

Exponentials & Logs

Mark Schemes

Question 1

Let $\log_2 16 = \log_2 a^b$, where a and b are integers and $a < b$.

- (a) (i) Find the values of a and b .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log_2 16$.

[3]

Let $\log 25 + \log 4 = \log c$.

- (b) (i) Find the value of c .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log 25 + \log 4$.

[2]

Let $\log_5 500 - \log_5 4 = \log_5 d$.

- (c) (i) Find the value of d .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log_5 500 - \log_5 4$.

[2]

Let $\log_2 16 = \log_2 a^b$, where a and b are integers and $a < b$.

- (a) (i) Find the values of a and b .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log_2 16$.

[3]

Let $\log 25 + \log 4 = \log c$.

- (b) (i) Find the value of c .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log 25 + \log 4$.

[2]

Let $\log_5 500 - \log_5 4 = \log_5 d$.

- (c) (i) Find the value of d .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log_5 500 - \log_5 4$.

[2]

(a) (i) $16 = a^b$

$16 = 4^2 \text{ or } 2^4$

$a = 2, b = 4$

(ii) $\log_2 16 = \log_2 2^4$

$= 4 \log_2 2$

$= 4 \times 1$

$\log_2 16 = 4$

$\log_a x^m = m \log_a x$ ← formula booklet

(b) (i) $\log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$ ← formula booklet

$\log 25 + \log 4 = \log(25 \times 4)$

$= \log 100$

$c = 100$

(ii) $a^x = b \Leftrightarrow x = \log_a b$ $a > 0, b > 0, a \neq 1$

$\log 100 = x$

$100 = 10^x$

$x = 2$

← formula booklet

Let $\log_2 16 = \log_2 a^b$, where a and b are integers and $a < b$.

- (a) (i) Find the values of a and b .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log_2 16$.

[3]

Let $\log 25 + \log 4 = \log c$.

- (b) (i) Find the value of c .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log 25 + \log 4$.

[2]

Let $\log_5 500 - \log_5 4 = \log_5 d$.

- (c) (i) Find the value of d .
 (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the value of $\log_5 500 - \log_5 4$.

[2]

(c) (i) $\log_a \frac{x}{y} = \log_a x - \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

$$\log_5 500 - \log_5 4 = \log_5 \left(\frac{500}{4} \right)$$

$$= \log_5 125$$

$$d = 125$$

(ii) $a^x = b \Leftrightarrow x = \log_a b$ $a > 0, b > 0, a \neq 1$

← Formula booklet

$$\log_5 125 = x$$

$$125 = 5^x$$

$$x = 3$$

Question 2

Let $x = \ln 15$ and $y = \ln 3$. Write down the following expressions in terms of x and y .

(a) $\ln 5$.

(b) $\ln 45$.

(c) $\ln 135$.

[2]

[2]

[3]

(a) $\log_a \frac{x}{y} = \log_a x - \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

$$\ln 5 = \ln 15 - \ln 3$$

$$\ln 5 = x - y$$

Let $x = \ln 15$ and $y = \ln 3$. Write down the following expressions in terms of x and y .

(a) $\ln 5$.

(b) $\ln 45$.

(c) $\ln 135$.

[2]

[2]

[3]

(b) $\log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

$$\ln 45 = \ln 15 + \ln 3$$

$$\ln 45 = x + y$$

Let $x = \ln 15$ and $y = \ln 3$. Write down the following expressions in terms of x and y .

(a) $\ln 5$.

(b) $\ln 45$.

$$\ln 45 = x + y$$

(c) $\ln 135$.

(c) $\log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

$$\ln 135 = \ln 45 + \ln 3$$

$$= (x + y) + y$$

$$\ln 135 = x + 2y$$

[2]

[2]

[3]

Question 3

Let $r = \log 2$ and $s = \log 12$. Write down the following expressions in terms of r and s .

(a) $\log 24$.

(b) $\log 3$.

(c) $\log 72$.

(a) $\log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

$$\log 24 = \log 2 + \log 12$$

$$\log 24 = r + s$$

[2]

[3]

[3]

Let $r = \log 2$ and $s = \log 12$. Write down the following expressions in terms of r and s .

