

### 3.1 Investigating Quadratic Functions in Vertex Form

**Degree of a Function** - refers to the highest exponent on the variable in an expression or equation.

In Math 1201, you learned about linear functions. These have a degree of 1. When the exponent on the variable is 1, we don't include it in the equation.

Examples of Linear functions:

$$y = 2x + 5$$

$$y = -7x + 2$$

$$10x - 3y = 12$$

Notice that in each of these equations, the exponent on the variable  $x$  is 1.

#### Quadratic Functions

These have a degree of 2. That is, highest power of any  $x$  is 2.

Examples of Quadratic functions:

$$y = 2x^2 + 5x - 4$$

$$y = -3x^2 - 7x + 1$$

$$y = (x - 3)(x + 4)$$

$$y = x(x + 4)$$

$$y = -3(x + 4)^2 + 2$$

$$y = (3x - 2)^2$$

#### Example 1:

Describe the reasoning used to decide whether each statement is true or false.

Polynomial Function	Classification	True or False	Explain/Justify
$y = 5(x + 3)$	Linear	T	highest power 1
$y = 5(x^2 + 3)$	Quadratic	T	" " 2
$y = 5^2(x + 3)$	Quadratic	F	" " 1
$y = 5x(x + 3)$	Linear	F	" " 2
$y = (5x + 1)(x + 3)$	Quadratic	T	" " 2
$y = 5(x + 3)^2 + 2$	Quadratic	T	" " 2

## The Parabola

**Parabola:** the shape of the graph of any quadratic relation. It is a u-shaped graph, that can open upward or downward.

Watch "Projectile Motion – Science of NFL Football"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB4ws7RoA3M>

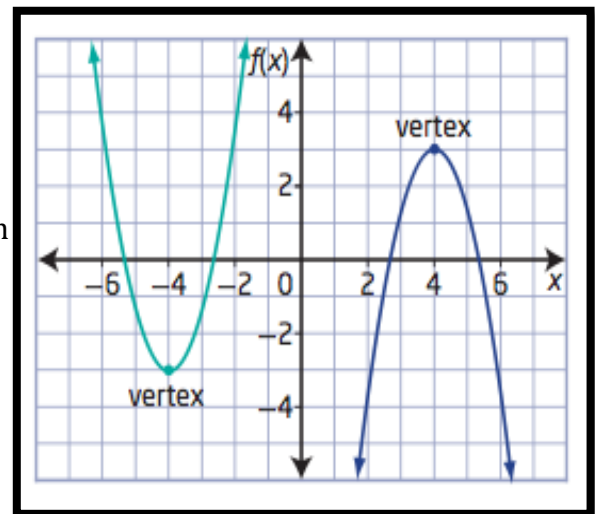
What are some other natural events that involve parabolas?

Bullet fired, archway, etc.

A **quadratic function** is a function,  $f$ , whose value  $f(x)$  at  $x$  is given by a polynomial of degree two.  $f(x) = x^2$ , the simplest form of a quadratic function

A **parabola** is the symmetrical curve of the graph of a quadratic function

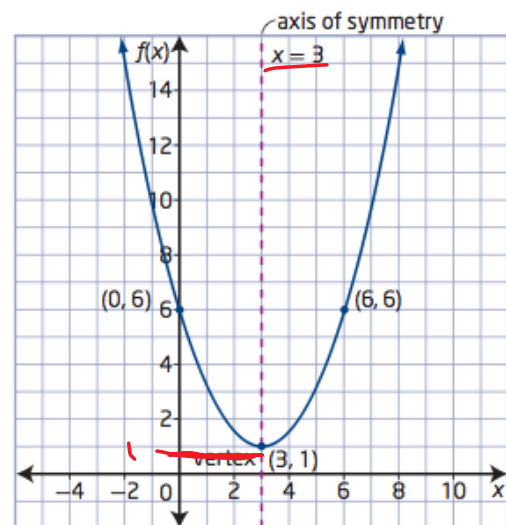
The **vertex** of a parabola is the lowest point of the graph if the graph opens upward, or the highest point of the graph if the graph opens downward.



