GEOMETRY GR 11
THEOREMS FOR GRADE 11 and GRADE 12-PART 3 THEOREM 6


## Theorem 6 - Two Tangents drawn from a point outside a circle are equal in length

## SOMETHING TO REMEMBER: <br> The radius and a Tangent are $\perp$ to each other at the point of contact (Tangent $\perp$ Radius)

Statement: Two tangents drawn from a point outside a circle are equal in length
Given: Circle $O$ with Tangent drawn from $P$ to point of contacts with circle at A and B
Proof:
Construction: Draw $O A$ and $O B$ and $O P$.

| $P \hat{A O}=90^{\circ}$ | (Tangent $\perp$ Radius) |
| :--- | :--- |
| $P \hat{B} O=90^{\circ}$ | (Tangent $\perp$ Radius) |
| $\ln \triangle A P O$ and $\triangle B P O$ |  |
| $1 . O P=O P$ | (Common Side) |
| $2 . O A=O B$ | (Radius) |
| $3 . P A O O=P \hat{B} O=90^{\circ}$ | (Proved above) |
| $\therefore \triangle A P O \equiv \triangle B P O$ | (RHS) |

If two tangents are drawn from the same point outside the circle, then they are equal in length.


## Examples

PQ and PT are tangents to a circle with centre O .
Find the unknown angles giving reasons.

## angle $\mathrm{w}=$


$90^{\circ}$ (tan $\left.\perp \mathrm{rad}\right)$
angle $\mathrm{x}=$
180-140 $=40^{\circ}$ (angles of triangle)
angle y
$Q P=P T \quad$ (Tangents from same point)
$\therefore P \widehat{T} Q=P \widehat{Q} T=y \quad$ (angles opp equal sides)
$P \widehat{T} Q+P \hat{Q} T+80^{\circ}=180^{\circ} \quad$ (angles of triangle)
$y+y+80^{\circ}=180^{\circ}$
$2 y=180^{\circ}-80^{\circ}$
$y=50^{\circ}$