(a) $\log 24$.

(b) $\log 3$.

(c) $\log 72$.

(b) $\log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

$$\log 4 = \log 2 + \log 2$$

$$\log 4 = 2r$$

$$\log_a \frac{x}{y} = \log_a x - \log_a y$$
 ← Formula booklet

$$\log 3 = \log 12 - \log 4$$

$$\log 3 = s - 2r$$

[2]

[3]

[3]

Let $r = \log 2$ and $s = \log 12$. Write down the following expressions in terms of r and s .

(a) $\log 24$.

(b) $\log 3$.

(c) $\log 72$.

(c) $\log_a \frac{x}{y} = \log_a x - \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

[2] $\log 6 = \log 12 - \log 2$
 $= s - r$

[3] $\log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$ ← Formula booklet

[3] $\log 72 = \log 6 + \log 12$
 $= (s - r) + s$

$\log 72 = 2s - r$

Question 4

Simplify the following equations:

(a) $\frac{(4xy^{-2})(-12x^{-4}y^{12})}{6x^2y}$

(b) $(2x^{-1}y^{-2})^{-3}(4x^2y^3)^4$

(c) $\sqrt{(9x^6y^{-2}z^4)^3}(3xyz)^{-2}$

a) $\frac{(4xy^{-2})(-12x^{-4}y^{12})}{6x^2y}$ } expand numerator

[2] $\frac{-48x^{-3}y^{10}}{6x^2y}$

[2] $\frac{-18x^{-3}y^{10}y^9}{6x^2y}$ } cancelling
 $\frac{-18x^{-3}y^{19}}{6x^2y}$

$\frac{-8y^9}{x^5}$

Simplify the following equations:

(a) $\frac{(4xy^{-2})(-12x^{-4}y^{12})}{6x^2y}$

(b) $(2x^{-1}y^{-2})^{-3}(4x^2y^3)^4$

(c) $\sqrt{(9x^6y^{-2}z^4)^3}(3xyz)^{-2}$

b) $(2x^{-1}y^{-2})^{-3}(4x^2y^3)^4$ } rewrite as fraction

[2] $\frac{(4x^2y^3)^4}{(2x^{-1}y^{-2})^3}$

[2] $\frac{256x^8y^{12}}{8x^{-3}y^{-6}}$ } expand numerator and denominator

[2] $\frac{256x^{32}y^{18}}{8x^{-3}y^{-6}}$ } cancelling

$32x^{35}y^{24}$

Simplify the following equations:

(a) $\frac{(4xy^{-2})(-12x^{-4}y^{12})}{6x^2y}$

(b) $(2x^{-1}y^{-2})^{-3}(4x^2y^3)^4$

(c) $\sqrt{(9x^6y^{-2}z^4)^3(3xyz)^{-2}}$

c) $\sqrt{(9x^6y^{-2}z^4)^3(3xyz)^{-2}}$ rewrite as a fraction and use indice laws

$\frac{(9x^6y^{-2}z^4)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{(3xyz)^2}$ expand numerator and denominator

$\frac{27x^9y^{-3}z^6}{9x^2y^2z^2}$

$\frac{3x^7z^4}{y^5}$ cancelling

$\frac{3x^7z^4}{y^5}$

Question 5

Solve the equation $2 - x\sqrt{3} = \frac{7x}{\sqrt{3}}$, giving your answer in the form $\frac{\sqrt{a}}{b}$ where a and b are integers. State the values of a and b .

$2 - x\sqrt{3} = \frac{7x}{\sqrt{3}}$

$2\sqrt{3} - 3x = 7x$

$2\sqrt{3} = 10x$

$\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{10} = x$

$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{5} = x$

$a = 3 \quad b = 5$

Question 6

Given that $\log_a 8 = 3$.

(a) Find the value of $\log_a 64$.

(b) Find the value of a .

(c) Find the value of $\log_{a^2} 8$.

(a) $\log_a x^m = m \log_a x$ Formula booklet

$\log_a 64 = \log_a 8^2$

$= 2 \log_a 8$

$= 2 \times 3$

$\log_a 64 = 6$

Given that $\log_a 8 = 3$.

