**15.** The sequence  $a_1, a_2, a_3, ...$ , is defined by

where 
$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

(a) Deduce the value of k such that

$$a_k = a_1$$

 $a_1 = 16$ 

 $a_{2n} = 2^n$   $a_{2n+1} = a_{2n-1} + 3$ 

$$a_k = a_1$$

**(1)** 

**(4)**