

ASG v1 EX 16.1 (Kepler's 3rd law)

The orbital period of the ISS is $T_{ISS} = 91 \text{ min.}$

The orbital period of the moon is $T_m = 38,880 \text{ min.}$

The distance of the ISS from the center of the earth is $a_{ISS} = 6765 \text{ km}$

of the moon from the center of the earth is $a_{moon} = 385,000 \text{ km.}$

$$\text{So } \frac{T_{ISS}}{T_m} = \frac{91}{38880} = 0.0023$$

$$\text{And } \left(\frac{a_{ISS}}{a_m} \right)^{3/2} = \left(\frac{6765}{385,000} \right)^{3/2} = 0.0023$$

So Kepler's 3rd law of planetary motion also applies to man-made satellites. The reason was later explained by Newton in his Principia (1687).