

- 13 The population of Melchester is 185 207. During a nationwide flu epidemic the number of new cases in Melchester are recorded each day. The results from the first three days are shown in Fig. 13.

Day	1	2	3
Number of new cases	8	24	72

Fig. 13

A doctor notices that the numbers of new cases on successive days are in geometric progression.

- (a) Find the common ratio for this geometric progression. [1]

The doctor uses this geometric progression to model the number of new cases of flu in Melchester.

- (b) According to the model, how many new cases will there be on day 5? [1]

- (c) Find a formula for the **total** number of cases from day 1 to day n inclusive according to this model, simplifying your answer. [1]

- (d) Determine the maximum number of days for which the model could be viable in Melchester. [3]

- (e) State, with a reason, whether it is likely that the model will be viable for the number of days found in part (d). [1]