

IGCSE Mathematics

Some differences in terminology

UK terms	USA terms
Standard Form, $a \times 10^n$ where $1 \leq a < 10$ and n is an integer.	This is Scientific Form while Standard Form means numbers written in the ordinary way.
Trapezium	Trapezoid
Cuboid	Rectangular Prism
Vectors are written in vertical format $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ regardless of whether they are position vectors or free vectors, to distinguish them from coordinates of a point, (a, b) .	Position vectors are written as (a, b) and so are not distinguished from the coordinates of a point.
Letters are not always placed in front of the coordinates of a point. $(3, 4)$ or A $(3, 4)$	Letters are placed in front of coordinates in text.
Make V the subject of the formula.....	Solve in terms of V
In x^n the number n is called the index or power. The plural of index is indices. Exponent is recognised as another word for index but not usually in examination papers.	In x^n the number n is called the exponent or power. The index of a root is a number showing the degree of the root. So in the expression $\sqrt[3]{a}$ the number 3 is the index of the root.
Fractional Index	Rational Exponent
The transformation ' Enlargement '	Although ' Enlargement ' is recognised, the term ' Dilation ' is very common.
Cyclic quadrilateral	Although Cyclic is a recognised term it is more common to find the expression, quadrilateral inscribed in a circle.
Simultaneous Equations	System of Equations
Gradient	Slope