The **minimum value** of a function is the least value in the range of a function.

The **maximum value** of a function is the greatest value in the range of a function.

The **axis of symmetry** is a line through the vertex that divides the graph of a quadratic function into two congruent halves. It is defined by the  $x$ -coordinate of the vertex.



## Vertex Form

Quadratics written in vertex form:

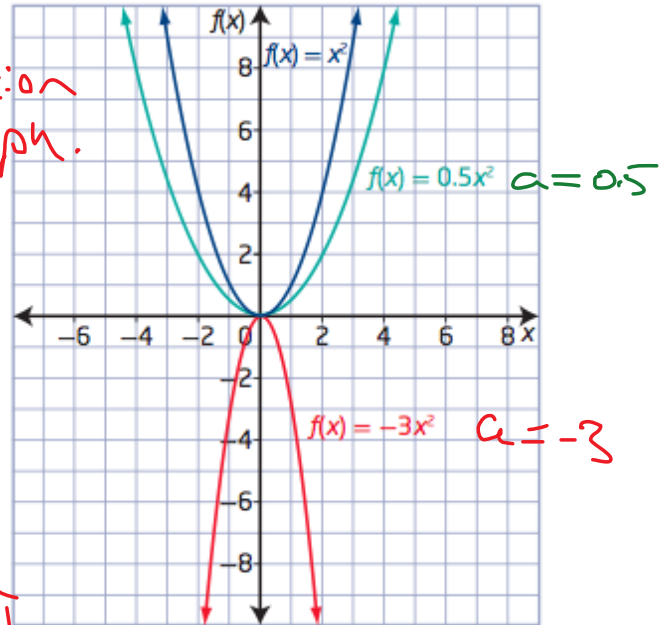
$$f(x) = a(x - p)^2 + q$$

are useful when graphing. The vertex form tells you the location of the vertex,  $(p, q)$ , the shape of the parabola and the direction of opening.

$$f(x) = a \cdot x^2, a = 1$$

### The Effect of Parameter $a$

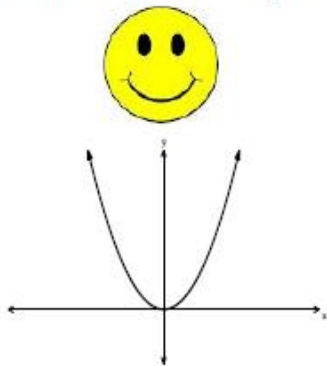
- determines the orientation and shape of the graph.
- $a > 0$  opens upwards
- $a < 0$  opens downwards
- ignoring the negative
  - the larger  $a$  is, the more narrow the graph
  - the smaller  $a$  is, the more wide the graph



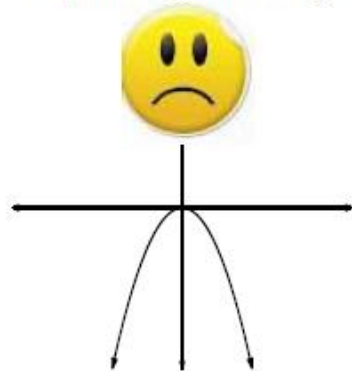
### Summary:

One way to remember how to determine direction of opening is shown here.

