

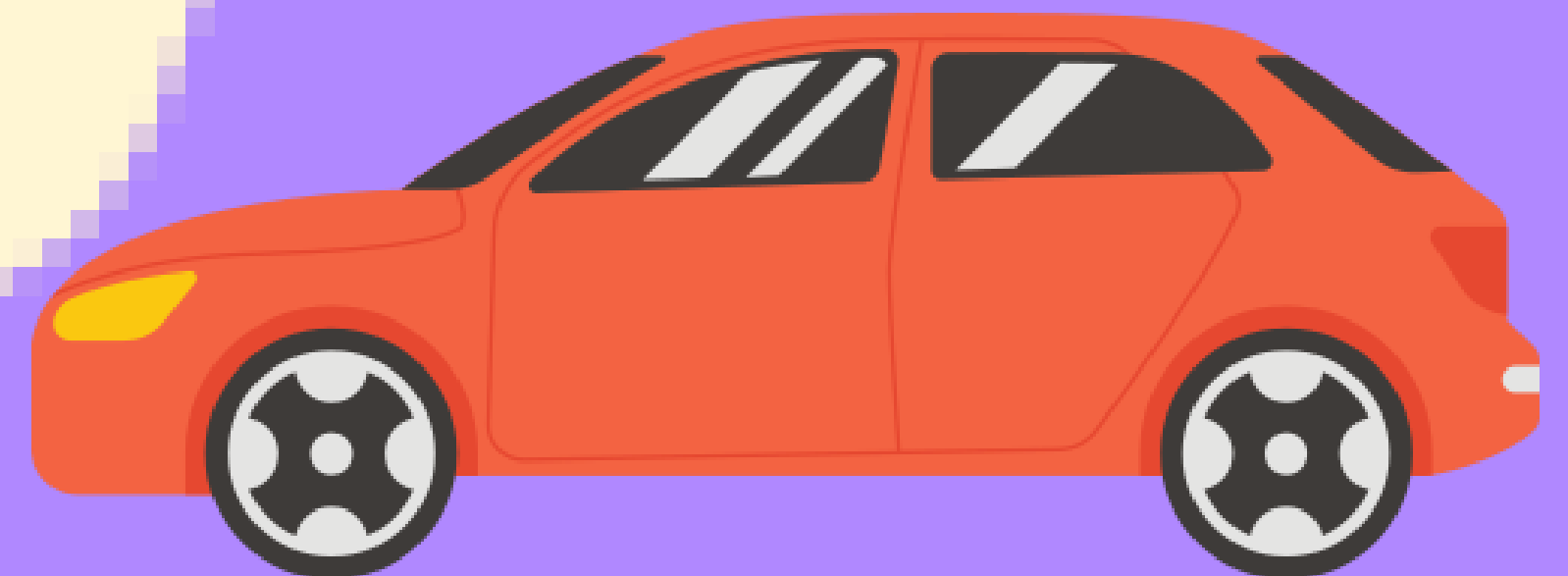


EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

CHAPTER 2:  
**DESCRIBING MOTION**

**CIE IGCSE Physics**  
**for board 0625 and 0972**

**(For exam 2025+)**



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# SPEED

## MEASURING SPEED

DISTANCE-TIME  
GRAPH

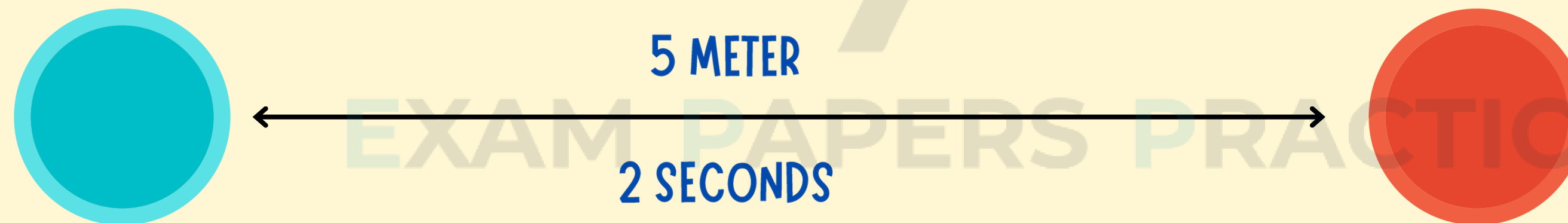
# ACCELERATION

## MEASURING ACCELERATION

SPEED-TIME GRAPH

# MEASURING SPEED

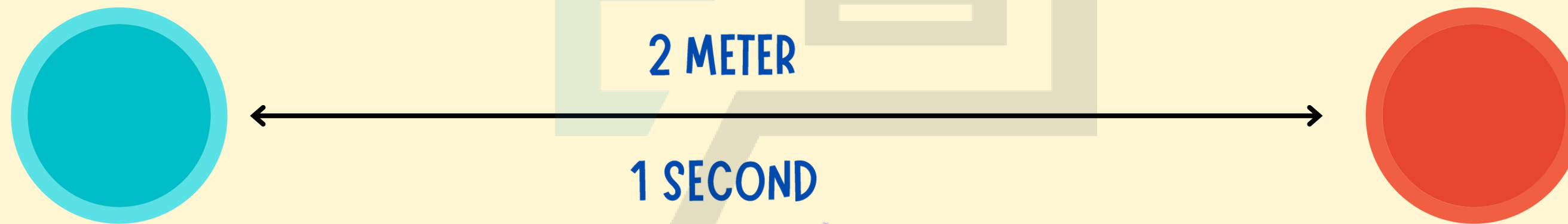
**A. DISTANCE TRAVELLED BETWEEN 2 POINTS**



**B. TIME TAKEN TO TRAVEL BETWEEN THESE 2 POINTS**

# MEASURING SPEED

**Definition:** THE DISTANCE TRAVELLED BY AN OBJECT PER UNIT TIME



$$\text{SPEED} = 2 \text{ M/S}$$

# MEASURING SPEED

**Formula  
for speed:**

$$\text{SPEED} = \frac{\text{DISTANCE}}{\text{TIME}}$$

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

# MEASURING SPEED

Quantity	SI Unit	Other units
Distance	Metre, m	Kilometre, km
Time	Second, s	Hour, h
Speed	Metre per second, m/s	Kilometre per hour, km/h

# WORKED EXAMPLE 1

A RUNNER FINISHED A 1200-METER  
SEGMENT OF A RACE IN 30 SECONDS.  
WHAT WAS HIS AVERAGE SPEED?

SPEED = ?

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

# WORKED EXAMPLE 1

A RUNNER FINISHED A 1200-METER  
SEGMENT OF A RACE IN 30 SECONDS.  
WHAT WAS HIS AVERAGE SPEED?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SPEED} &= \frac{\text{DISTANCE}}{\text{TIME}} \\ &= \frac{1200 \text{ M}}{30 \text{ S}} \\ &= 40 \text{ M/S} \end{aligned}$$



# WORKED EXAMPLE 2

A SUBMARINE IS TRAVELING AT A  
CONSTANT SPEED OF 20 KM/H. HOW LONG  
WILL IT TAKE TO COVER A DISTANCE OF  
300 KM?

SPEED = ?

# WORKED EXAMPLE 2

A SUBMARINE IS TRAVELING AT A  
CONSTANT SPEED OF 20 KM/H. HOW LONG  
WILL IT TAKE TO COVER A DISTANCE OF  
300 KM?

$$\text{SPEED} = \frac{\text{DISTANCE}}{\text{TIME}}$$

$$20 \text{ KM/H} = \frac{300 \text{ KM}}{\text{TIME}}$$

$$\text{TIME} = 15 \text{ HOURS}$$

# WORKED EXAMPLE 3

\*conversion of unit is required

$$9000s = 2.5 \text{ hours}$$

$$600\text{km} = 600000\text{m}$$

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

A TRAIN COVERS A DISTANCE OF 600 KM  
IN 9000 SECONDS. WHAT IS THE SPEED OF  
THE TRAIN IN KM/H AND M/S?

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

# WORKED EXAMPLE 3

\*conversion of unit is required

$$9000s = 2.5 \text{ hours}$$

$$600\text{km} = 600000\text{m}$$

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

A TRAIN COVERS A DISTANCE OF 600 KM  
IN 9000 SECONDS. WHAT IS THE SPEED OF  
THE TRAIN IN KM/H AND M/S?

$$\text{SPEED} = \frac{\text{DISTANCE (KM)}}{\text{TIME (H)}}$$

(KM /H)

$$= \frac{600\text{KM}}{2.5\text{H}}$$

$$= 240 \text{ KM/H}$$

$$\text{SPEED} = \frac{\text{DISTANCE (M)}}{\text{TIME (S)}}$$

(M/S)

