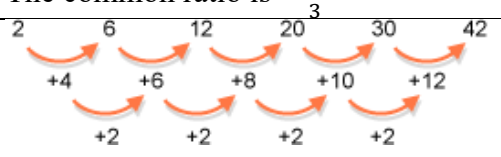
KS3 Unit 23 Number Machines and Sequences

Topic/Skill	Definition/Tips	Example
1. Linear Sequence	A number pattern with a **common difference**.	2, 5, 8, 11… is a linear sequence
2. Term	**Each value** in a sequence is called a term.	In the sequence 2, 5, 8, 11…, 8 is the third term of the sequence.
3. Term-to-term rule	A rule which allows you to **find the next term** in a sequence if you **know the previous term**.	First term is 2. Term-to-term rule is 'add 3' Sequence is: 2, 5, 8, 11…
4. nth term	A rule which allows you to **calculate the term** that is in the **nth position** of the sequence. Also known as the 'position-to-term' rule. **n** refers to the **position** of a term in a sequence.	nth term is $3n - 1$ The 100^{th} term is $3 \times 100 - 1 = 299$
5. Finding the nth term of a linear sequence	1. Find the **difference**. 2. **Multiply that by n.** 3. Substitute $n = 1$ to **find out what number you need to add or subtract to get the first number in the sequence**.	Find the nth term of: 3, 7, 11, 15… 1. Difference is +4 2. Start with $4n$ 3. $4 \times 1 = 4$, so we need to subtract 1 to get 3. nth term = $4n - 1$
6. Fibonacci type sequences	A sequence where the next number is found by **adding up the previous two terms**	The Fibonacci sequence is: 1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34 ... An example of a Fibonacci-type sequence is: $4, 7, 11, 18, 29$ ...
7. Geometric Sequence	A sequence of numbers where each term is found by **multiplying the previous one** by a number called the **common ratio, r**.	An example of a geometric sequence is: $2, 10, 50, 250$ ... The common ratio is 5 Another example of a geometric sequence is: $81, -27, 9, -3, 1$ ... The common ratio is $-\frac{1}{3}$
8. Quadratic Sequence	A sequence of numbers where the **second difference is constant**. A quadratic sequence will have a n^2 term.	
9. Function Machine	Takes an **input** value, performs some **operations** and produces an **output** value.