Positive Quadratic ( $y = x^2$ )



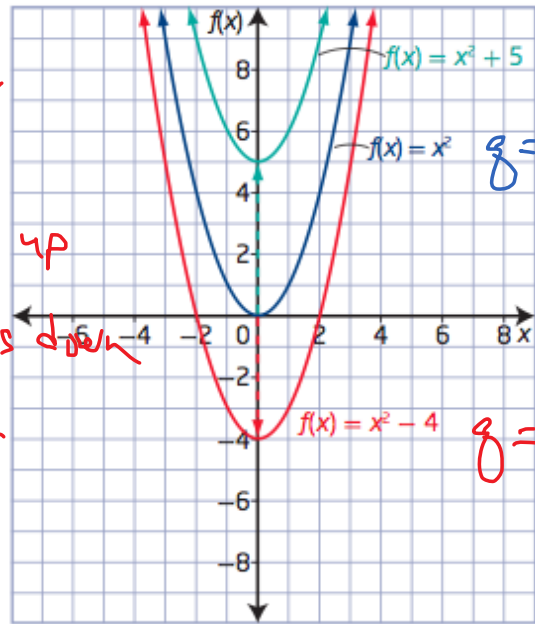
Negative Quadratic ( $y = -x^2$ )



### The Effect of Parameter $q$

$$y = a(x - p)^2 + q$$

- translates (shifts) the parabola vertically  $q$  units.
- $q > 0$ , parabola translates up
- $q < 0$ , parabola translates down
- $q$  is the  $y$ -coordinate of the vertex.



$$q = 5$$

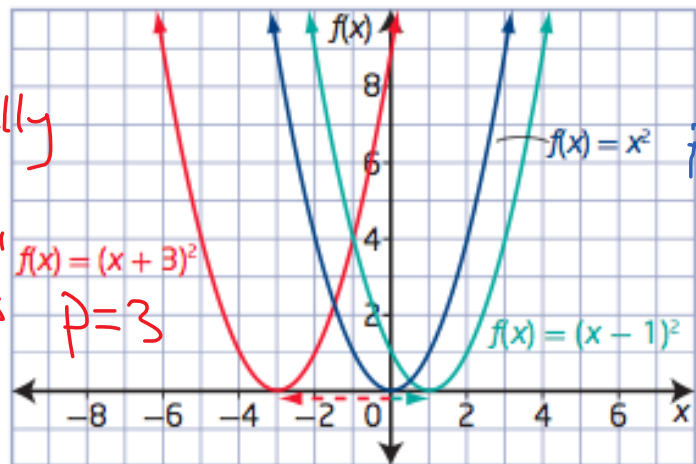
$$q = 0$$

$$q = -4$$

### The Effect of Parameter $p$

$$y = a(x - p)^2 + q$$

- translates the parabola horizontally
- $p > 0$  in the equation, the parabola translates left or negative
- $p < 0$  in the equation, the parabola translates right or positive
- $p$  is the  $x$ -coordinate of the vertex.