$$= \frac{600000\text{M}}{9000\text{S}}$$

$$= 66.67 \text{ M/S}$$

# SPEED

MEASURING SPEED

DISTANCE-TIME  
GRAPH

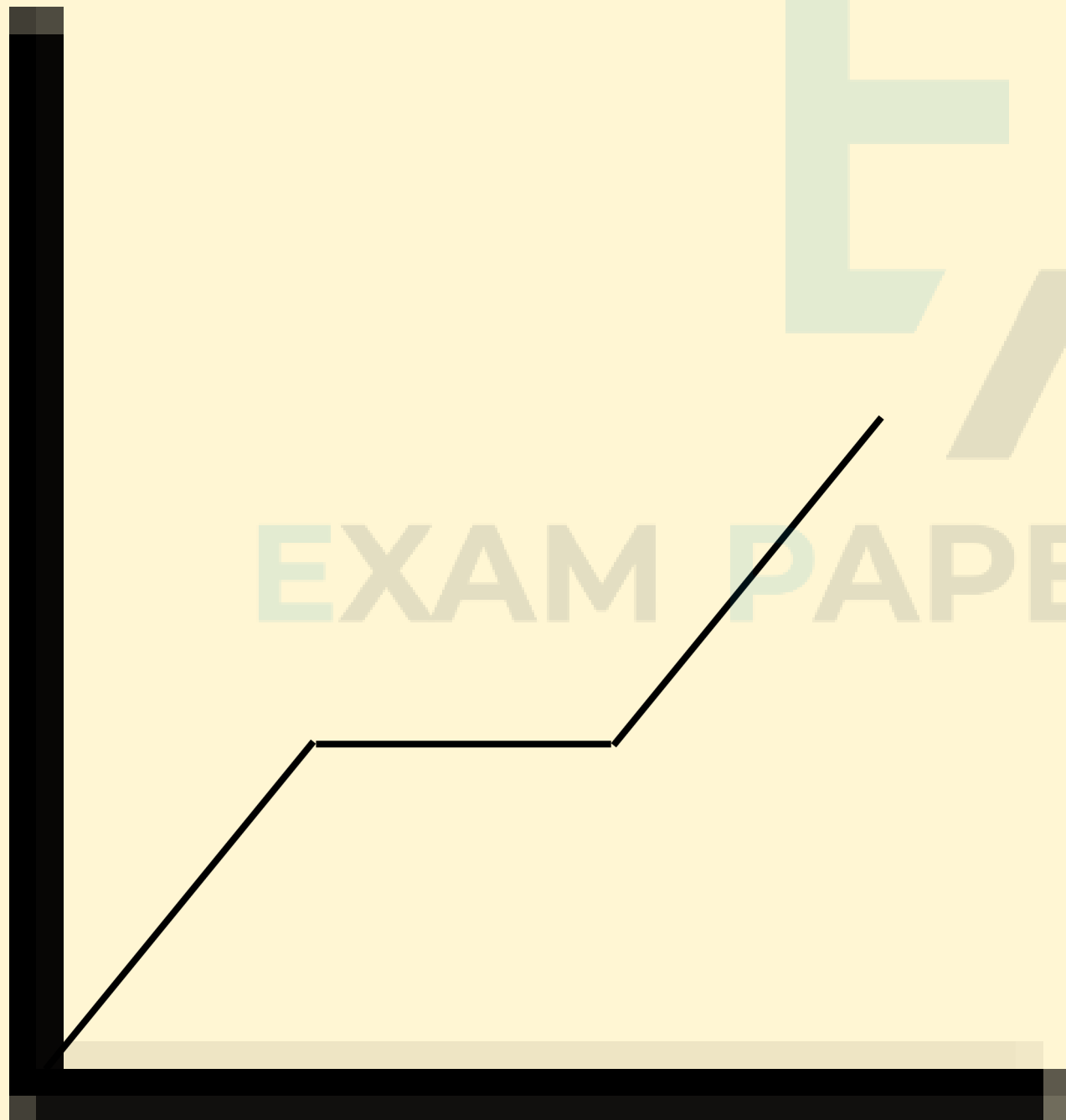
# ACCELERATION

MEASURING  
ACCELERATION

SPEED-TIME GRAPH

# DISTANCE TIME GRAPH

DISTANCE

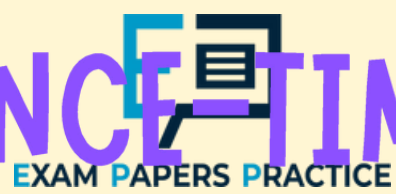


TIME

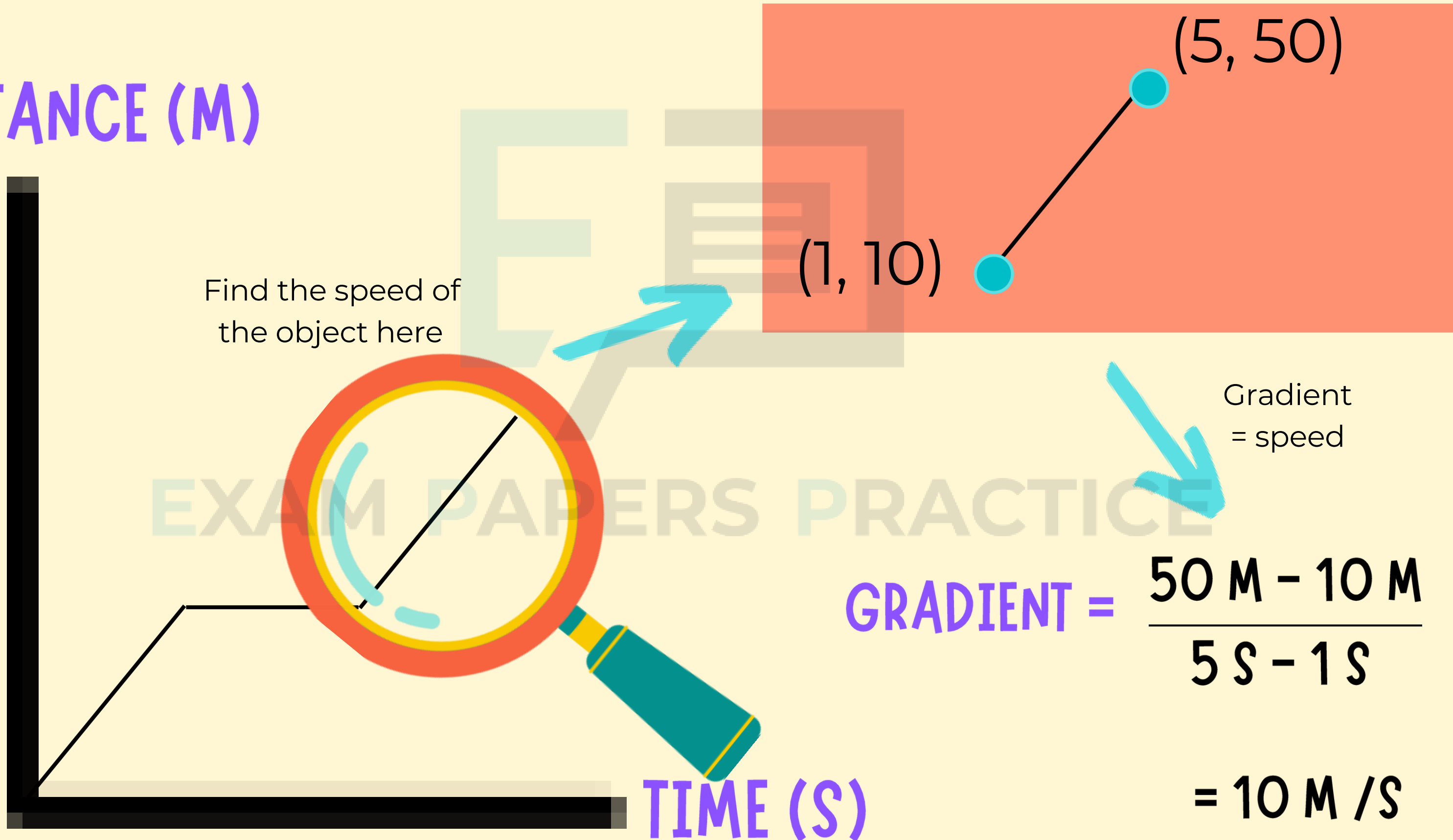
SHOW HOW FAR AN  
OBJECT HAS TRAVELLED  
AT A PARTICULAR TIME

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

# FIND THE SPEED FROM A DISTANCE-TIME GRAPH = GRADIENT



DISTANCE (M)

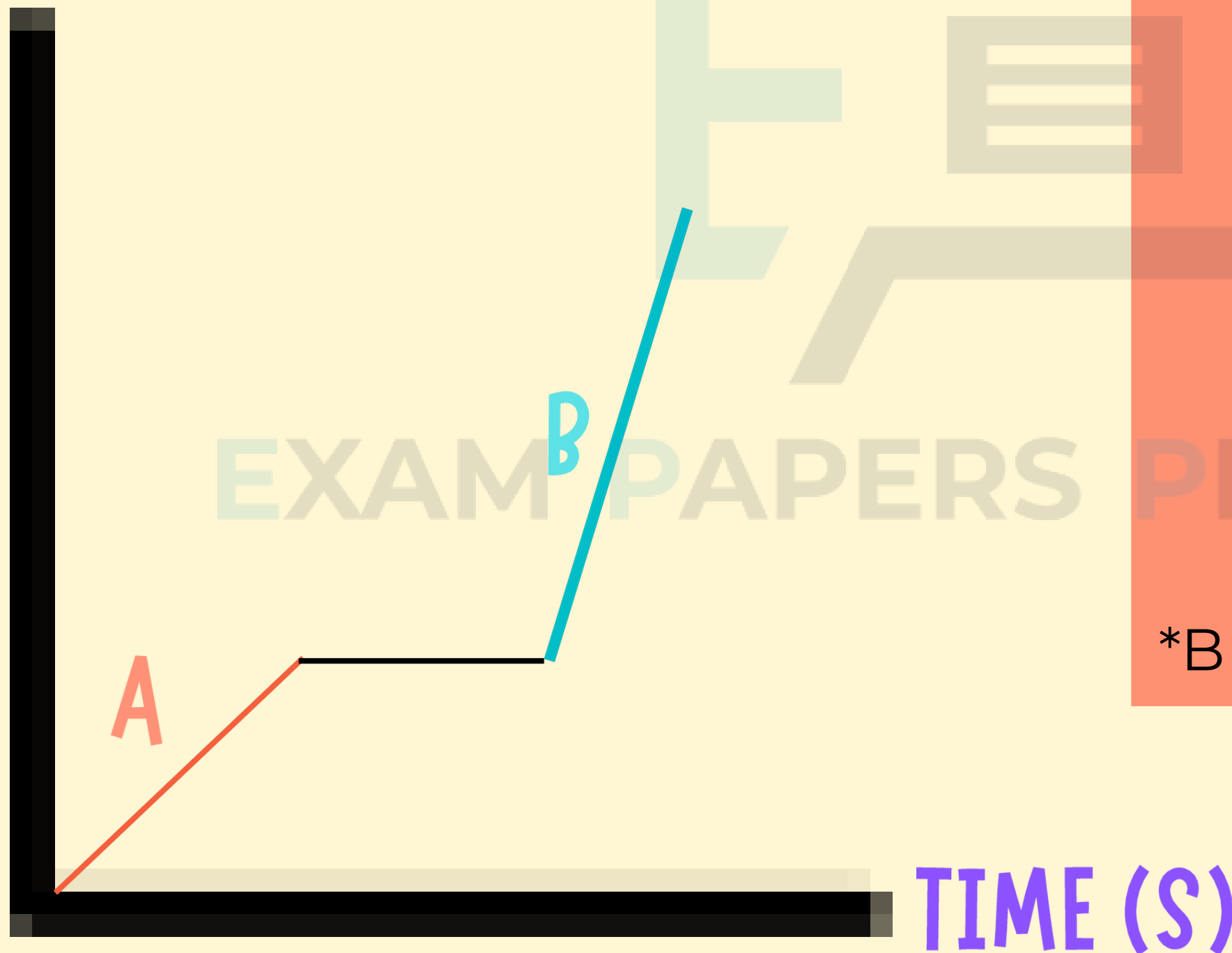


# FIND THE SPEED FROM A DISTANCE-TIME GRAPH = GRADIENT



## Tips

DISTANCE (M)



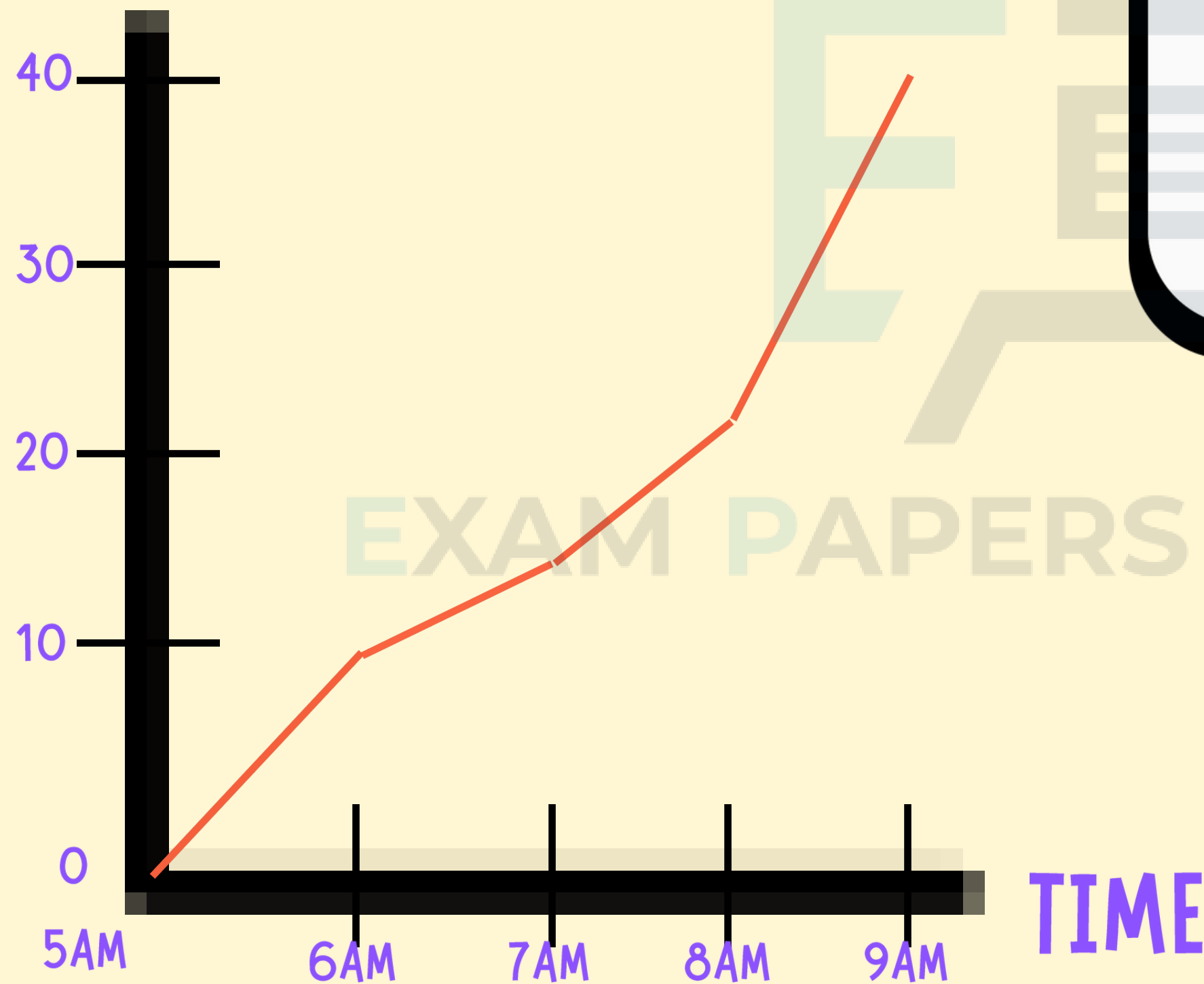
1. The gradient of the graph indicates the object's speed.
2. The steeper the gradient, the faster the movement.
3. When the slope is horizontal, it means the slope is zero.

\*B is faster than A as it is steeper



# WORKED EXAMPLE 4

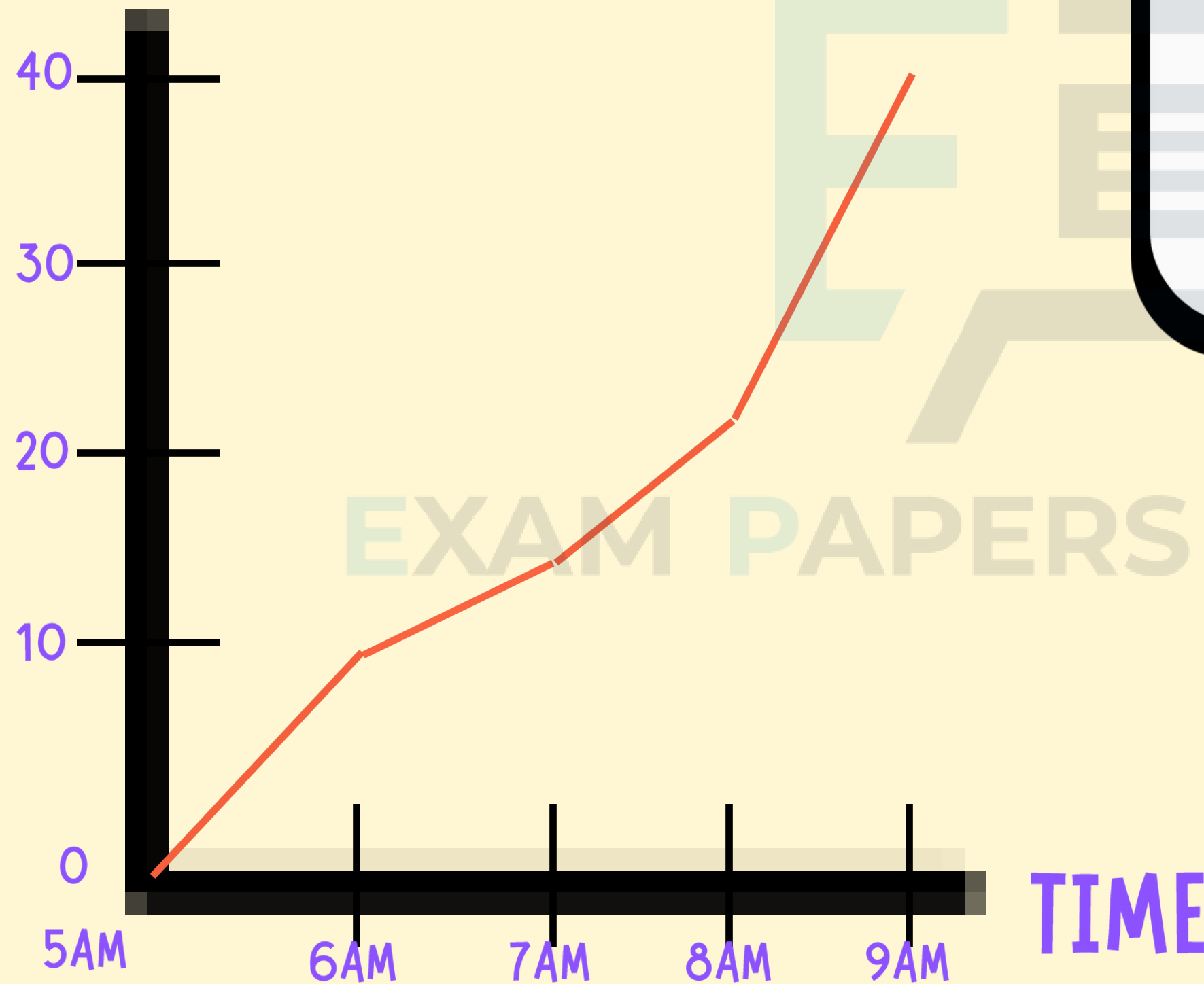
DISTANCE (KM)



THE FIGURE ABOVE SHOWS THE DISTANCE-TIME GRAPH FOR A MARATHONER.

