

3.3 Answers

A-Level Pure Mathematics : Year 1 Algebra of Surds and Indices II

3.3.1 Solutions to 3.1 Introductory Examples

Example #1 Answer

$$\begin{aligned}81 \sqrt{3} &= 3^a \\3^4 \times 3^{\frac{1}{2}} &= 3^a \\3^{4.5} &= 3^a \\\therefore a &= 4.5\end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]

Example #2 Answer

$$\begin{aligned}(27x^{12})^{\frac{5}{3}} &= 3^a x^b \\(3x^4)^5 &= 3^a x^b \\3^5 x^{20} &= 3^a x^b \\\therefore a &= 5 \text{ and } b = 20\end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]

Example #3 Answer

$$\begin{aligned}(3 + \sqrt{c})(2\sqrt{c} - 3) &= 1 + k\sqrt{c} \\6\sqrt{c} - 9 + 2c - 3\sqrt{c} &= 1 + k\sqrt{c} \\(2c - 9) + 3\sqrt{c} &= 1 + k\sqrt{c} \\\therefore k = 3 \text{ and } 2c - 9 &= 1 \\2c &= 10 \\c &= 5\end{aligned}$$

[3 marks]

Example #4 Answer

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{10 + 2\sqrt{21}} &= \sqrt{10 + 2\sqrt{3}\sqrt{7}} \\&= \sqrt{3 + 2\sqrt{3}\sqrt{7} + 7} \\&= \sqrt{(\sqrt{3})^2 + 2\sqrt{3}\sqrt{7} + (\sqrt{7})^2} \\ \text{Recall that : } a^2 + 2ab + b^2 &= (a + b)^2 \\&= \sqrt{(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{7})^2} \\&= \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{7}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a = 3 \text{ and } b = 7 \quad \text{as told } a < b$$

[3 marks]

3.3.2 Solutions (3.2 Exercise)

Answer 1

$$\begin{array}{lllll} \text{(i)} & 5 & \text{(ii)} & 3 & \text{(iii)} & \frac{1}{9} & \text{(iv)} & 8 & \text{(v)} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \text{(vi)} & \frac{1}{1000} & \text{(vii)} & 3 & \text{(viii)} & 27 & \text{(ix)} & \frac{1}{9} & \text{(x)} & 1 \end{array}$$

[5 marks]

Answer 2

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{y} &= \sqrt{2^5 \times 3^4 \times 5^3} \\ &= \sqrt{2^4 \times 3^4 \times 5^2} \times \sqrt{2 \times 5} \\ &= 2^2 \times 3^2 \times 5 \times \sqrt{10} \\ &= 4 \times 9 \times 5 \times \sqrt{10} \\ &= 180\sqrt{10} \end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]

Answer 3

$$\begin{array}{lllll} \text{(i)} & \frac{16}{49} & \text{(ii)} & \frac{4}{9} & \text{(iii)} & 1 & \text{(iv)} & \frac{8}{3} & \text{(v)} & \frac{5}{4} \end{array}$$

[5 marks]

Answer 4

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{(i)} & -\frac{3}{2} & \text{(ii)} & \frac{27\sqrt{2}}{32} & \text{(iii)} & \frac{5\sqrt{2}}{4} & \text{(iv)} & \frac{14 - 2\sqrt{5}}{11} \end{array}$$

[4 marks]

Answer 5

$$\begin{aligned} 8\sqrt{2} &= 2^a \\ 2^3 \times 2^{\frac{1}{2}} &= 2^a \\ 2^{3.5} &= 2^a \Rightarrow a = 3.5 \end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]

Answer 6

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{3 + 2\sqrt{2}} &= \sqrt{2 + 2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{1} + 1} \\ &= \sqrt{(\sqrt{2})^2 + 2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{1} + (\sqrt{1})^2} \\ \text{Recall that : } a^2 + 2ab + b^2 &= (a + b)^2 \\ &= \sqrt{(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{1})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a = 2 \text{ and } b = 1 \quad \text{as told } a > b$$

[3 marks]

Answer 7

$$\begin{aligned}(7 - \sqrt{c}) (4 + 2\sqrt{c}) &= 6 + k\sqrt{c} \\ 28 + 14\sqrt{c} - 4\sqrt{c} - 2c &= 6 + k\sqrt{c} \\ (28 - 2c) + 10\sqrt{c} &= 6 + k\sqrt{c} \\ \therefore k = 10 \text{ and } 28 - 2c &= 6 \\ 2c &= 22 \\ c &= 11\end{aligned}$$

[3 marks]

Answer 8

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{9^4}} &= 3^n \\ (9^4)^{-\frac{1}{3}} &= 3^n \\ (3^8)^{-\frac{1}{3}} &= 3^n \\ 3^{-\frac{8}{3}} &= 3^n \\ n &= -\frac{8}{3}\end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]

