Guide to:
Area of compound shapes

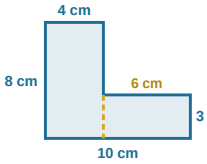
maths Links

Explanation:

A **compound (composite) shape** is made up of two or more simple shapes joined together. To find its area, draw a dotted line to split it into rectangles or triangles, work out any **missing side lengths** first by comparing parallel horizontal and vertical sides, and then add the separate areas together.

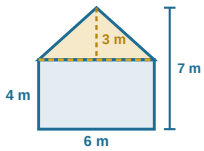
Remember the key area formulas: **Rectangle = length × width**, and **Triangle = $\frac{1}{2}$ × base × perpendicular height**. For shaded region questions, calculate the **outer area minus the unshaded inner area**.

Example 1: An L-shape has total width **10 cm**, total height **8 cm**, top width **4 cm**, and right height **3 cm**. Find its area.



Left = 4 × 8 = **32 cm²**
Right = (10−4) × 3 = **18 cm²**
Total = 32 + 18 = **50 cm²**

Example 2: A pentagon has a **6 m by 4 m** rectangular base and a triangle on top. Total height is **7 m**. Find the area.



Rect = 6 × 4 = **24 m²**
Tri h = 7 − 4 = **3 m**
Tri = $\frac{1}{2}$×6×3 = **9 m²** → **33 m²**

Worksheets and other links					
Video Lesson on this topic	Video		**Dr Austin Maths**	Qs	Ans
Ken Stafford (Past Paper Qs)	Qs	Ans	**Maths Made Easy**	Qs	Ans
Maths Genie	Qs	Ans	**Maths4Everyone**	Qs	Ans
Corbettmaths (Practice)	Qs	Ans	**Metatutor**	Qs	Ans
Corbettmaths (Textbook)	Qs	Ans	**E Classroom**	Qs	Ans
1st Class Maths	Qs	Ans	**PMT (Edexcel)**	Qs	Ans

Questions by topic | **Past Papers** | **Maths worksheets**

Buy workbook | **Quizzes** | **More resources like this**

ken@mathslinks.co.uk