# WORKED EXAMPLE 4

DISTANCE (KM)



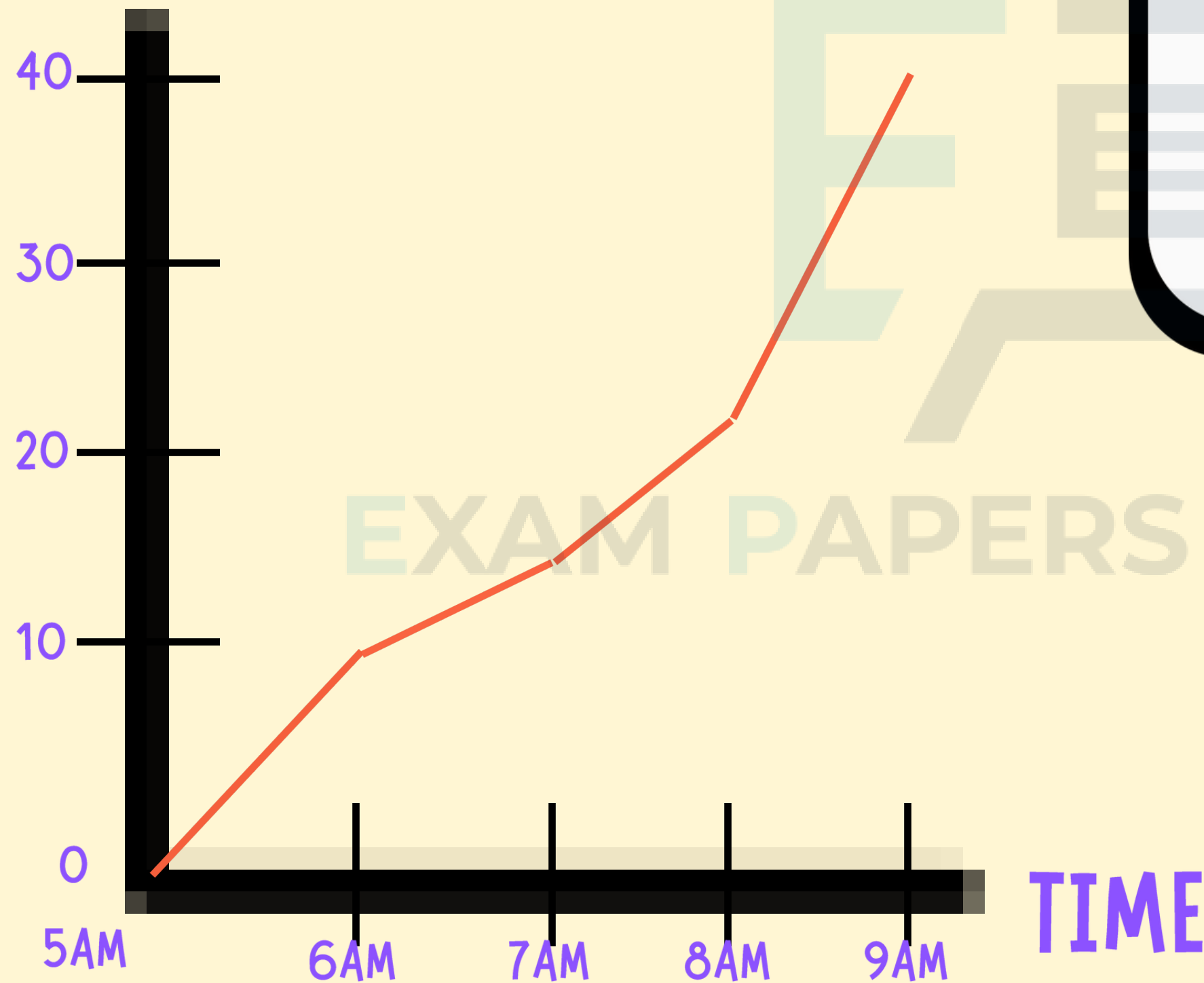
Q1:

1. HOW FAR DID THE MARATHONER RUN?

ANSWER: 40KM

# WORKED EXAMPLE 4

DISTANCE (KM)



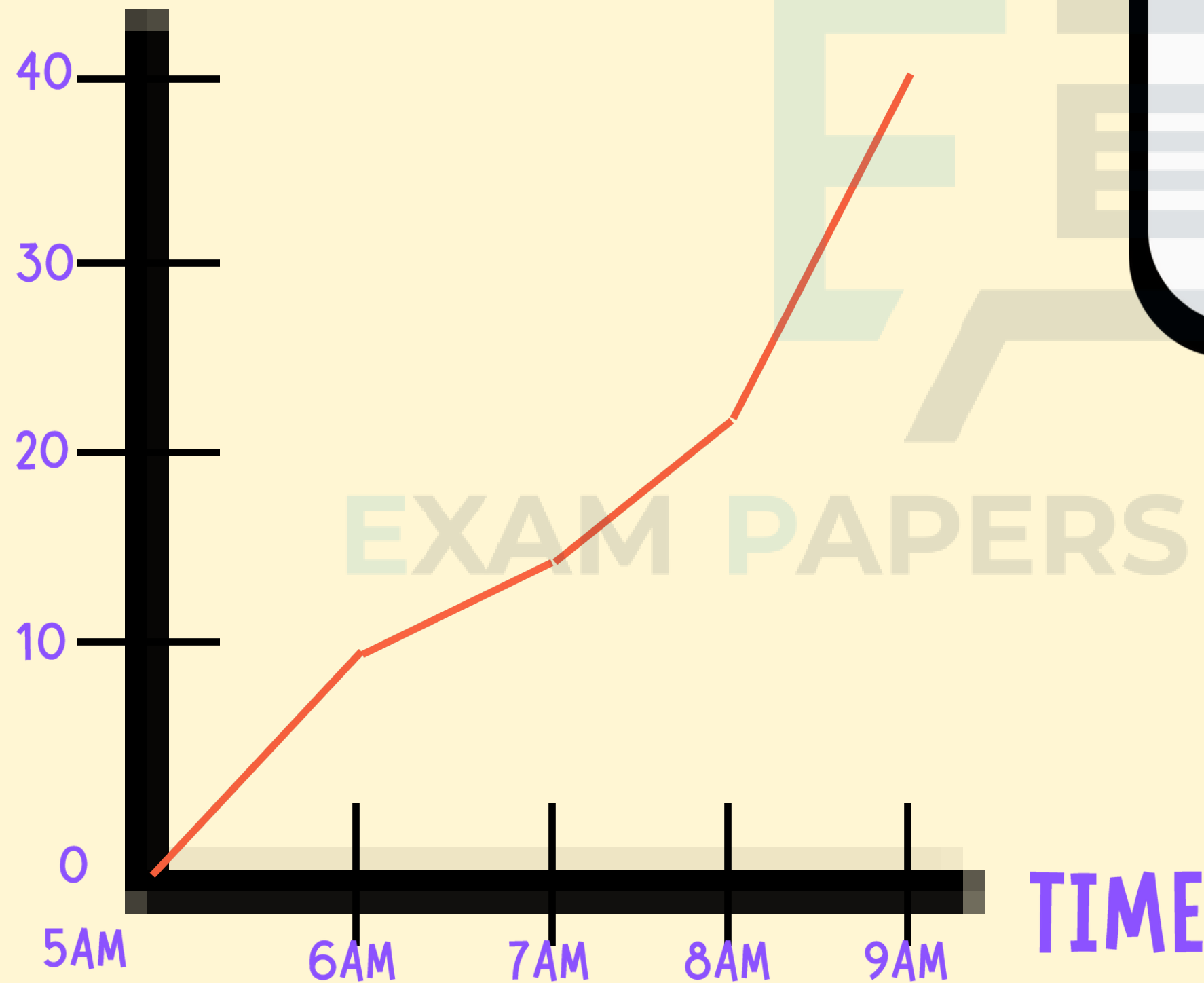
Q2:

WHAT WAS THE MARATHONER'S  
AVERAGE SPEED IN KM/H?

ANSWER:  $40\text{KM} / 4\text{HOURS} = 10\text{KM/H}$

# WORKED EXAMPLE 4

DISTANCE (KM)



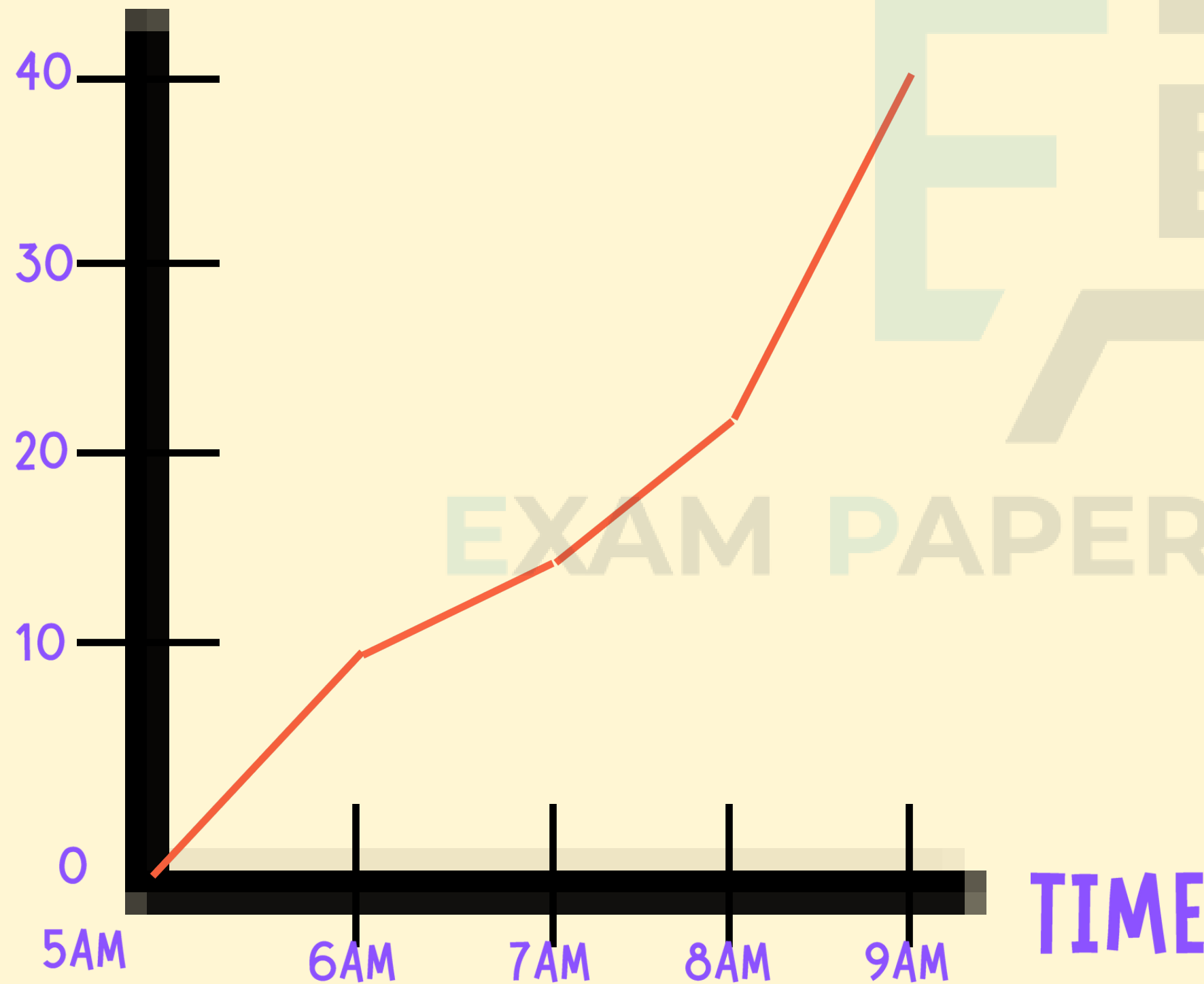
Q3:

HAVE THE MARATHONER EVER STOPPED?

ANSWER: NO. THERE IS NO HORIZONTAL LINE (HE IS A GREAT RUNNER!)

# WORKED EXAMPLE 4

DISTANCE (KM)



Q4:

WHEN WAS THE MARATHONER

HIGHEST SPEED?

