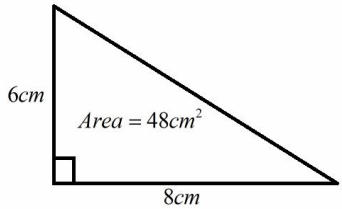
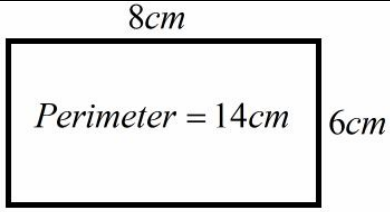
18 GCSE Maths Misconceptions www.m4ths.com

#	Misconception	What should the answer be?	Explain why the answer was wrong
1	$5^2 = 10$		
2	$2 \div \frac{1}{2} = 1$		
3			
4	$x \times x = 2x$		
5	The formula for the number pattern 5, 7, 9, 11 is $n + 2$		
6	$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{5}$		
7	2% is 0.2 as a decimal		
8	$3a + 7b + 2a - 4b = 5a + 11b$		
9	$3 + -4 = -7$		
10	$1 \times 0 = 1$ and $1 \times 1 = 2$		
11	You can't find ¼ of 10. It's not a 'real number'		
12	$(-3)^2 = -9$		
13	The volume of a cuboid is measured in cm^2		
14	1 is a prime number		
15	$0.2 \times 0.4 = 0.8$		
16			
17	$2(x + 3)$ is $2x + 3$		
18	The LCM (Lowest Common Multiple) of 6 and 8 is 1.		