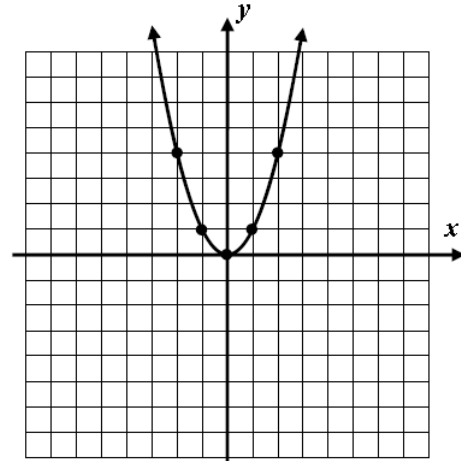


## COMPLETING THE SQUARE AND SHIFTING PARABOLAS

Parabolas, and graphs more generally, can be moved horizontally and vertically by simple manipulations of their equations. This is known as **shifting** or **translating** a graph. You worked with this extensively in Common Core Algebra I. The first exercise will review how to use a method known as **completing the square** to identify shifts and the turning point of a parabola.

**Exercise #1:** The function  $y = x^2$  is shown already graphed on the grid below. Consider the quadratic whose equation is  $y = x^2 - 8x + 18$ .

(a) Using the method of completing the square, write this equation in the form  $y = (x - h)^2 + k$ .



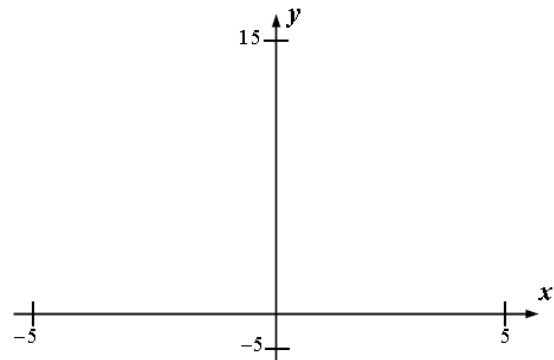
(b) Describe how the graph of  $y = x^2$  would be shifted to produce the graph of  $y = x^2 - 8x + 18$ .

(c) Sketch the graph of  $y = x^2 - 8x + 18$  by using its **vertex form** in (a). What are the coordinates of its turning point (vertex)?

**Exercise #2:** Using your calculator and the window shown below, sketch the graphs of the simple quadratics

$$y = x^2, y = 3x^2, \text{ and } y = \frac{1}{2}x^2.$$

Every quadratic of the form  $y = ax^2$  has a turning point at:



The **algorithm** of completing the square works best when  $a = 1$  and  $b$  is even in the form  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ . But, it does work in every case, even the messy ones.

**Exercise #3:** Place each of the following quadratic functions in vertex form and identify the turning point.

(a)  $y = 3x^2 + 12x - 2$

(b)  $y = 2x^2 + 6x + 1$

1. Which of the following equations would result from shifting  $y = x^2$  five units right and four units up?

(1)  $y = (x - 5)^2 + 4$       (3)  $y = (x - 4)^2 - 5$

(2)  $y = (x + 5)^2 + 4$       (4)  $y = (x + 4)^2 - 5$

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2. Which of the following represents the turning point of the parabola whose equation is  $y = (x + 3)^2 - 7$ ?

(1)  $(3, -7)$       (3)  $(-7, -3)$

(2)  $(-3, 7)$       (4)  $(-3, -7)$

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3. Which of the following quadratic functions would have a turning point at  $(6, -2)$ ?

(1)  $y = (x + 6)^2 - 2$       (3)  $y = 5(x - 6)^2 - 2$

(2)  $y = 3(x + 2)^2 - 2$       (4)  $y = 2(x - 1)^2 + 6$

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4. Which of the following is turning point of  $y = x^2 + 12x - 4$ ?

(1)  $(12, -4)$       (3)  $(6, 104)$

(2)  $(-6, -40)$       (4)  $(-4, 12)$

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5. In vertex form, the parabola  $y = x^2 - 10x + 8$  would be written as

(1)  $y = (x - 5)^2 - 33$       (3)  $y = (x - 10)^2 - 92$

(2)  $y = (x - 5)^2 - 17$       (4)  $y = (x - 10)^2 - 108$

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6. The turning point of the parabola  $y = x^2 + 5x - 2$  is

(1)  $(2.5, 12.75)$       (3)  $(-2.5, -8.25)$

(2)  $(-5, -10.5)$       (4)  $(-2.5, -17.5)$

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7. Write each of the following quadratic functions in its vertex form by completing the square. Then, identify its turning point.

(a)  $y = x^2 + 12x + 50$

(b)  $y = -3x^2 + 30x + 7$