ANSWER: 8AM - 9AM, WHERE THE SLOPE IS  
STEEPEST

# ACCELERATION

MEASURING SPEED

DISTANCE-TIME  
GRAPH

MEASURING  
ACCELERATION

SPEED-TIME GRAPH

# ACCELERATION

**Definition:** ACCELERATION IS THE RATE OF CHANGE OF AN OBJECT'S VELOCITY.

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPEED AND VELOCITY:

- BOTH VELOCITY AND SPEED QUANTIFY HOW FAST AN OBJECT IS MOVING, BUT VELOCITY ALSO REQUIRES SPECIFYING THE DIRECTION.
- FOR EXAMPLE, an aircraft may have a speed of 300 m/s and a velocity of 300m/s heading north.
- Speed is a scalar quantity, whereas velocity is a vector quantity.

# ACCELERATION

## A. CHANGE IN VELOCITY



## B. TIME TAKEN



# ACCELERATION

**Important  
symbols:**

**V = FINAL SPEED**

**U = INITIAL SPEED**

**Formula for  
acceleration:**

$$\text{ACCELERATION} = \frac{V - U}{\text{TIME}}$$

**Unit for  
acceleration:**

$$M / S^2$$

# ACCELERATION

A CAR ACCELERATES FROM 20 M/S  
TO 80 M/S IN 10 SECONDS. WHAT  
IS ITS ACCELERATION?

$$\text{ACCELERATION} = \frac{V - U}{\text{TIME}}$$

$$\text{ACCELERATION} = \frac{80 - 20}{10}$$

$$= 6 \text{ M / S}^2$$

# ACCELERATION

MEASURING SPEED

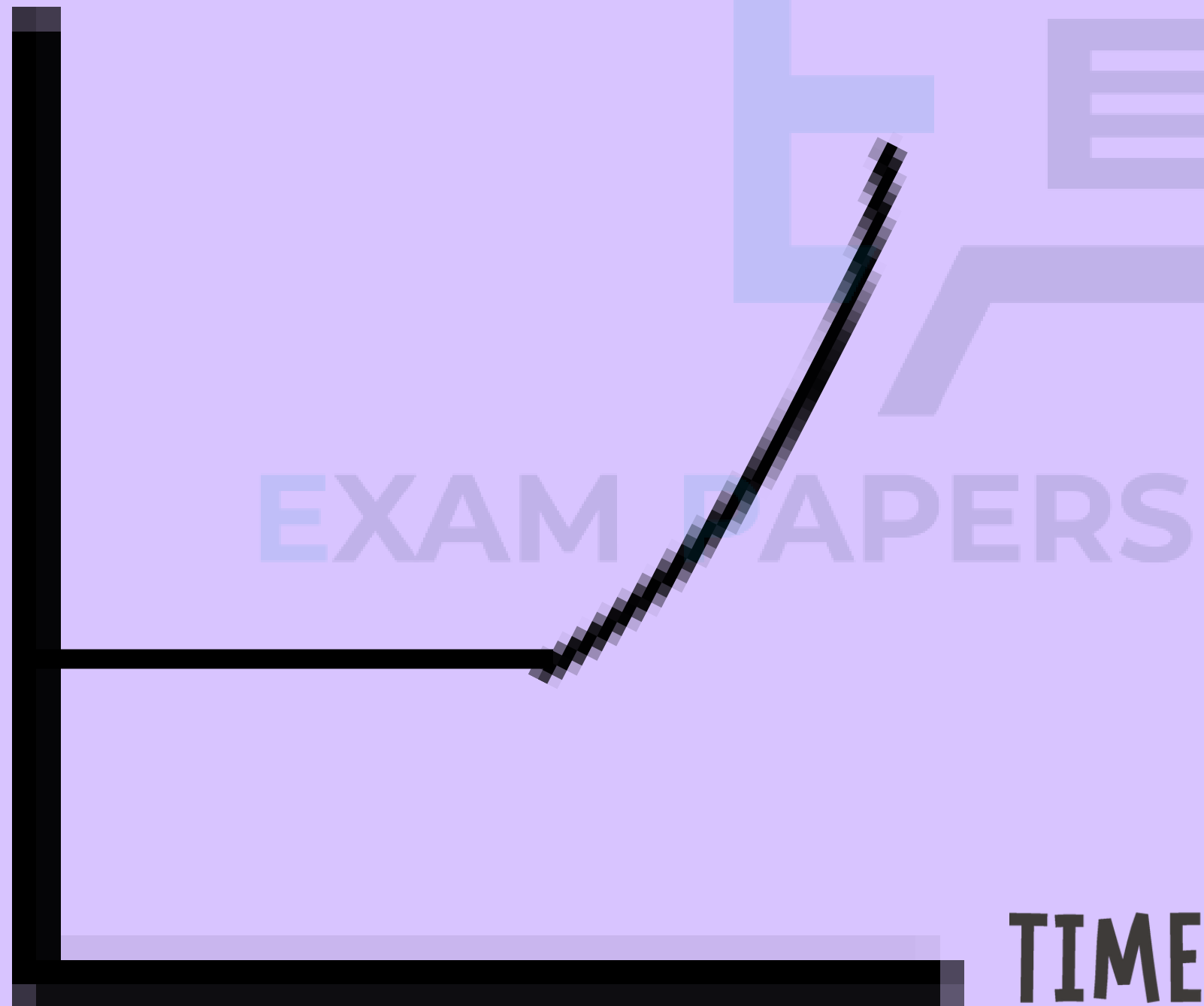
DISTANCE-TIME  
GRAPH

MEASURING  
ACCELERATION

SPEED-TIME GRAPH

# SPEED-TIME GRAPH

SPEED



TIME

SHOW HOW FAST AN  
OBJECT IS  
TRAVELLING AT A  
PARTICULAR TIME

# WORKED EXAMPLE

NAME THE SECTIONS THAT REPRESENT:

- A. STEADY SPEED
- B. SPEEDING UP
- C. BEING STATIONARY
- D. SLOWING DOWN

SPEED (M/S)



TIME (S)

# WORKED EXAMPLE

NAME THE SECTIONS THAT REPRESENT:

SPEED (M/S)



**A. STEADY SPEED**

**(20S - 40S)**

**B. SPEEDING UP**

**(0S - 20S, 50S - 80S)**

**C. BEING STATIONARY**

**NONE!**

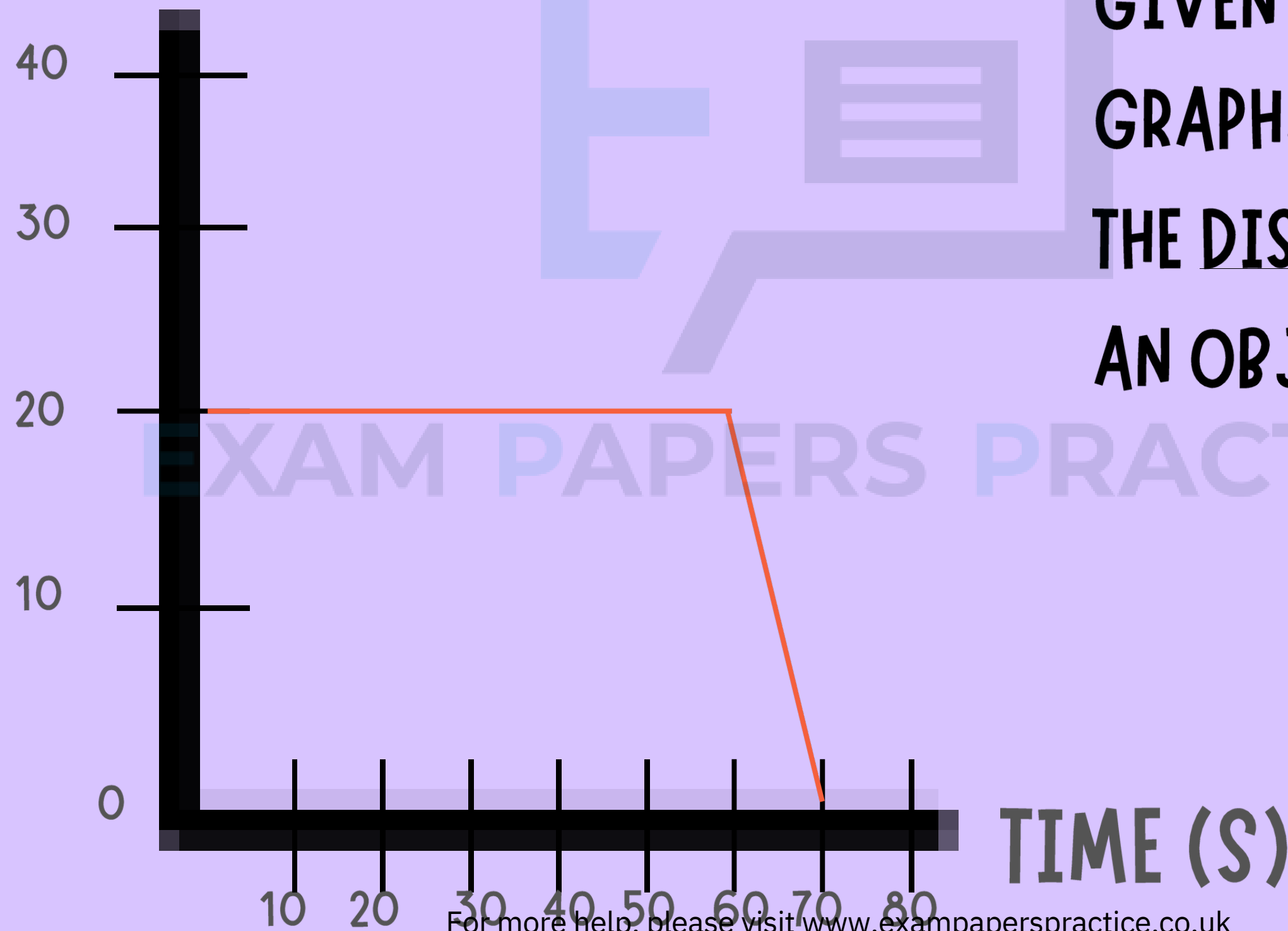
**D. SLOWING DOWN**

**(40S - 50S)**

TIME (S)

# DISTANCE FROM A SPEED TIME GRAPH – AREA

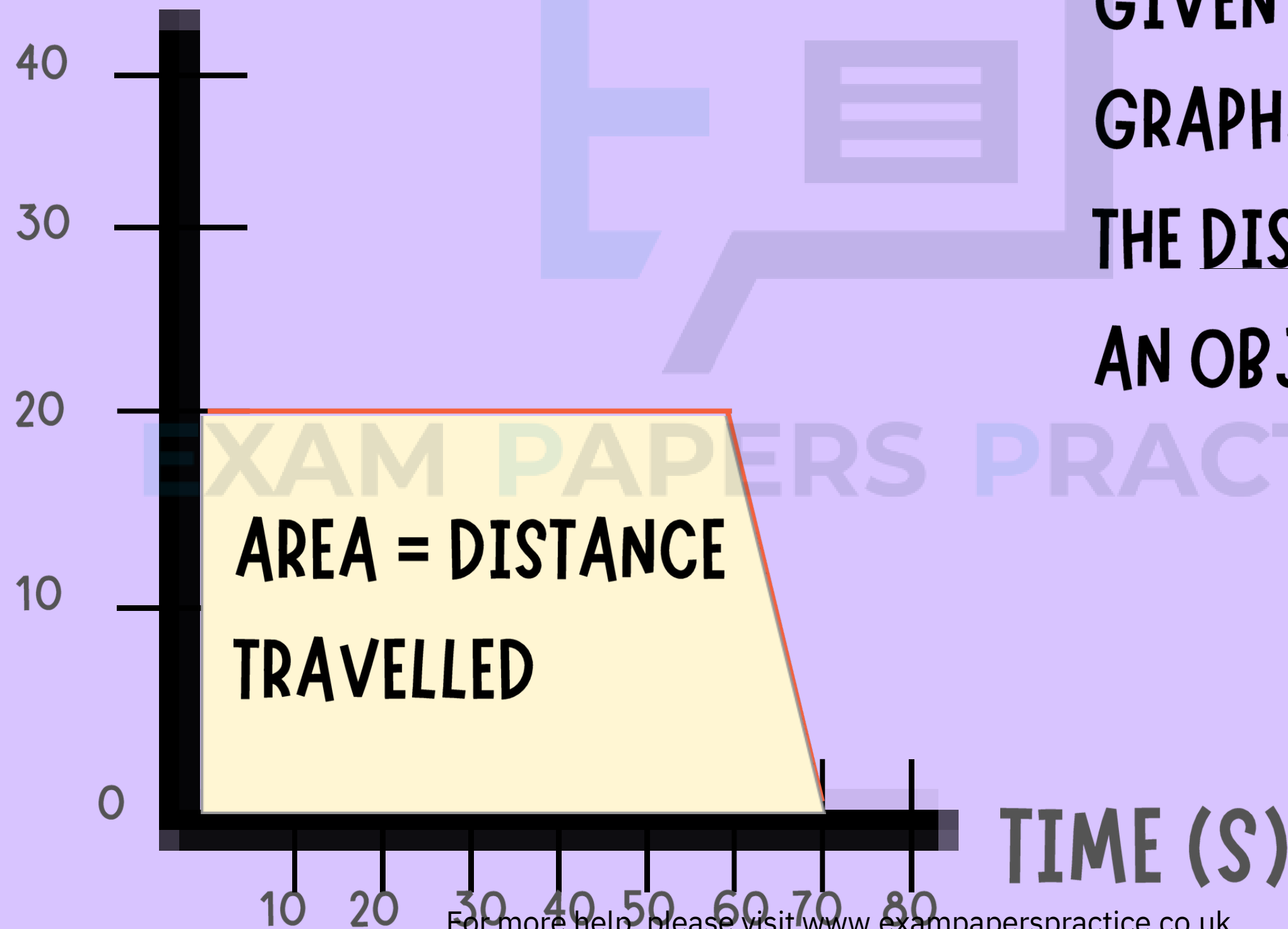
SPEED (M/S)