$$p = 0$$

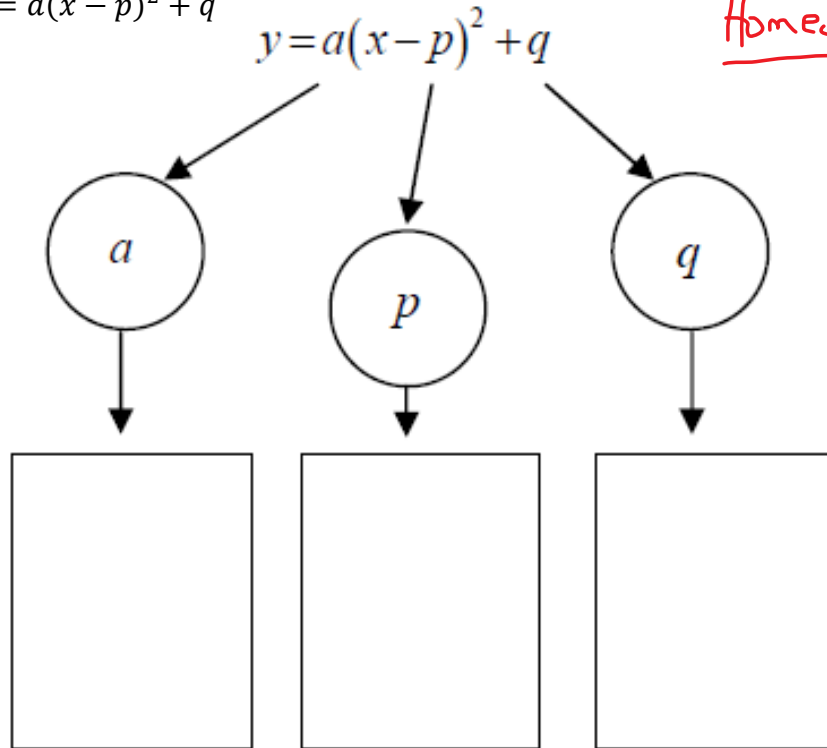
$$p = 3$$

$$p = -1$$

**Example 2:**

Complete the webbing to describe the effects of the parameters  $a$ ,  $p$  and  $q$  on the quadratic function  $f(x) = a(x - p)^2 + q$

Homework



**Example 3:**

Determine the following characteristics for  $y = 2(x + 1)^2 - 3$ .

- the vertex
- the domain and range
- the direction of the opening
- the equation of the axis of symmetry

Then, sketch each graph.

