

Basic Concepts

1. To locate the position of an object or a point in a plane, we require two perpendicular lines, one of them is horizontal and the other is vertical.
2. The horizontal line is called the x – axis and the vertical line is called the y – axis.
3. We call the plane, the cartesian plane, or the coordinate plane or the xy – plane. The axes are called the coordinate axes.
4. The point of intersection of the axes that is x – axis and y – axis is called the origin.
5. The coordinate axes divide the plane into four parts, called quadrants.
6. The distance of a point from the y – axis is called its x – coordinate or abscissa. The distance of a point from the x – axis is called the y – coordinate or ordinate.
7. If $x \neq y$, then the position of (x, y) in the cartesian plane is different from the position of (y, x) . It means the order of x and y is important in (x, y) . Therefore, (x, y) is called an ordered pair.
8. A point in a plane can be represented by an ordered pair (x, y) , where x is the x – coordinate (abscissa) and y is the y – coordinate (ordinate) of the point.
9. The coordinates of the origin are $(0, 0)$.
10. The coordinates of a point on the x – axis are of the form $(x, 0)$ and that of a point on the y – axis are $(0, y)$.
11. A point in the first quadrant will be of the form $(+, +)$. Similarly, a point in the second, third and fourth quadrants will be of the form $(-, +)$, $(-, -)$ and $(+, -)$ respectively.