using Vertex Form

Use the following information to answer Q7-Q10:

$$f(x) = 4\left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{81}{4}$$

$$f(x) = a(x - h) + k$$

Q7: Determine the coordinate of the Vertex.

$$\left(-\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{81}{4}\right)$$

Q8: Determine the equation of the Axis of Symmetry.

$$x = -\frac{1}{4}$$

Q9: Convert to Standard Form to find the y-Intercept.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 4\left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right)\left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right) - \frac{81}{4} \\ &= 4\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{16}\right) - \frac{81}{4} \\ &= \left(4x^2 + 2x + \frac{1}{4}\right) - \frac{81}{4} \\ &= 4x^2 + 2x - \frac{80}{4} \\ &= 4x^2 + 2x - 20 \end{aligned}$$

↓  
y-intercept is -20

Q10: Determine the zeroes.

From Vertex Form

$$f(x) = 4\left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{81}{4}$$

x-int → set  $y = 0$ 

$$0 = 4\left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{81}{4}$$

$$+\frac{81}{4} \qquad +\frac{81}{4}$$

$$\frac{81}{4} = 4\left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right)^2$$

$$\div 4 \quad \div 4$$

$$\frac{81}{16} = \left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right)^2$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{81}{16}} = \left(x + \frac{1}{4}\right)$$

$$+\frac{9}{4} = x + \frac{1}{4}$$

$$-\frac{1}{4} \qquad -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$\boxed{2 = x}$$

$$-\frac{9}{4} = x + \frac{1}{4}$$

$$-\frac{1}{4} \qquad -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$\boxed{-\frac{5}{2} = x}$$

From Standard Form

$$f(x) = 4x^2 + 2x - 20$$

x-int → set  $y = 0$ 

$$0 = 4x^2 + 2x - 20$$

$$\div 2 \quad \div 2 \quad \div 2 \quad \div 2$$

$$0 = 2x^2 + 1x - 10$$

$$-4 + 5$$

$$\square + \square = 1$$

$$\square \times \square = -20$$

$$0 = 2x^2 - 4x + 5x - 10$$

$$0 = (2x^2 - 4x) + (5x - 10)$$

$$0 = 2x(x - 2) + 5(x - 2)$$

$$0 = (x - 2)(2x + 5)$$

$$x - 2 = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = 2}$$

$$2x + 5 = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = -\frac{5}{2}}$$

Use the following information to answer Q11-Q15:

$$g(x) = 1(x-1)^2 - 9$$

$$g(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$$

Q11: Determine the coordinate of the Vertex.

$$(1, -9)$$

Q12: Determine the equation of the Axis of Symmetry.

$$x = 1$$

Q13: Convert to Standard Form to find the y-Intercept.

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= 1(x-1)(x-1) - 9 \\ &= 1(x^2 - 2x + 1) - 9 \\ &= (x^2 - 2x + 1) - 9 \\ &= x^2 - 2x - 8 \end{aligned}$$

↓  
y-intercept is -8

Q14: Determine the zeroes.

From Vertex Form

$$g(x) = 1(x-1)^2 - 9$$

$$x\text{-int} \rightarrow \text{set } y = 0$$

$$0 = 1(x-1)^2 - 9$$

$$+9 \qquad +9$$

$$9 = (x-1)^2$$

$$\sqrt{9} = (x-1)$$

$$+3 = (x-1)$$

$$+1 \quad +1$$

$$\boxed{4 = x}$$

$$-3 = (x-1)$$

$$+1 \quad +1$$

$$\boxed{-2 = x}$$

From Standard Form

$$g(x) = x^2 - 2x - 8$$

$$x\text{-int} \rightarrow \text{set } y = 0$$

$$0 = x^2 - 2x - 8$$

$$0 = (x+2)(x-4)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$x+2 = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = -2}$$