**GIVEN A SPEED-TIME  
GRAPH, WE CAN CALCULATE  
THE DISTANCE TRAVELLED BY  
AN OBJECT.**

# DISTANCE FROM A SPEED TIME GRAPH – AREA

**SPEED (M/S)**



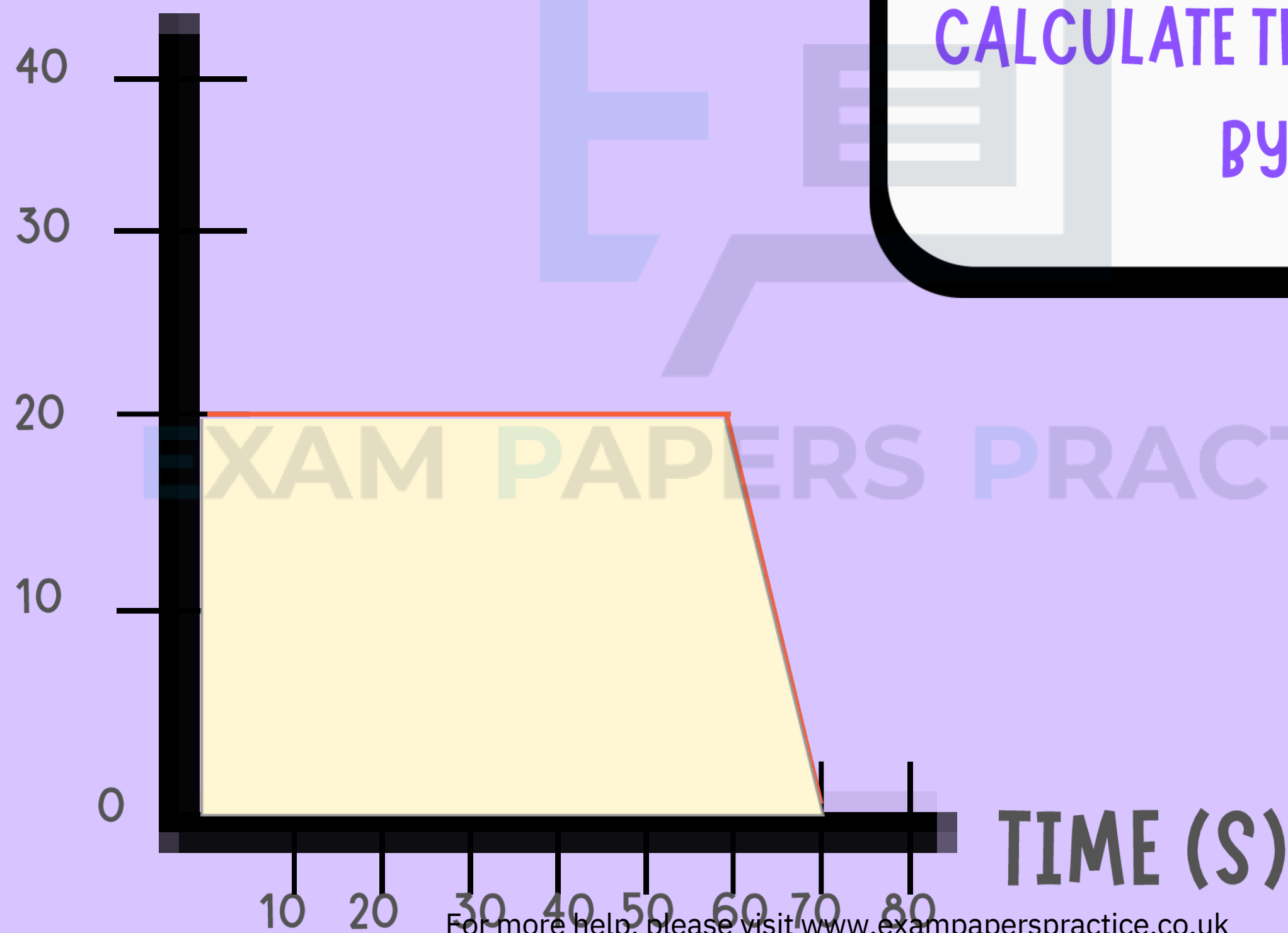
**GIVEN A SPEED-TIME  
GRAPH, WE CAN CALCULATE  
THE DISTANCE TRAVELLED BY  
AN OBJECT.**



# WORKED EXAMPLE

USING THE SPEED-TIME GRAPH,  
CALCULATE THE DISTANCE TRAVELLED  
BY THE OBJECT.

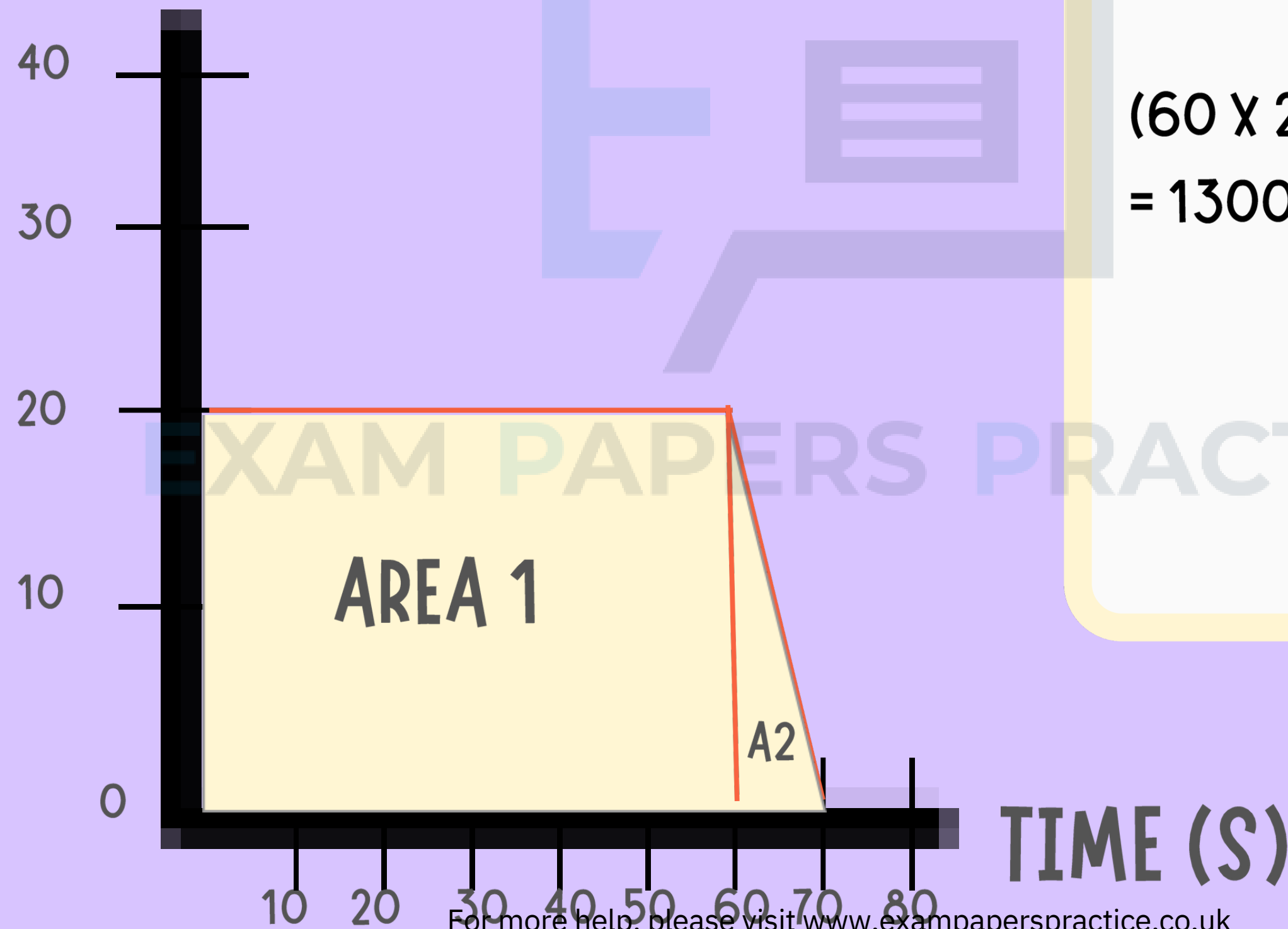
SPEED (M/S)



# WORKED EXAMPLE

## METHOD 1

SPEED (M/S)



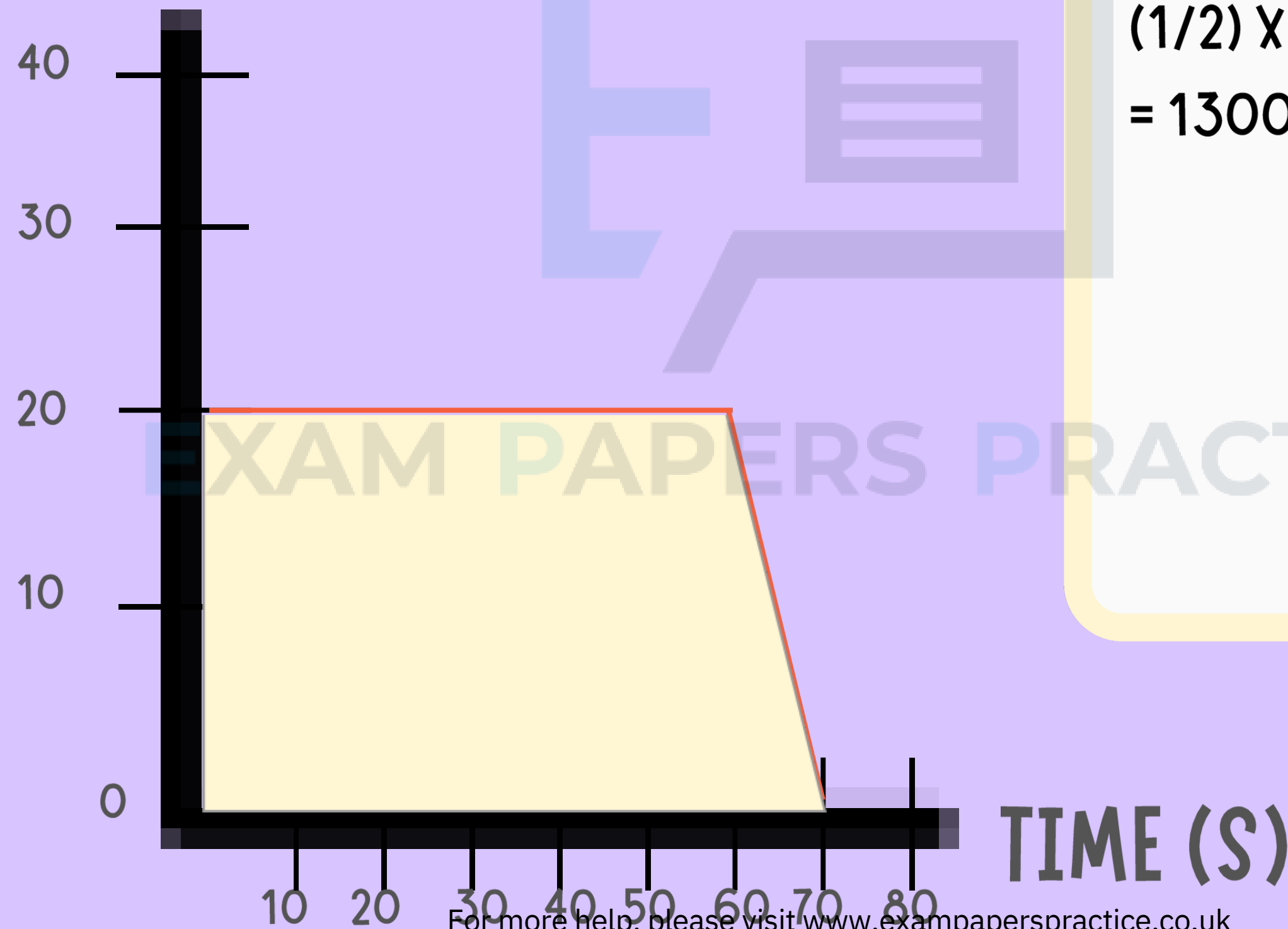
AREA OF RECTANGLE +  
AREA OF TRIANGLE:

$$(60 \times 20) + (10 \times 20 / 2) \\ = 1300\text{M}$$

# WORKED EXAMPLE

## METHOD 2

SPEED (M/S)



