

SQA Past paper questions

2024 - Paper 2 - Questions 7(a) and (b)

Rab bought a house at auction to modernise and then sell.

The purchase price was £85,800.

In addition, he paid:

- 1.5% of the purchase price in legal fees
- a fee of £250 to the auction house.



(a) Calculate the **total** amount that Rab paid for the house. 1

(b) Rab wanted to lay tiles on the hallway floor.

He needs 36 boxes of tiles.

He looked at three different shops before buying the tiles.

Shop A	Shop B	Shop C
£26 per box Special offer: Buy 2 boxes and get a third box half price	£32 per box Special offer: 30% discount on total price when 20 or more boxes are purchased	£22 per box

Determine the lowest price for buying 36 boxes of tiles.

Use your working to justify your answer.

3

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2023 - Paper 1 - Question 12

Laura makes and sells fruit smoothies.

She intends to buy kiwi fruit in bulk.

She considers the following two options:

- Option 1: 35 kiwi fruit for £5.95
- Option 2: 45 kiwi fruit for £8.10



Determine which option offers the best value for money.

Use your working to justify your answer.

2

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2023 - Paper 2 - Question 4(b)

The hotel bought a different mirror for the ballroom.

The options for mirrors are shown in the table.

Glass coating	standard: £12 per m ²		anti-glare: £16 per m ²			
Fixings	basic: £19 per mirror		standard: £32 per mirror		premium: £42 per mirror	
Backing	no backing: £0 per mirror			foil backing: £20 per mirror		
Glass colour and thickness	Bronze (per m ²)		Silver (per m ²)		Gold (per m ²)	
	4 mm £18	6 mm £36	4 mm £38	6 mm £58	4 mm £66	6 mm £86.50



The hotel bought a mirror with an area of 3 m².

The hotel chose the following options for the mirror:

- 4 mm thick silver glass
- anti-glare glass coating
- standard fixings
- foil backing.

Calculate the total cost of this mirror. 2

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2023 - Paper 2 - Question 6(b)

Lorna visited Switzerland and decided to buy some cheese.



The cost of five types of cheese is shown in the table.

Lorna saw 3 different deals for buying cheese.

Type of cheese	Cost per 250 grams in Swiss francs
Emmental	2.50
Gruyere	7.50
Raclette	7.00
Edam	3.00
Mozzarella	2.00

Deal A

Buy all 5 for 18.50 Swiss francs

Deal B

Buy all 5 get the cheapest free

Deal C

Buy all 5 save 15%

Lorna is going to buy 250 grams of each cheese.

(b) Determine the best deal for buying all 5 cheeses.

Use your working to justify your answer.

2

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2022 - Paper 2 - Question 6(c)

A customer wants to buy 12 powder fire extinguishers and 12 stands.

- The recommended price of one powder fire extinguishers is £78.
- The recommended price of one stand is £15.



The customer saw the following deals available.

Company A	Company B	Company C
Buy 2 powder fire extinguishers, get one free. All stands reduced by £2.50.	$\frac{1}{6}$ off the recommended price of all fire extinguishers. Each fire extinguisher comes with a free stand.	12 powder fire extinguishers and 12 stands for £900.

To encourage the customer to buy from him instead, Pepe offers a 5% discount on the cheapest of these deals.

Calculate how much Pepe will charge the customer. **3**

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2021 - Paper 2 - Question 4(b)

Ameena is also spreading a layer of bark in her garden.

She needs to buy 6300 litres of bark.

She has a choice of three brands.

All the bark she buys will be the same brand.



Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
100 litres bag @ £6.99 Special Offer Two bags for £11.99	90 litres bag @ £5.99	70 litres bag @ £4.79 Special Offer Buy two bags get the third bag free

Determine which brand offers the cheapest price for Ameena to buy her bark. **3**

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2021 - Paper 2 - Question 7(b)

Dougie plans to buy circular pizzas from his local takeaway. He considers two options.

- A pizza with a diameter of 10 inches costs £4.
- A pizza with a diameter of 12 inches costs £5.30.

Both pizzas have the same uniform depth.



- (i) Calculate the area of both pizzas. 1
- (ii) Hence calculate which size of pizza is better value per square inch. 3

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2019 - Paper 2 - Question 9(d)

This is the fourth book that David has written in this series of books.

The cost of each book is shown in the table.

The following special offers are available to buy all four books.

Book	Cost	Year published
1	£5.50	2013
2	£8.50	2015
3	£4.00	2016
4	£12.00	2019





Shop A
Buy all 4
save 20%



Shop B
Buy all 4
for £22.99



Shop C
Buy all 4
get the 2 most
recently published
half price

Determine which shop offers the best deal for buying all four books.

Use your working to justify your answer. 3

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2018 - Paper 2 - Question 3



Ross is changing his internet package.

The table below shows the internet packages he is considering.

Package	Speed (Mbps)	Usage	Monthly line rental	Monthly broadband cost	Initial fee	Length of contract
A	52	25 GB	£8.95	£19.99	£59.99	12 months
B	52	Unlimited	£8.95	£20.99	£59.99	12 months
C	38	50 GB	£7.99	£16.99	£59.99	12 or 18 months
D	52	Unlimited	£7.99	£18.99	£109.99	12 or 18 months
E	52	50 GB	£6.99	£15.99 for 1st 12 months then £19.99	Free	24 months

Ross requires:

- a minimum speed of 52 Mbps
- at least 50 GB of usage
- a 12 month contract.

Ross will choose the package with the lowest overall annual price.

Which package will he choose?

Use your working to justify your answer. 3

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2018 - Paper 2 - Question 10(c)

Fiona is considering these 3 properties.

2 Bedroom House



Total Monthly Cost £730 including Rent, Council Tax and Electricity

1 Bedroom Apartment



Weekly Rent £132
Council Tax Band F
Weekly Electricity £12

3 Bedroom Farmhouse



Monthly Rent £390
Council Tax Band E
Monthly Electricity £76

Annual Council Tax (to be paid in 12 equal monthly instalments)	
Band A: £1000.92	Band D: £1501.32
Band B: £1167.72	Band E: £1834.92
Band C: £1334.52	Band F: £2168.64
	Band G: £2502.24
	Band H: £3002.64

(c) Which property is the cheapest option?

Use your working to justify your answer. 3

Click [here](#) for video solution. 

2017 - Paper 1 - Question 5(b)

Jane's personal trainer, Lynn,
wants to buy one of each band
A to G.

The recommended retail prices
(RRP) of the bands are shown
in the table below.



Band	Colour	RRP
A	Yellow	£2.50
B	Red	£3.90
C	Black	£8.95
D	Purple	£10.95
E	Green	£14.00
F	Blue	£17.00
G	Orange	£18.50

To buy all of the bands individually, the total RRP would be £75.80.

Lynn considers the following special offers.

Shop 1

*Buy orange, blue, and
green bands at RRP*



Shop 2



Shop 3



(b) Which shop offers the cheapest option for buying one of each band?

Use your working to justify your answer.

Click [here](#) for video solution. 