Circles 1

A **circle** is a plane curve whose points are all the same distance from a fixed point called the **centre**.

Parts of a Circle

Circumference
The outline of the circle.

Arc
Any part of the circumference.

Chord
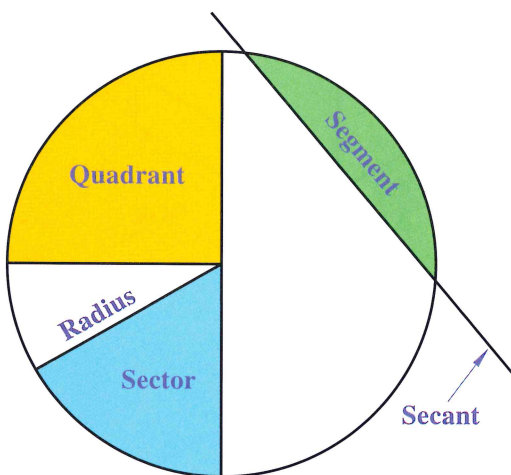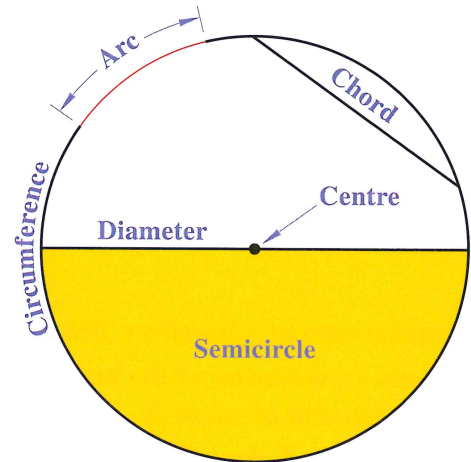A straight line joining two points on the circumference.

Diameter
A chord that passes through the centre. The symbol for diameter is Ø.

Semicircle
Half of a circle.

Quadrant
A quarter of a circle.

Segment
The part of a circle enclosed by a chord and its arc.

Radius
A line joining the centre to a point on the circumference. It is often abbreviated to **R**. The plural of radius is **radii**.
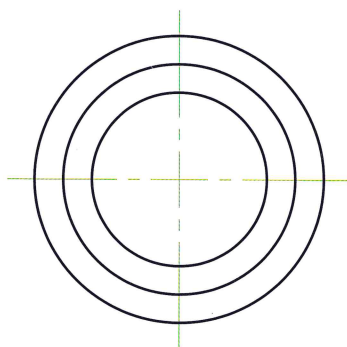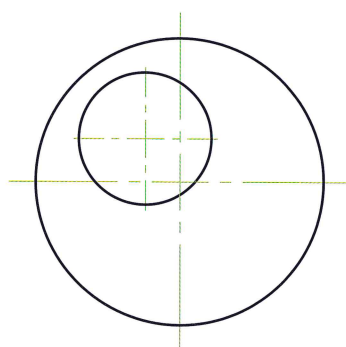
Sector
The part enclosed by two radii and an arc.

Secant
A line that intersects a circle at two points.

Concentric and Eccentric Circles

Concentric circles

Eccentric circles

Concentric circles are circles that have the same centre but different radii.
Eccentric circles are circles that have different centres and different radii.