AREA OF TRAPEZIUM

$$(1/2) \times (60 + 70) \times 20$$
$$= 1300M$$

## WORKED EXAMPLE: CALCULATING ACCELERATION FROM A SPEED-TIME GRAPH

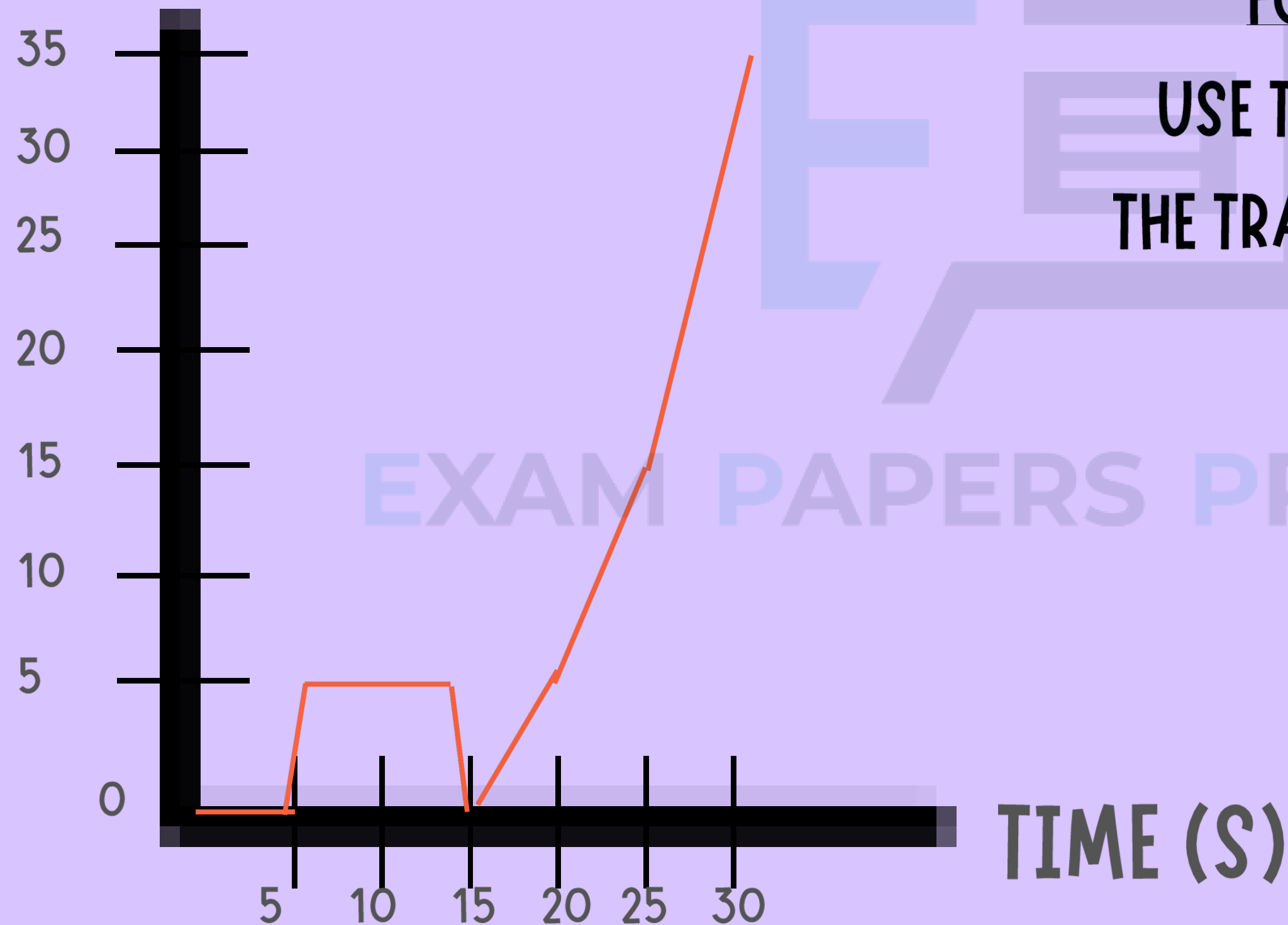
A ROLLER COASTER STARTS AT REST AND GRADUALLY ACCELERATES UP A STEEP INCLINE. IT THEN REACHES ITS MAXIMUM SPEED AT THE PEAK BEFORE DESCENDING RAPIDLY. THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS ITS SPEED CHANGES. DRAW A SPEED-TIME GRAPH TO REPRESENT THIS DATA.



Time / s	Speed / m/s
0	0.0
5	5.0
10	5.0
15	0.0
20	5.0
25	15.0
30	35.0

**WORKED EXAMPLE: CALCULATING  
ACCELERATION FROM A SPEED-TIME GRAPH**

**SPEED (M/S)**



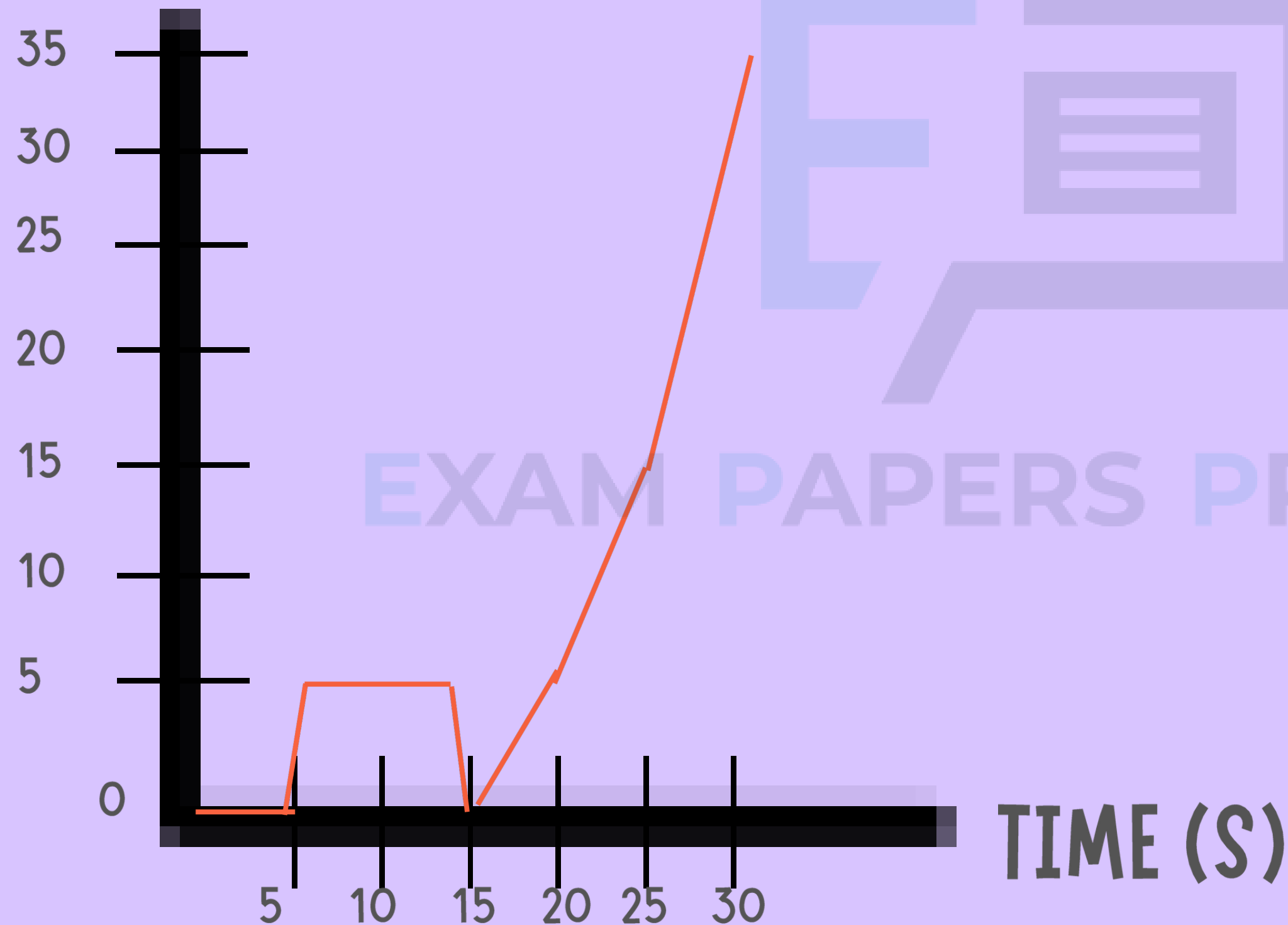
**FOLLOW UP QUESTION:**

**USE THE GRAPH TO CALCULATE  
THE TRAIN'S ACCELERATION FROM  
25S TO 30S**

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

# WORKED EXAMPLE: CALCULATING ACCELERATION FROM A SPEED-TIME GRAPH

**SPEED (M/S)**



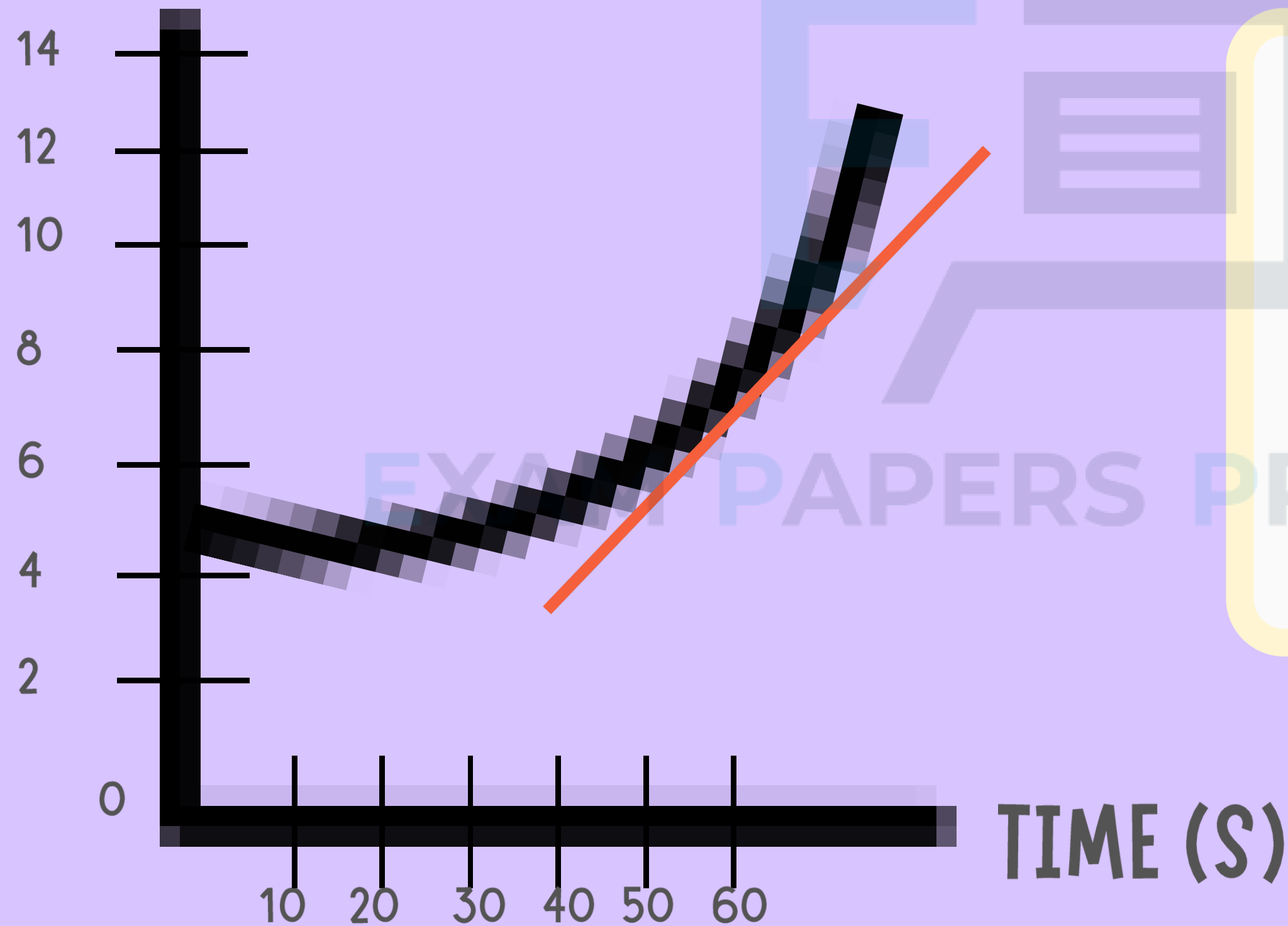
**ACCELERATION = GRADIENT**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ACCELERATION} &= \frac{35-15}{5} \\ &= 4 \text{ M/S}^2 \end{aligned}$$

# CALCULATING ACCELERATION FROM A CURVED SPEED-TIME GRAPH

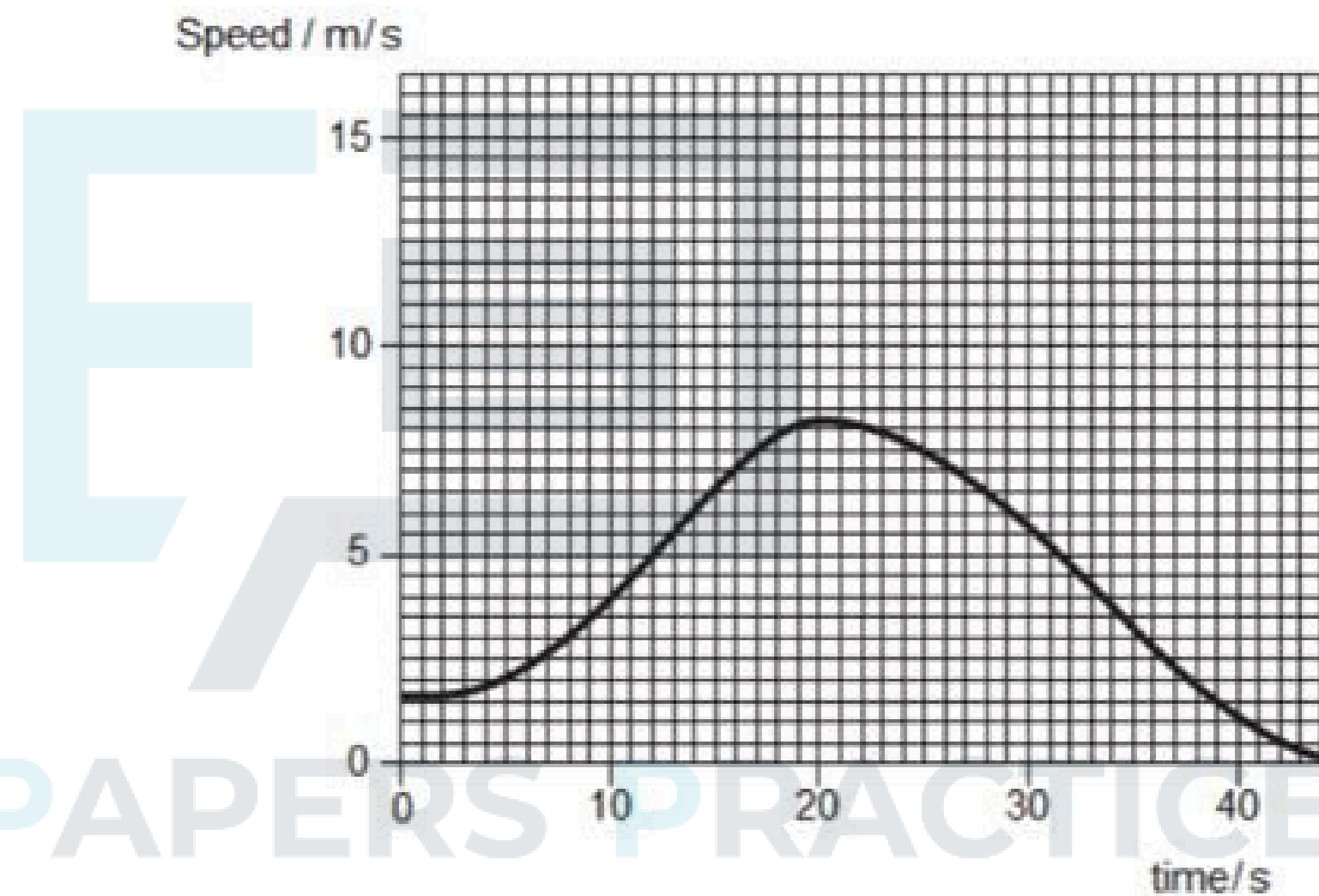
EG. CALCULATING ACCELERATION FROM A CURVE SPEED-TIME GRAPH AT TIME = 60

SPEED (M/S)