vertex:  $(-1, -3)$

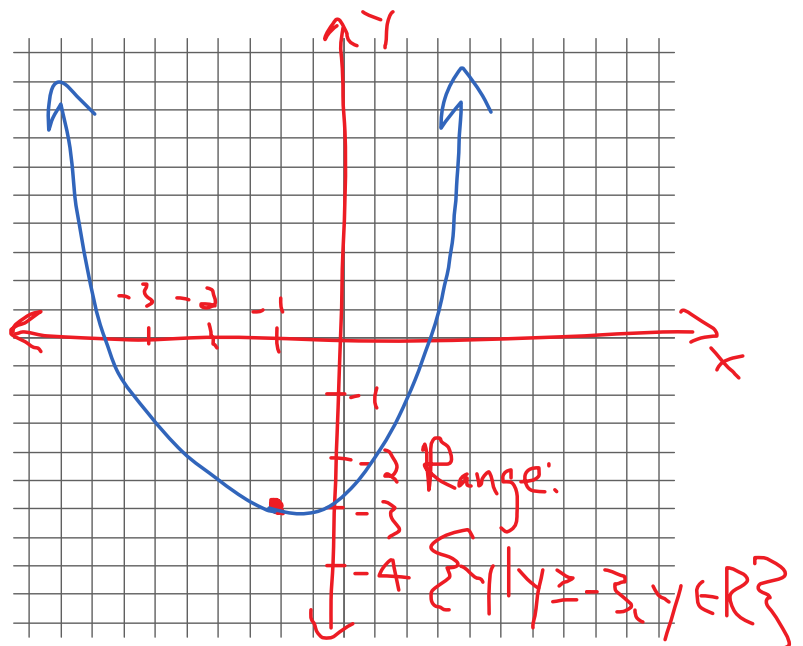
$a: 2 > 0$  opens up

axis:  $x = -1$

Domain:  $\{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$

$l$ : such that

$\in$ : belongs to



**Example 4:** *Very Important Question!!*  
 Determine a quadratic function in vertex form for the graph.

$p$   $q$   
 $(0, 3)$

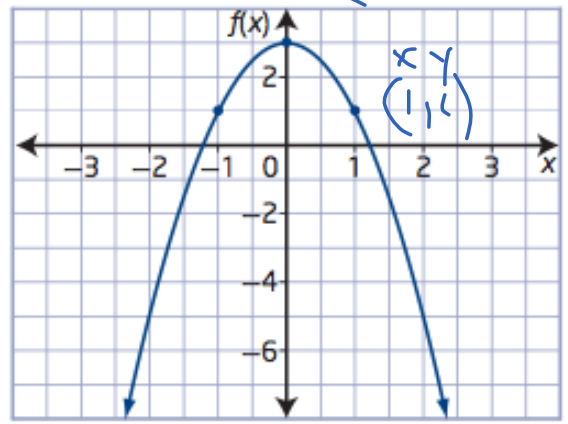
$$y = a(x-p)^2 + q$$

$$1 = a(1-0)^2 + 3$$

$$1 = a + 3$$

$$1 - 3 = a$$

$$a = -2$$



$$y = -2(x-0)^2 + 3 \rightarrow y = -2x^2 + 3$$

**Example 5:**  
 Try this on your own. Determine a quadratic function in vertex form for the graph.

$$y = a(x-p)^2 + q$$

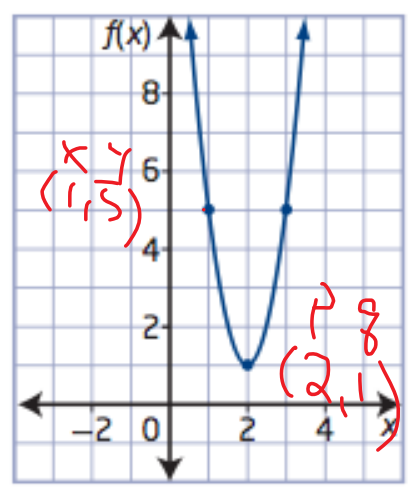
$$5 = a(1-2)^2 + 1$$

$$5 = a(1) + 1$$

$$5 - 1 = a$$

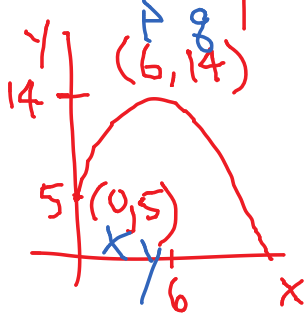
$$a = 4$$

$$y = 4(x-2)^2 + 1$$



**Example 6:**

A stream of water from a fountain forms a parabolic shape. Given the spout on the fountain is 5 cm high and the maximum height reached by the water is 14 cm at a distance of 6 cm from the spout, what is the height of the water when it is 8 cm from the spout?



BEIDMAS

$$y = a(x - p)^2 + q$$

$$5 = a(0 - 6)^2 + 14$$

$$5 - 14 = 36a$$

$$-9 = 36a$$

$$\frac{-9}{36} = \frac{36a}{36}$$

$$a = -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{4}(x - 6)^2 + 14$$

$$x = 8$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{4}(8 - 6)^2 + 14$$

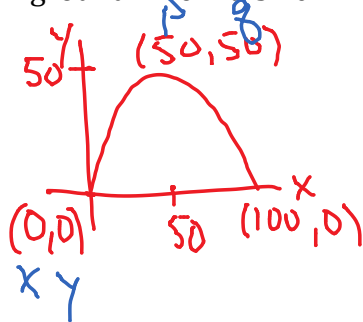
$$y = -\frac{1}{4}(4) + 14$$

$$y = -1 + 14$$

$$y = 13 \text{ cm high}$$

**Example 7:**

A cannonball, fired from ground level, reaches a maximum height of 50m when it is fired at a ground-level target which it hits 100m away. How high is the cannonball above the ground when it is 20m from the target?



$$y = a(x - p)^2 + q$$

$$0 = a(0 - 50)^2 + 50$$

$$-50 = 2500a$$

$$\frac{-50}{2500} = a$$

$$a = -\frac{1}{50}$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{50}(x - 50)^2 + 50$$