(a) Find the value of $\log_a 64$.

(b) Find the value of a .

(c) Find the value of $\log_{a^2} 8$.

(b) $a^x = b \Leftrightarrow x = \log_a b$ ← Formula booklet

$\log_a 8 = 3 \Rightarrow a^3 = 8$

$a = \sqrt[3]{8}$

$a = 2$

[2]

[2]

[3]

Given that $\log_a 8 = 3$.

(a) Find the value of $\log_a 64$.

(b) Find the value of a .

(c) Find the value of $\log_{a^2} 8$.

(c) $a^x = b \Leftrightarrow x = \log_a b$ ← Formula booklet

$\log_2 8 = x \Rightarrow (2^2)^x = 8$

$2^{2x} = 8$

$2^{2x} = 2^3$

$2x = 3$

$x = \frac{3}{2}$

[2]

[2]

[3]

Question 7

Let $\log_b 3 = x$ and $\log_b 16 = y$

(a) Find an expression for $\log_b 9$ in terms of x .

(b) Find an expression for $\log_b 4$ in terms of y .

(c) Find an expression for $\log_b 48$ in terms of x and y .

(a) $\log_b 9 = \log_b 3^2$

$= 2 \log_b 3$ ← $\log_a x^m = m \log_a x$ ← Formula booklet

$= 2x$

$\log_b 9 = 2x$

[2]

[2]

[3]

Let $\log_b 3 = x$ and $\log_b 16 = y$

(a) Find an expression for $\log_b 9$ in terms of x .

(b) Find an expression for $\log_b 4$ in terms of y .

(c) Find an expression for $\log_b 48$ in terms of x and y .

[2]

[2]

[3]

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(b) } \log_b 4 &= \log_b \sqrt{16} \\
 &= \log_b 16^{1/2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \log_b 16 \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} y
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\log_b 4 = \frac{1}{2} y$$

Let $\log_b 3 = x$ and $\log_b 16 = y$

(a) Find an expression for $\log_b 9$ in terms of x .

(b) Find an expression for $\log_b 4$ in terms of y .

(c) Find an expression for $\log_b 48$ in terms of x and y .

[2]

[2]

[3]

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(c) } \log_b xy &= \log_b x + \log_b y \quad \leftarrow \text{Formula booklet} \\
 \log_b 48 &= \log_b 3 + \log_b 16
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\log_b 48 = x + y$$

Question 8

(a) Show that $\frac{(4-2\sqrt{x})^2}{8x}$ can be written as $2x^{-1} - 2x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}$.

(b) Given that $8\sqrt{2} = 2^a$, find the value of a .

(c) Show that $\frac{x(2x^4 - \sqrt{x})}{x^2}$ can be written as $2x^a - x^b$, where a and b are rational numbers. State the value of a and b .

[2]

[2]

[2]

(a) Expand the numerator

$$\frac{16 - 16\sqrt{x} + 4x}{8x}$$

Split into 3 separate terms and cancel

$$\frac{2\cancel{16}}{\cancel{8}x} - \frac{2\cancel{16}\sqrt{x}}{\cancel{8}x} + \frac{\cancel{4}x}{2\cancel{8}\cancel{x}}$$

$$\frac{2}{x} - \frac{2\sqrt{x}}{x} + \frac{1}{2}$$

Rewrite powers of x

$$2x^{-1} - 2x^{1/2}x^{-1} + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$2x^{-1} - 2x^{-1/2} + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$2x^{-1} - 2x^{-1/2} + \frac{1}{2}$$

(a) Show that $\frac{(4-2\sqrt{x})^2}{8x}$ can be written as $2x^{-1} - 2x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}$.

[2]

(b) Given that $8\sqrt{2} = 2^a$, find the value of a .

[2]

(c) Show that $\frac{x(2x^4 - \sqrt{x})}{x^2}$ can be written as $2x^a - x^b$, where a and b are rational numbers. State the value of a and b .

