

Completing the Square to Solve Word Problems

1. A rectangular field is to be enclosed on one side by a barn and on the other three sides by 400m of fencing. Determine the dimensions of the field if the area is to be a maximum.

$$A = L \cdot w$$

$$= (400 - 2w)(w)$$

$$= 400w - 2w^2$$

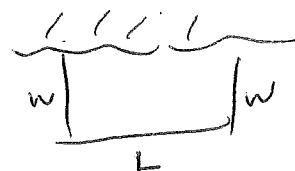
$$= -2w^2 + 400w$$

$$= -2(w^2 - 200w + 10000) + 20000$$

$$= -2(w - 100)^2 + 20000$$

$$\therefore w = 100 \text{ m}$$

$$L = 400 - 2w = 200 \text{ m}$$



$$2w + L = 400$$

$$L = 400 - 2w$$

2. Find two integers whose difference is 12 and whose product is a minimum.

$$P = (x)(x - 12)$$

$$= x^2 - 12x$$

$$= x^2 - 12x + 36 - 36$$

$$= (x - 6)^2 - 36$$

$$\therefore x = 6 \quad P = -36$$

\therefore 6 and -6 are the integers.

$$\hookrightarrow x - 12 = -6$$

Revenue Problems:

3. A motel has 30 rooms. The owner decides to raise the price of each room from the current price of \$40. Every \$2 increase in price results in one less room rented out. What price of each room would maximize revenue?

Rooms	Price	R
30	40	1200
29	42	1218
28	44	1232
27	46	1242
26	48	1248

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &= (30-x)(40+2x) \\
 &= 1200 + 20x - 2x^2 \\
 &= -2x^2 + 20x + 1200 \\
 &= -2(x^2 - 10x) + 1200 \\
 &= -2(x^2 - 10x + 25 - 25) + 1200 \\
 &= -2(x-5)^2 + 1250
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore (5, 1250) \quad \therefore P = 50 \text{ # will maximize the R.}$$

4. Calculators are sold to students for 20 dollars each. Three hundred students are willing to buy them at that price. For every 5 dollar increase in price, there are 30 fewer students willing to buy the calculator. What selling price will produce the maximum revenue and what will the maximum revenue be?

$$R = (20 + 5x)(300 - 30x)$$

Complete the square

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 6000 - 600x + 1500x - 150x^2 \\
 &= -150x^2 + 900x + 600 \\
 &= -150(x^2 - 6x + 9 - 9) + 600 \\
 &= -150(x-3)^2 + 1950
 \end{aligned}$$