STEP/Differentiation Q1 (15/6/23)

If $f(x) = x^2$, what is $f'(3x)$?

Solution

Method 1

Note that the differentiation is wrt $3x$ (rather than x).

Let $u = 3x$. Then $f'(3x) = f'(u) = \frac{d}{du}(u^2) = 2u = 2(3x) = 6x$

Method 2

$f'(x) = 2x \Rightarrow f'(3x) = 2(3x) = 6x$