Method - create a table of values, graph and estimate the solution.
Example 1: Simple and Compound Interest
Jason has $\$ 500$ to invest and is considering two investment options.

- Option A: A treasury bond that pays $8 \%$ simple interest. The amount, $A$, after $n$ years is given by the equation $A=500+40 n$
- Option B: A savings account that pays $6.5 \%$ per year, compounded annually. The amount, $A$, after $n$ years is given by the equation $A=500(1.065)^{n}$
a) Graph each relation on the same set of axes. Use TI83+ to help you. Describe each relation.
b) Compare the options. Which is the better investment? Why?

| $n$ | $A_{1}$ | $A_{2}$ |
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Example 2: Half-life.
An important property of a radioactive substance is its half-life, the time it takes for a radioactive sample to decay to half its original mass. For example, iodine-131 is a radioactive substance with a half-life of eight days. This material is commonly used for thyroid analysis.
a) Complete the table of values for an initial dose of 100 units of iodine-131.

| Time <br> (Days) | Units Remaining in <br> the Bloodstream | First <br> Differences | Second <br> Differences | Percent Differences <br> (Ratios) |
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b) Is this relation linear or non-linear? Is this relation exponential? Explain.
c) Construct a scatter plot of the data. Does the trend confirm your answer to part b? Explain.

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d) Determine an equation for the curve of best fit.
e) Determine how long it will take for the initial dose of iodine-131 to decay to one unit.