[2]

(b) $8 = 2^3, \sqrt{2} = 2^{\frac{1}{2}}$

$$8\sqrt{2} = 2^3 \times 2^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= 2^{7/2}$$

$$a = \frac{7}{2}$$

(a) Show that $\frac{(4-2\sqrt{x})^2}{8x}$ can be written as $2x^{-1} - 2x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}$.

[2]

(b) Given that $8\sqrt{2} = 2^a$, find the value of a .

[2]

(c) Show that $\frac{x(2x^4 - \sqrt{x})}{x^2}$ can be written as $2x^a - x^b$, where a and b are rational numbers. State the value of a and b .

[2]

(c) Expand the numerator

$$\frac{2x^5 - x^{3/2}}{x^2}$$

Simplify the powers of x

$$2x^3 - x^{-1/2}$$

$$a = 3 \quad b = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Question 9

Solve the equation $16^x - 3(4^{x+1}) = 28$. Write your answer in the form $\frac{\ln a}{\ln b}$, where a and b are integers.

[5]

Rewrite expression using powers of 4

$$(4^2)^x - 3(4^x)(4^1) = 28$$

$$(4^x)^2 - 12(4^x) = 28$$

Let $m = 4^x$

$$m^2 - 12m - 28 = 0$$

Solve the quadratic by hand or using the GDC

$$(m - 14)(m + 2) = 0$$

$$m = 14 \text{ or } m = -2$$

m cannot be negative because you can't take a log of a negative

$$4^x = 14$$

Take \ln of both sides

$$\ln 4^x = \ln 14$$

$$x \ln 4 = \ln 14$$

$$\log_a x^m = m \log_a x$$

Formula booklet

$$x = \frac{\ln 14}{\ln 4}$$

Question 10

$\sqrt{425}$ can be written in the form $a\sqrt{b}$. Find the values of a and b . Show all of your working.

[5]

Find the largest square number that goes into 425

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{425} &= \sqrt{25 \times 17} \\ &= 5\sqrt{17}\end{aligned}$$

$$a = 5 \quad b = 17$$

Question 11

The expression $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}}$ can be expressed in the form a^p .

(a) Find the value of p .

Let $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}} = 8$.

(b) Find the value of a .

The expression $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}}$ can be written in the form $\frac{1}{b^q}$.

(c) Find the value of q .

Let $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}} = \sqrt{2}$

(d) Find the value of b .

The expression $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}}$ can be expressed in the form a^p .

(a) Find the value of p .

$$p = \frac{3}{5}$$

Let $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}} = 8$.

(b) Find the value of a .

The expression $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}}$ can be written in the form $\frac{1}{b^q}$.

(c) Find the value of q .

Let $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}} = \sqrt{2}$

(d) Find the value of b .

(a) $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}} = a^{\frac{3}{5}}$

$$p = \frac{3}{5}$$

[1]

[2]

[1]

[2]

(b) $a^{\frac{3}{5}} = 8$

$$a = \sqrt[3]{8^{5/3}}$$

$$a = 32$$

[1]

[2]

[1]

[2]

The expression $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}}$ can be expressed in the form a^p .

(a) Find the value of p .

Let $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}} = 8$.

(b) Find the value of a .

The expression $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}}$ can be written in the form $\frac{1}{b^q}$.

(c) Find the value of q .

Let $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}} = \sqrt{2}$

(d) Find the value of b .

The expression $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}}$ can be expressed in the form a^p .

(a) Find the value of p .

Let $a^{\frac{1}{5}} \times a^{\frac{2}{5}} = 8$.

(b) Find the value of a .

The expression $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}}$ can be written in the form $\frac{1}{b^q}$.

(c) Find the value of q .

Let $b \times b^{-\frac{3}{2}} = \sqrt{2}$

(d) Find the value of b .

$$\begin{aligned}
 (c) \quad b \times b^{-3/2} &= b^{-1/2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{b^{1/2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

[1]

$$q = \frac{1}{2}$$

[2]

[1]

[2]

$$\begin{aligned}
 (d) \quad \frac{1}{b^{1/2}} &= \sqrt{2} \\
 b^{1/2} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

[1]

$$b = \frac{1}{2}$$

[2]

[1]

[2]