Topics	What students need to learn:		
	Content		Guidance
6 **Exponentials and logarithms**	6.1	**Know and use the function a^x and its graph, where a is positive.** **Know and use the function e^x and its graph.**	**Understand the difference in shape between $a < 1$ and $a > 1$** To include the graph of $y = e^{ax+b} + c$
	6.2	**Know that the gradient of e^{kx} is equal to ke^{kx} and hence understand why the exponential model is suitable in many applications.**	**Realise that when the rate of change is proportional to the y value, an exponential model should be used.**
	6.3	**Know and use the definition of $\log_a x$ as the inverse of a^x, where a is positive and $x \geqslant 0$.** **Know and use the function $\ln x$ and its graph.** **Know and use $\ln x$ as the inverse function of e^x**	$a \neq 1$ **Solution of equations of the form $e^{ax+b} = p$ and $\ln(ax+b) = q$ is expected.**
	6.4	**Understand and use the laws of logarithms:** $\log_a x + \log_a y = \log_a (xy)$ $\log_a x - \log_a y = \log_a \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$ $k \log_a x = \log_a x^k$ **(including, for example,** $k = -1$ **and** $k = -\frac{1}{2}$**)**	**Includes $\log_a a = 1$**
	6.5	**Solve equations of the form $a^x = b$**	**Students may use the change of base formula. Questions may be of the form, e.g. $2^{3x-1} = 3$**
	6.6	**Use logarithmic graphs to estimate parameters in relationships of the form** **$y = ax^n$ and $y = kb^x$, given data for x and y**	**Plot $\log y$ against $\log x$ and obtain a straight line where the intercept is $\log a$ and the gradient is n** **Plot $\log y$ against x and obtain a straight line where the intercept is $\log k$ and the gradient is $\log b$**

Topics	What students need to learn:		
	Content		Guidance
6 **Exponentials and logarithms** *continued*	6.7	**Understand and use exponential growth and decay; use in modelling (examples may include the use of e in continuous compound interest, radioactive decay, drug concentration decay, exponential growth as a model for population growth); consideration of limitations and refinements of exponential models.**	**Students may be asked to find the constants used in a model.** **They need to be familiar with terms such as initial, meaning when $t = 0$.** **They may need to explore the behaviour for large values of t or to consider whether the range of values predicted is appropriate.** **Consideration of a second improved model may be required.**