

MAXIMUM PROBLEMS in Realistic Contexts.

1. A cinema manager finds that when the price of a ticket is \$12, she gets an audience of 100 people (on average) but for every \$1 increase the number of people goes down by 10.

Use calculus to find what ticket price produces the most profit.

If x represents the ticket price and y represents the amount of money collected then $y = x(320 - 10x)$

$$y = 320x - 10x^2$$

$$y' = 320 - 20x = 0 \text{ for max value}$$

$$x = \frac{320}{20} = 16 \text{ ie } \$16 \text{ per ticket and } y = \$2560 \text{ collected}$$

2. When the cost of a bag of potatoes is \$5 a supermarket sells 40 bags a day. For every \$1 increase in price they sell 4 bags a day less.

Use calculus to find what price per bag produces the most money collected.

If x represents the price per bag and y represents the amount of money collected then $y = x(60 - 4x)$

$$y = 60x - 4x^2$$

$$y' = 60 - 8x = 0 \text{ for max value}$$

$$x = \frac{60}{8} = 7.5 \text{ ie } \$7.50 \text{ per bag and } y = \$225 \text{ collected}$$

3. When the cost of a bag of kumara is \$5 a supermarket sells 30 bags a day. For every \$1 increase in price they sell 4 bags a day less.

Use calculus to find what price per bag produces the most money collected.

If x represents the price per bag and y represents the amount of money collected then $y = x(50 - 4x)$

$$y = 50x - 4x^2$$

$$y' = 50 - 8x = 0 \text{ for max value}$$

$$x = \frac{50}{8} = 6.25 \text{ ie } \$6.25 \text{ per bag and } y = \$156.25 \text{ collected}$$

4. A dairy farmer notices that the average amount of milk per cow is 14 litres a day when he puts 30 cows in his paddock, however, for every 5 cows added, the average amount of milk goes down by 1 litre a day.

Use calculus to find how many cows he should put in the paddock to get the most milk and find the maximum amount of milk he could get.

If x represents the number of cows and y represents the total amount of milk produced in litres then $y = x(20 - \frac{x}{5})$

$$y = 20x - \frac{x^2}{5}$$

$$y' = 20 - \frac{2x}{5} = 0 \text{ for max value}$$

$$20 = \frac{2x}{5} \text{ so } x = 50 \text{ cows/paddock so } y = 500 \text{ L/day}$$