Section 1: Using parametric equations

Crucial points

1. **Make sure that you are familiar with the trigonometric identities.**
   See the examples in the Notes and Examples

2. **Remember that each value of the parameter corresponds to a particular point on the curve**
   You may be asked to find, say, the equation of a tangent to the curve at the point with parameter t. This will give you an equation in terms of t as well as y and x – many students find this confusing. Each value of t corresponds to a particular point on the curve, and if you substitute that value for t into the tangent, that gives the tangent at that specific point.