

STEP/General Q4 (13/6/23)

Show that $e^3 > 4e^{\frac{3}{2}}$ without using a calculator. [You may use the fact that $e = 2.71828 \dots$]

Solution

An equivalent result to prove is $e^{\frac{3}{2}} > 4$ (dividing both sides by $e^{\frac{3}{2}}$, which is positive)

$\Leftrightarrow e^3 > 16$ (as the function $y = x^2$ is increasing for $x > 0$)

$$e^3 > (2 + 0.7)^3 > 2^3 + 3(2^2)(0.7) = 8 + 8.4 > 16,$$

so that the original result is also true