1. DRAW A **TANGENT** AT THE TIME WHICH ACCELERATION NEEDS TO BE FOUND
2. CALCULATE THE **GRADIENT** OF THE TANGENT

The graph shows the speed-time graph of a cyclist who is moving in a straight line.

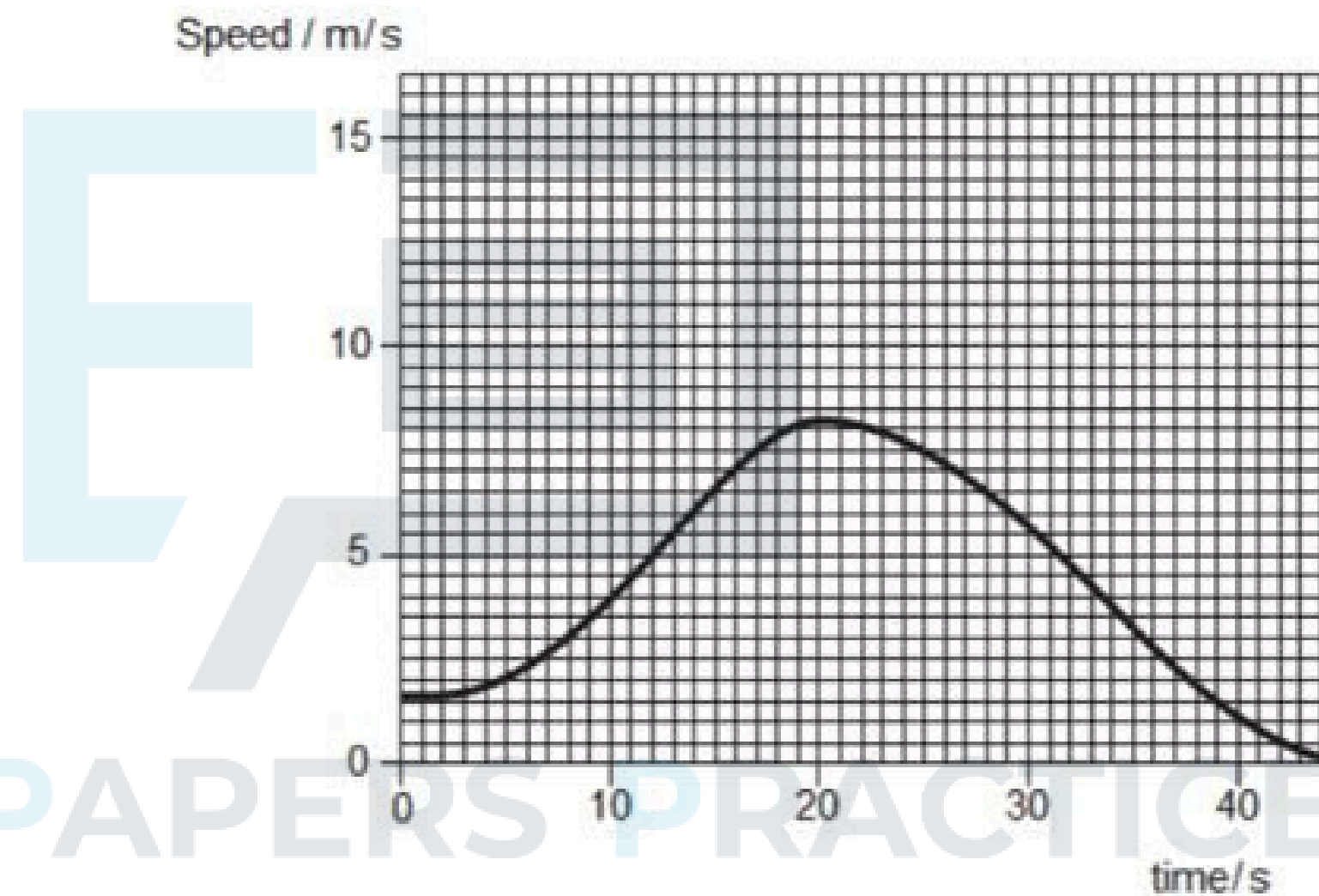


What is the acceleration of the cyclist at a time of 20 seconds?

- A  $0.5 \text{ m/s}^2$
- B  $-0.5 \text{ m/s}^2$
- C  $0 \text{ m/s}^2$
- D  $11.5 \text{ m/s}^2$



The graph shows the speed-time graph of a cyclist who is moving in a straight line.



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A car travels along a clear 10.0 km section of motorway in 6.0 minutes. It then drives through 3.0 km of roadworks in 3.0 minutes.

Which calculation will give the correct average speed for the journey?

**A**  $\frac{3.0}{3.0} = 1.00 \text{ km/min}$

**B**  $\frac{10.0}{6.0} = 1.67 \text{ km/min}$

**C**  $1.67 + 1.00 = 2.67 \text{ km/min}$

**D**  $\frac{13.0}{9.0} = 1.44 \text{ km/min}$

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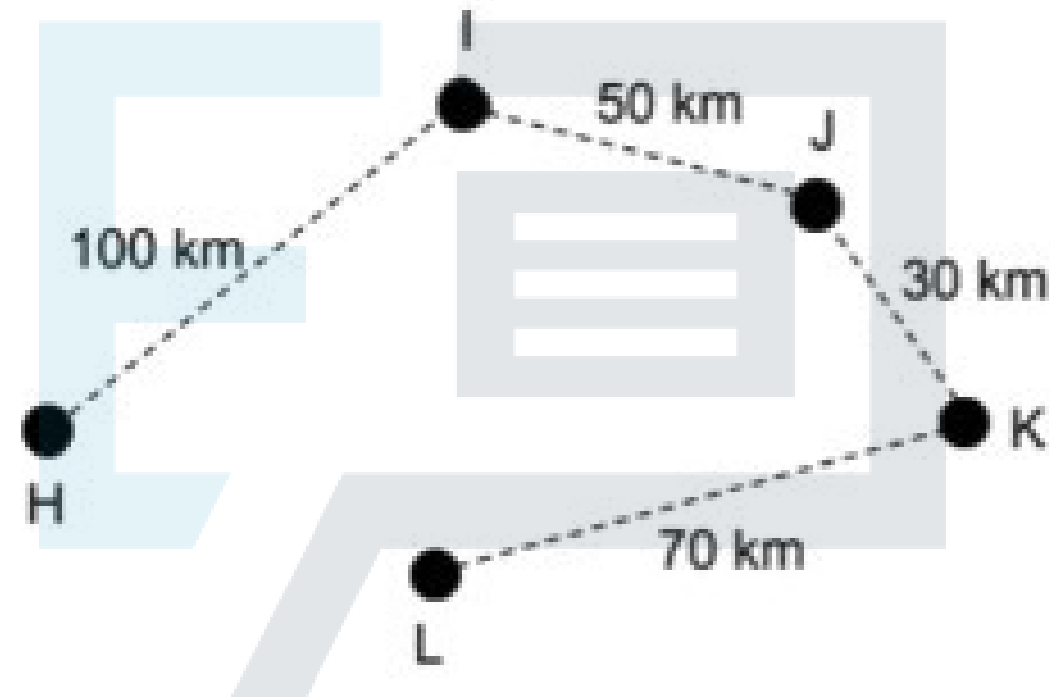
**B**  $\frac{10.0}{6.0} = 1.67 \text{ km/min}$

**C**  $1.67 + 1.00 = 2.67 \text{ km/min}$

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A helicopter flies the route shown below.

It stops at point I for 30 minutes to pick up some cargo.



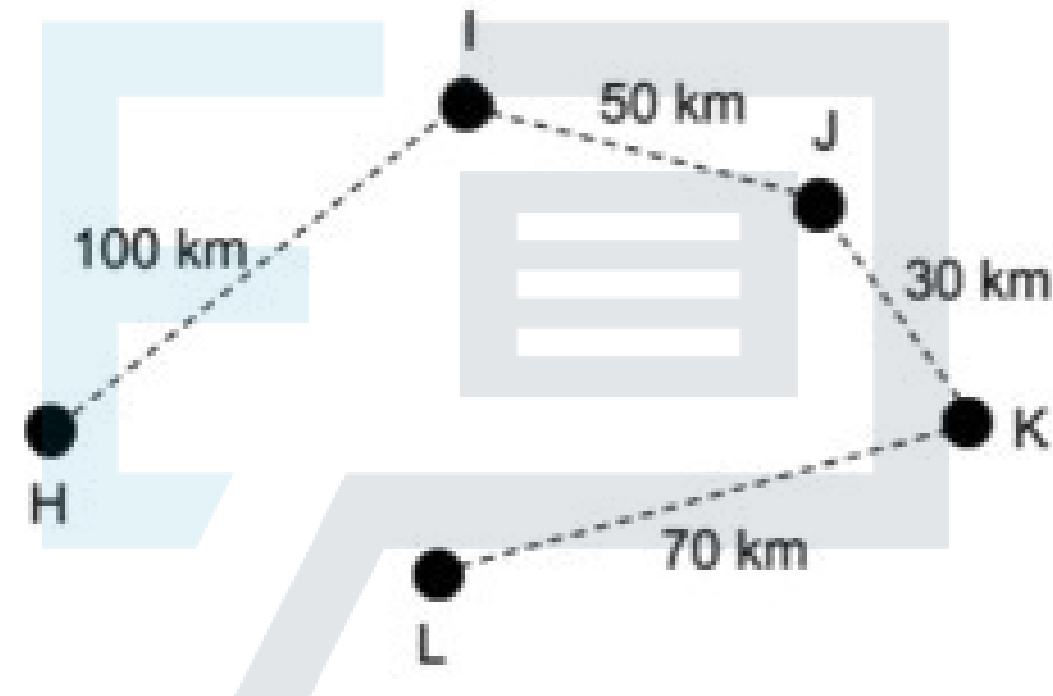
The total time the helicopter takes between taking off from H and landing at L is 4.0 hours.

Calculate the average speed of the helicopter when it is flying.

- A 55.6 km/h
- B 250 km/h
- C 62.5 km/h
- D 71.4 km/h

A helicopter flies the route shown below.

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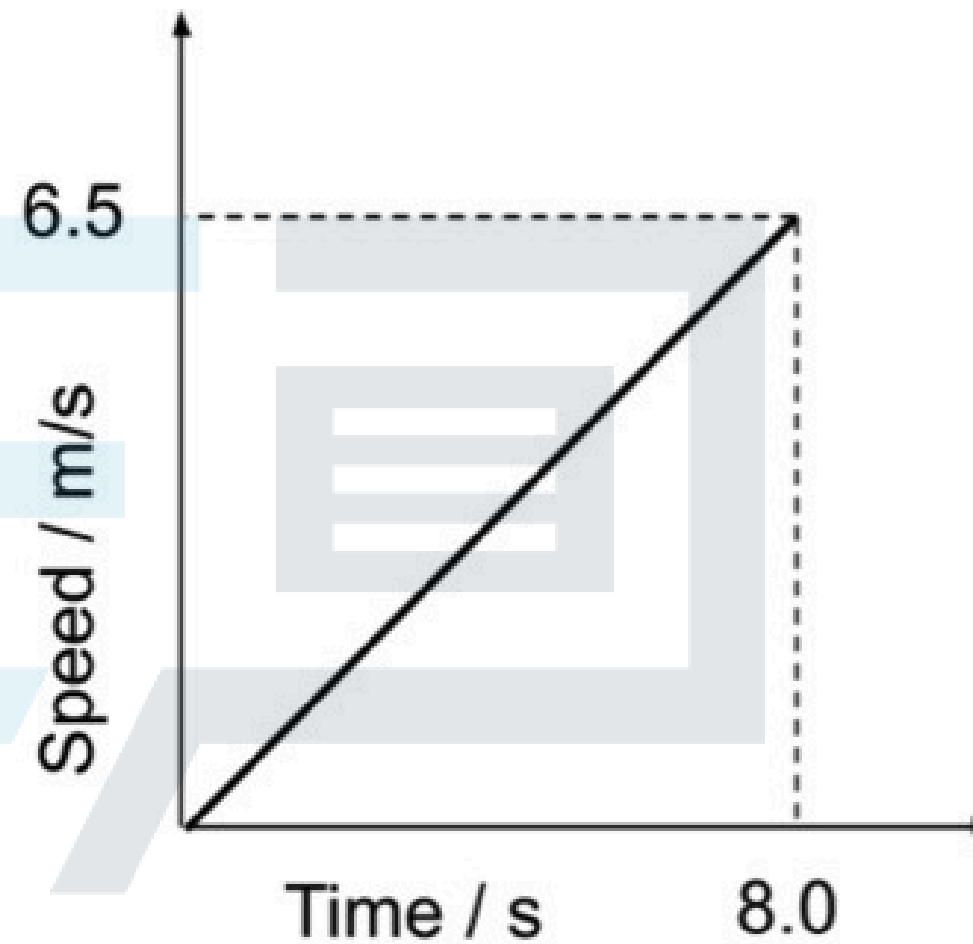


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- D 71.4 km/h**

The graph shows the journey undertaken by a car.