$$100 - 20 = 80$$

$$x = 80$$

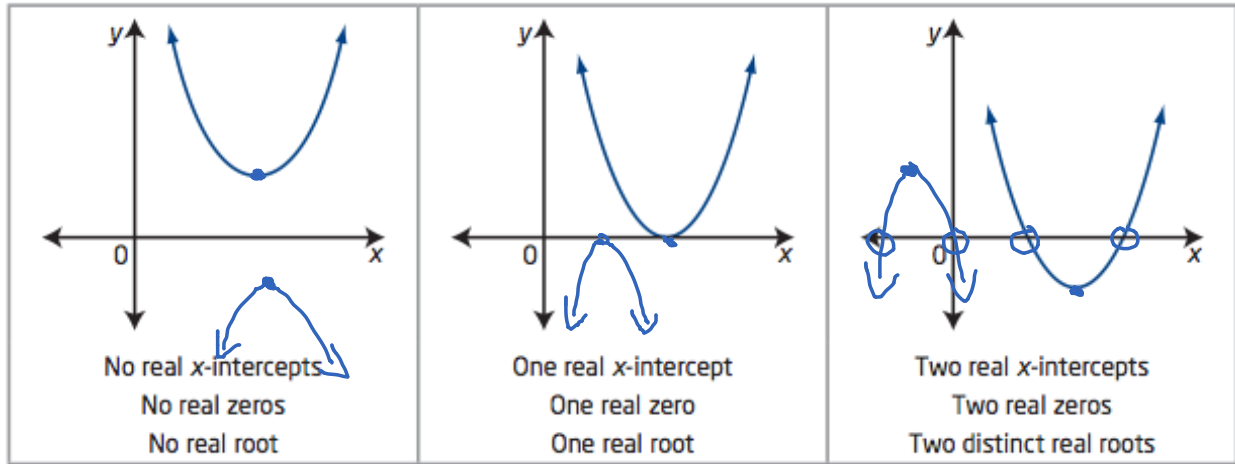
$$y = -\frac{1}{50}(80 - 50)^2 + 50$$

$$y = 32 \text{ m high}$$

## The Number of Zeros

What will affect the number of  $x$ -intercepts?

- The direction of the opening of the parabola
- The location of the vertex



To determine how many zeros a quadratic function has, make a rough sketch of the graph using the vertex and direction of opening.

### Example 8:

Determine the number of  $x$ -intercepts for each quadratic function.

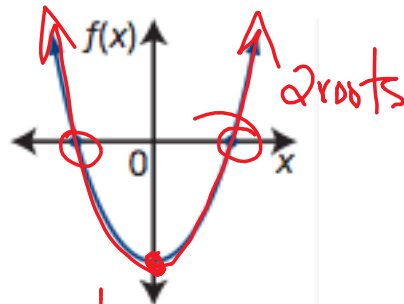
What will affect the number of  $x$ -intercepts?

- The direction of the opening of the parabola
- The location of the vertex

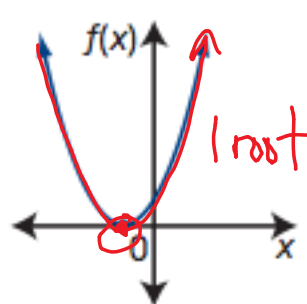
(A)  $f(x) = 0.8x^2 - 3$

(B)  $f(x) = 2(x + 1)^2$

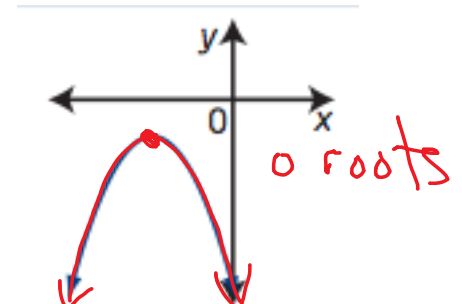
(C)  $f(x) = -3(x + 2)^2 - 1$



vertex:  $(0, -3)$   
 $a > 0$  opens up



vertex:  $(-1, 0)$   
 $a > 0$  opens up



vertex:  $(-2, -1)$   
 $a < 0$  opens down



### Table of Values and Vertex Form

If given a parabola in the form of a table of values, there are observations that can be made that can help determine the equation of the parabola in vertex form.

#### Example 9:

Graph the table of values below and answer the following questions:

$x$	-4	-3	-2	-1	0
$y$	11	2	-1	2	11

- (A) What is the connection between the axis of symmetry of the graph and the vertex?