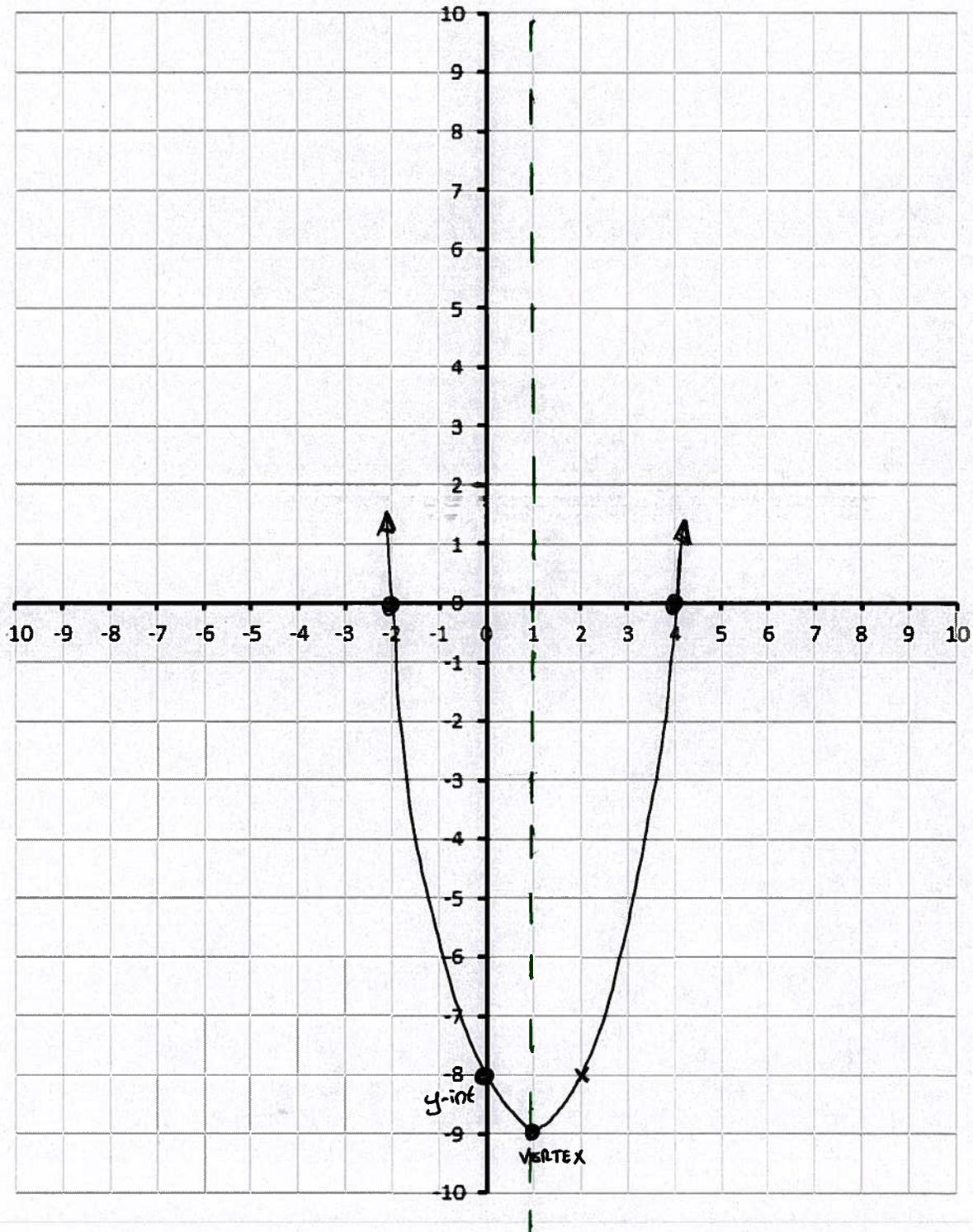
$$\downarrow$$

$$x-4 = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = 4}$$

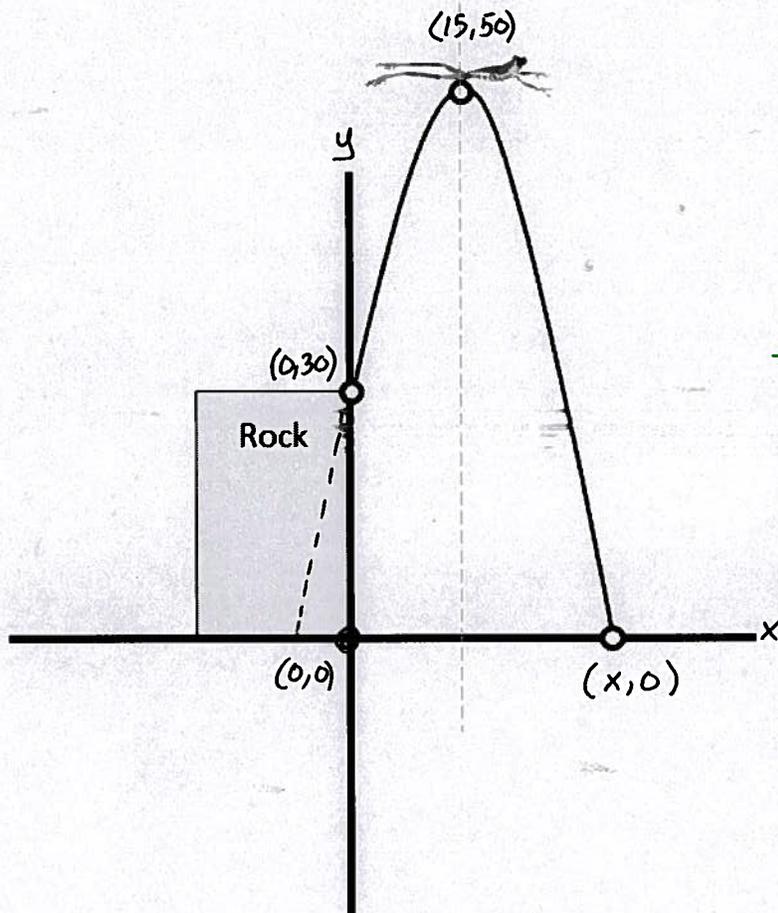
$$\begin{array}{l} +2 \quad -4 \\ \square + \square = -2 \\ \square \times \square = -8 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 1, 8 \\ 2, 4 \end{array}$$

Q15: Sketch the function  $g(x)$  below.



## Part 5 – Projectile Motion using Vertex Form

**Q16:** A frog is standing on a 30cm tall rock. It jumps through the air, reaching a maximum height of 50cm when it is a horizontal distance of 15cm from the rock. How far from the base of the rock does the frog land?



$$h(x) = a(x-p)^2 + q$$

$$h(x) = a(x-15)^2 + 50$$

Use (0, 30)

$$30 = a(0-15)^2 + 50$$

$$30 = a(225) + 50$$

$$-50 \quad -50$$

$$-20 = a(225)$$

$$\div 225 \quad \div 225$$

$$\frac{-4}{45} = a$$

$$h(x) = \frac{-4}{45}(x-15)^2 + 50$$

Hits bottom at  $y=0$

$$0 = \frac{-4}{45}(x-15)^2 + 50$$

$$-50 \quad -50$$

$$-50 = \frac{-4}{45}(x-15)^2$$

$$\cdot 45 \quad \cdot 45$$

$$-2250 = -4(x-15)^2$$

$$\div (-4) \quad \div (-4)$$

$$562.5 = (x-15)^2$$

$$\sqrt{562.5} = (x-15)$$

↓

$$-23.72 = x-15$$

$$+15 \quad +15$$

$$-8.72 = x$$

$$+23.72 = x-15$$

$$+15 \quad +15$$

$$+38.72 = x$$

Two zeroes for the graph, but which makes sense for the word problem?

$$x = 38.72 \text{ cm}$$

**Q17:** State the Domain and Range of the function.

$$\text{Domain: } \{x \mid 0 \leq x \leq 38.72, x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$\text{Range: } \{y \mid 0 \leq y \leq 50, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$$