8. A parabola C has equation $y^2 = 4ax$ where a is a positive constant.

The point S is the focus of C

The line l_1 with equation $y = k$ where k is a positive constant, intersects C at the point P

(a) Show that

$$PS = \frac{k^2 + 4a^2}{4a}$$

(3)

The line l_2 passes through P and intersects the directrix of C on the x-axis.

The line l_2 intersects the y-axis at the point A

(b) Show that the y coordinate of A is $\dfrac{4a^2k}{k^2 + 4a^2}$

(3)

The line l_1 intersects the directrix of C at the point B

Given that the areas of triangles BPA and OSP, where O is the origin, satisfy the ratio

$$\text{area } BPA : \text{area } OSP = 4k^2 : 1$$

(c) determine the exact value of a

(5)

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(Total for Question 8 is 11 marks)