The p coordinate is the a.o.s.

- (B) What is the equation of the axis of symmetry?

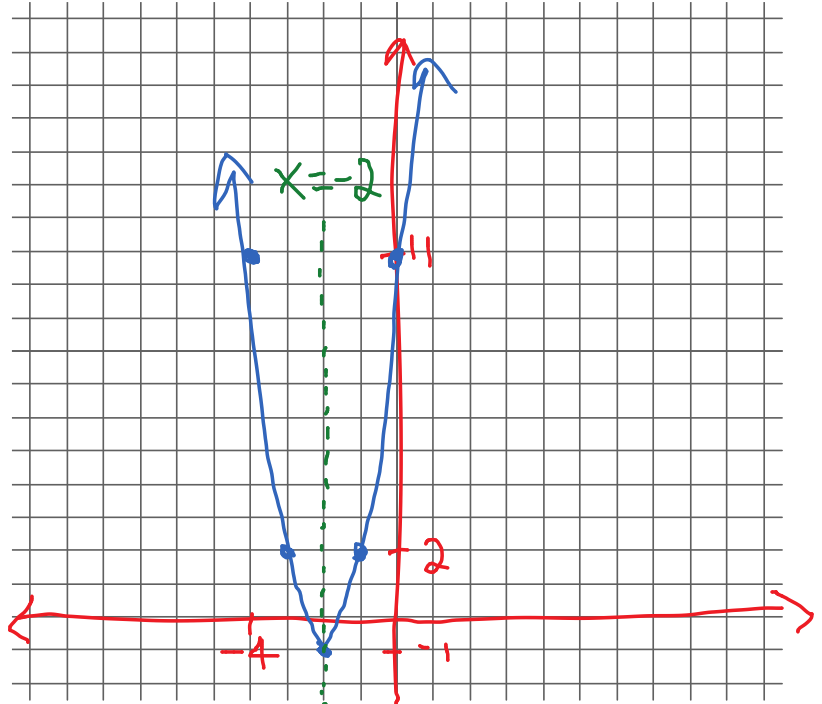
$$x = -2$$

- (C) What is the connection between the maximum or minimum point on the graph and the vertex?

The q coordinate is the minimum.

- (D) How can the vertex be obtained directly from the vertex form of the quadratic function?

It's the maximum or minimum point.



**Example 10:**

Determine the vertex form of the quadratic function from the given table of values.

x	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0
y	1	3	1	-5	-15	-29	-47

Vertex:  $(-5, 3)$   
 $(x, y): (-4, 1)$   
 $y = a(x-p)^2 + q$

$$1 = a[-4 - (-5)]^2 + 3$$

$$1 = a(1)^2 + 3$$

$$1 - 3 = a$$

$$a = -2$$

$$y = -2(x+5)^2 + 3$$

**Example 11:**

Determine the vertex form of the quadratic function given the following information.

- (A) Range is  $\{y | y \leq 3, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$  and the x-intercepts are  $-2$  and  $4$ .

$y = a(x-p)^2 + q$   
 $0 = a(4-1)^2 + 3$   
 $-3 = 9a$

$$\frac{-3}{9} = \frac{9a}{9}$$

$$a = -\frac{1}{3}$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{3}(x-1)^2 + 3$$

- (B) Equation of the axis of symmetry is  $x = 2$ , the minimum value of  $y$  is  $-5$ , and the  $y$ -intercept is  $3$ .

$(2, -5)$   $(0, 3)$   
 $p$   $q$   $x$   $y$   
 $y = a(x-p)^2 + q$   
 $3 = a(0-2)^2 - 5$

$$3 + 5 = 4a$$

$$8 = 4a$$

$$\frac{8}{4} = \frac{4a}{4}$$

$$a = 2$$

$$y = 2(x-2)^2 - 5$$