Section 3: Geometric sequences and series

Crucial points

1. **Know the formulae**
    Make sure that you know the formulae for the kth term of a geometric sequence, the sum of the first n terms of a geometric sequence, and the sum to infinity of a convergent geometric sequence. It's a good idea to make sure you can prove these formulae. This will help you to remember them. See the Notes and Examples.

2. **Beware of simple arithmetical errors**
    Be careful if the common ratio of a geometric sequence is negative. Make sure that you are using your calculator correctly to find powers of a negative number – use brackets if necessary.

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