Answer 9

$$\begin{aligned}(a + \sqrt{5}) (3 + 2\sqrt{5}) &= 31 + b\sqrt{5} \\ 3a + 3\sqrt{5} + 2a\sqrt{5} + 10 &= 31 + b\sqrt{5} \\ 3a + 10 + (3 + 2a)\sqrt{5} &= 31 + b\sqrt{5} \\ \therefore 3a + 10 = 31 \quad \text{and} \quad 3 + 2a &= b \\ 3a &= 21 \\ a &= 7 \quad \text{and so } b = 17\end{aligned}$$

[3 marks]

Answer 10

Method 1

$$\begin{aligned}x &= \sqrt{6 + 2\sqrt{5}} - \sqrt{6 - 2\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{5}\sqrt{1} + 1} - \sqrt{5 - 2\sqrt{5}\sqrt{1} + 1} \\ &= \sqrt{(\sqrt{5})^2 + 2\sqrt{5}\sqrt{1} + (\sqrt{1})^2} - \sqrt{(\sqrt{5})^2 - 2\sqrt{5}\sqrt{1} + (\sqrt{1})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{1})^2} - \sqrt{(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{1})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{5} + \sqrt{1} - \sqrt{5} + \sqrt{1} \\ \therefore x &= 2 \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

Method 2

$$\begin{aligned}
x &= \sqrt{6 + 2\sqrt{5}} - \sqrt{6 - 2\sqrt{5}} \\
x^2 &= 6 + 2\sqrt{5} - 2\sqrt{6 + 2\sqrt{5}} \times \sqrt{6 - 2\sqrt{5}} + 6 - 2\sqrt{5} \\
&= 12 - 2\sqrt{(6 + 2\sqrt{5})(6 - 2\sqrt{5})} \\
&= 12 - 2\sqrt{36 + 12\sqrt{5} - 12\sqrt{5} - 20} \\
&= 12 - 2\sqrt{36 - 20} \\
&= 12 - 2\sqrt{16} \\
&= 4 \\
\therefore x &= 2 \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

[4 marks]**Answer 11**

$$\begin{aligned}
p^m &= \frac{1}{p \times \sqrt[3]{p^2}} \\
&= \frac{1}{p} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{p^2}} \\
&= p^{-1} \times p^{-\frac{2}{3}} \\
&= p^{-\frac{5}{3}} \\
\therefore m &= -\frac{5}{3}
\end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]**Answer 12**

(a) $gh = a^4 \times b^2 \times c^5$

[2 marks]

(b) $\frac{g}{h} = a^2 \times b^0 \times c^{-1}$

$$x = 2, \quad y = 0, \quad z = -1$$

[3 marks]

Answer 13

$$\begin{aligned}
\sqrt{8 - 4\sqrt{3}} &= \sqrt{8 - 2\sqrt{12}} \\
&= \sqrt{6 - 2\sqrt{12} + 2} \\
&= \sqrt{(\sqrt{6})^2 - 2\sqrt{6}\sqrt{2} + (\sqrt{2})^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Recall that : } a^2 - 2ab + b^2 = (a - b)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sqrt{(\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2})^2} \\
&= \sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a = 6 \text{ and } b = 2 \quad \text{as told } a > b$$

[3 marks]**Answer 14**

If you were going to differentiate you'd do this,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{7\sqrt{p} - p^2}{\sqrt{p^3}} &= \frac{7p^{\frac{1}{2}}}{p^{\frac{3}{2}}} - \frac{p^2}{p^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\
&= 7p^{-1} - p^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&= \frac{7}{p} - \sqrt{p}
\end{aligned}$$

Which is by far the most elegant answer,

Other equivalent answers are likely, such as,

$$\frac{7 - p\sqrt{p}}{p}$$

[3 marks]**Answer 15**

$$2^x \times 4^y = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

$$2^x \times (2^2)^y = 2^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$x + 2y = -\frac{3}{2}$$

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

$$y = -\frac{3}{4} - \frac{x}{2}$$

[3 marks]

Answer 16

$$\begin{aligned}
2^7 \times 3 \times 5^4 &= 2^6 \times 5^4 \times 2 \times 3 \\
\sqrt{2^7 \times 3 \times 5^4} &= \sqrt{2^6 \times 5^4} \times \sqrt{2 \times 3} \\
&= 2^3 \times 5^2 \times \sqrt{6} \\
&= 8 \times 25 \times \sqrt{6} \\
&= 200\sqrt{6}
\end{aligned}$$

[2 marks]**Answer 17**

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}} &= \frac{1}{(1 + \sqrt{2}) + \sqrt{3}} \\
&= \frac{1}{(1 + \sqrt{2}) + \sqrt{3}} \times \frac{(1 + \sqrt{2}) - \sqrt{3}}{(1 + \sqrt{2}) - \sqrt{3}} \\
&= \frac{(1 + \sqrt{2}) - \sqrt{3}}{(1 + \sqrt{2})^2 - 3} \\
&= \frac{1 + \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}}{1 + 2\sqrt{2} + 2 - 3} \\
&= \frac{1 + \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{2}} \\
&= \frac{1 + \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{2}} \times \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}} \\
&= \frac{\sqrt{2} + 2 - \sqrt{6}}{4}
\end{aligned}$$

[4 marks]