Which equation correctly gives the distance travelled by the car?

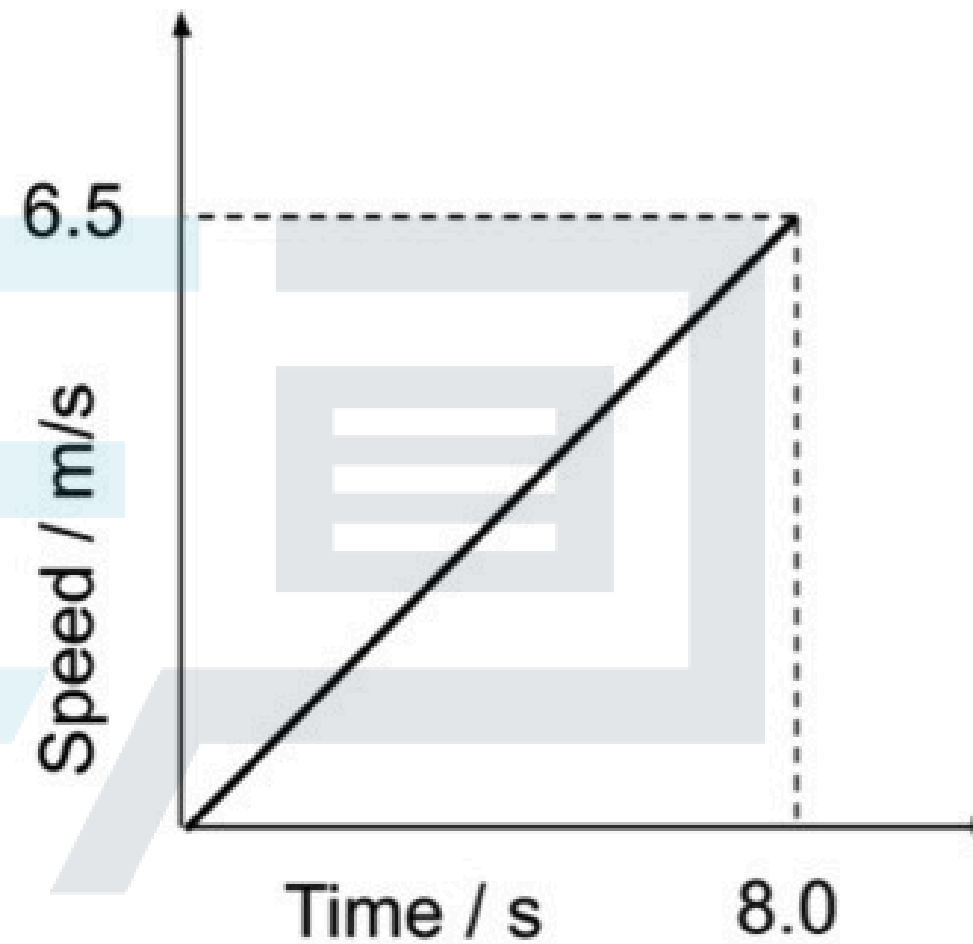
**A**  $\frac{6.5 \times 8.0}{2} = 26 \text{ m}$

**B**  $6.5 \times 8.0 = 52 \text{ m}$

**C**  $\frac{6.5}{8.0} = 0.81 \text{ m}$

**D**  $\frac{8.0}{6.5} = 1.2 \text{ m}$

The graph shows the journey undertaken by a car.



Which equation correctly gives the distance travelled by the car?

**A**  $\frac{6.5 \times 8.0}{2} = 26 \text{ m}$

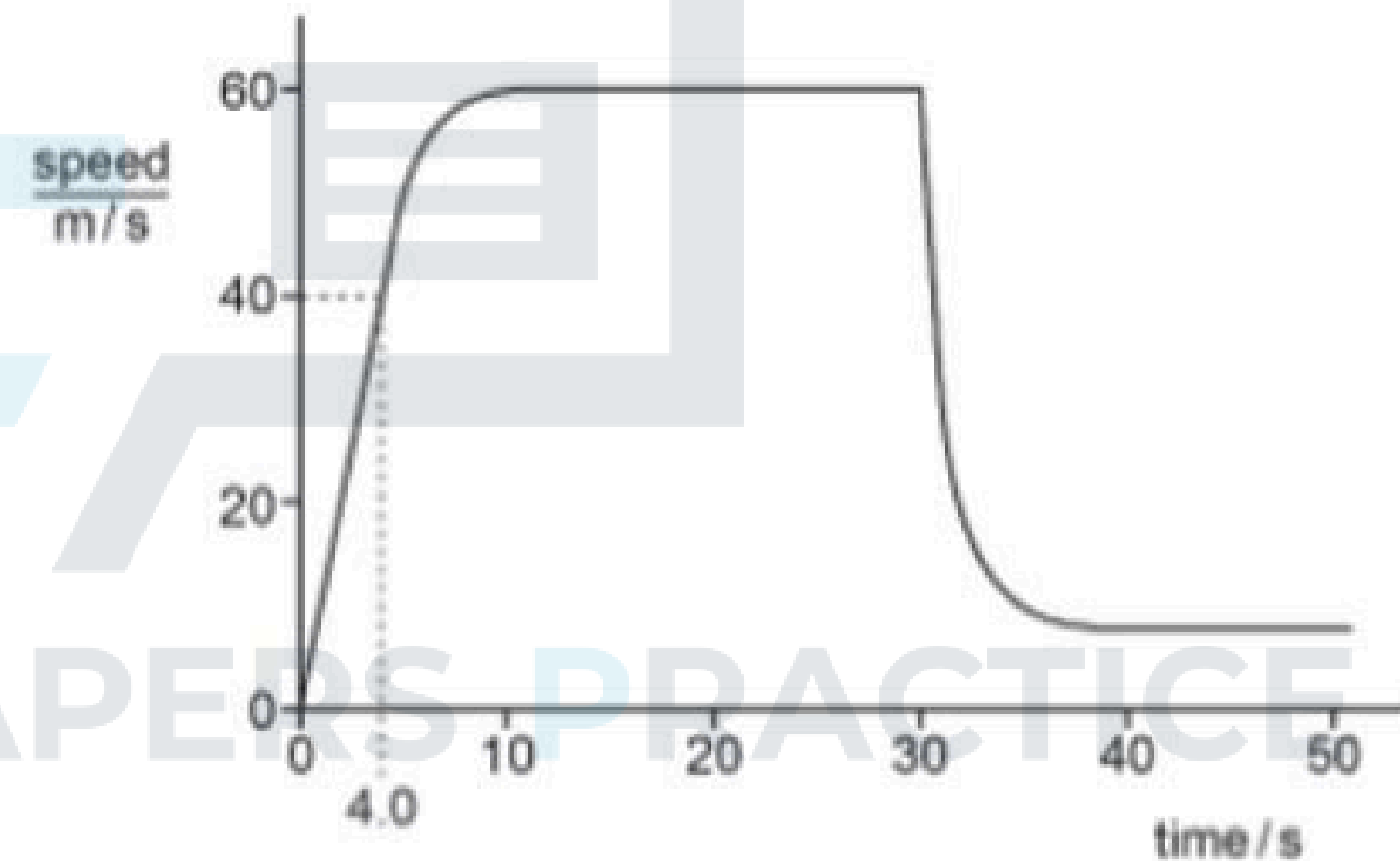
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**C**  $\frac{6.5}{8.0} = 0.81 \text{ m}$

**D**  $\frac{8.0}{6.5} = 1.2 \text{ m}$

A sky-diver jumps out of a hot-air balloon, which is 4000 m above the ground. At time = 30 s, she opens her parachute.

The graph is the speed-time graph of her fall.



- (a) Label with the letter X the point on the graph where the sky-diver opens her parachute. [1]
- (b) Label with the letters Y and Z the **two** parts of the graph where the sky-diver falls at terminal velocity. [1]

[Total: 2]

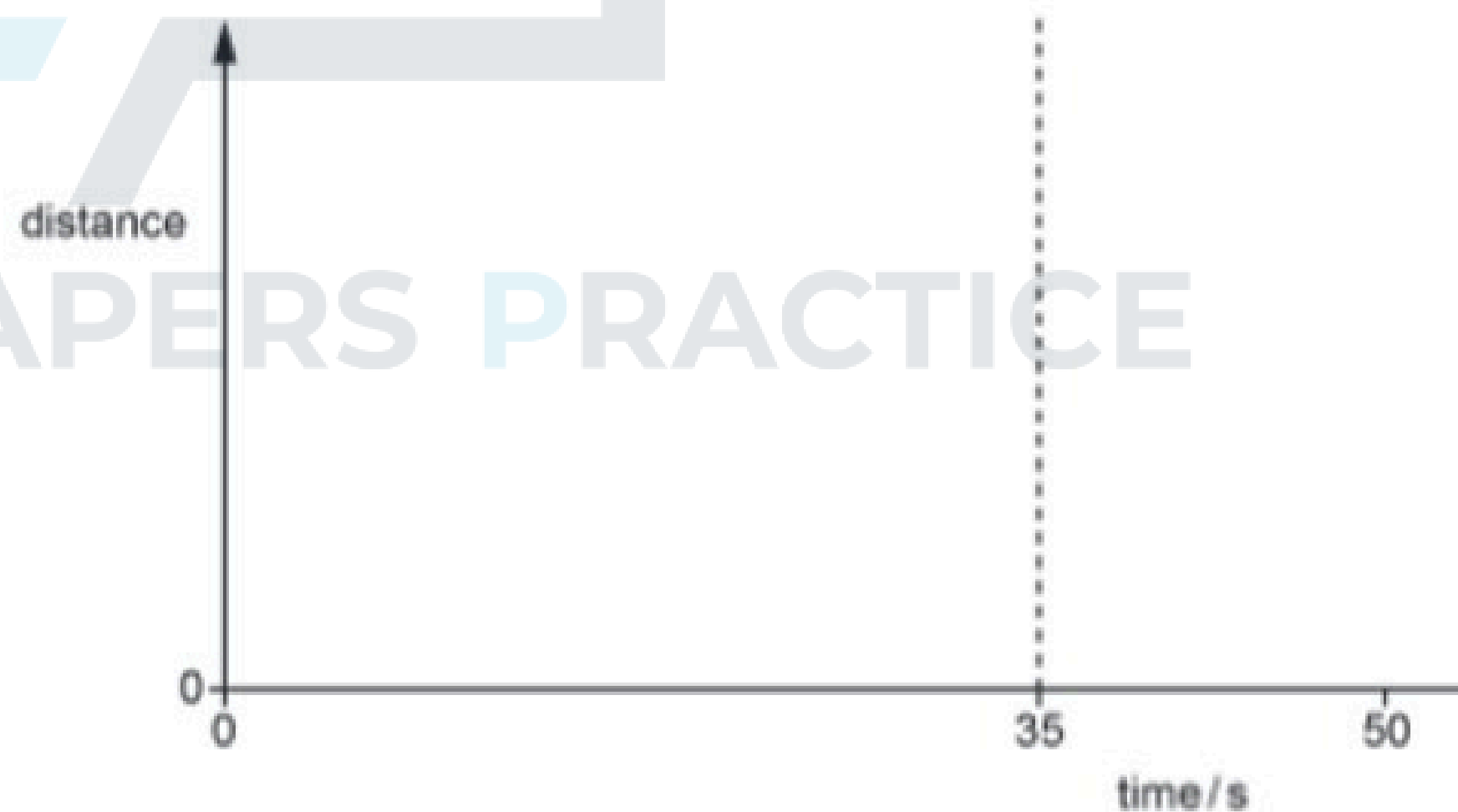


Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	X near (30,60)	1
1(b)	Y AND Z near any horizontal section of graph	1

An aeroplane lands with a speed of  $62\text{ m/s}$ , on a horizontal runway at time  $t = 0$ . The aeroplane decelerates uniformly as it travels along the runway in a straight line until it reaches a speed of  $6.0\text{ m/s}$  at  $t = 35\text{ s}$ .

At  $t = 35\text{ s}$ , the aeroplane stops decelerating and moves along the runway at a constant speed of  $6.0\text{ m/s}$  for a further  $15\text{ s}$ .

On the diagram, sketch the shape of the graph for the distance travelled by the aeroplane along the runway between  $t = 0$  and  $t = 50\text{ s}$ . You are **not** required to calculate distance values.



1

curve of decreasing gradient from (0,0) to a point along dashed line (1)

straight line of positive gradient after  $t = 35$  s (1)

gradient not zero at  $t = 35$  s **OR** no change of gradient (at  $t = 35$  s) (1)

3