

Laws of Indices

$$\text{Indices } a^b$$

↙ Base value ↘ Power

Base values → 2, 3, 5, 7

① Multiplication

$$a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$$

Add the powers

② Division

$$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$$

Subtract the bottom power from the top power

③

$$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$$

multiply the powers

④ $a^0 = 1$

⑤ Fractional indices

Roots → Powers

$$\sqrt{\quad} = 1/2$$

$$\sqrt[3]{\quad} = 1/3$$

$$\sqrt[4]{\quad} = 1/4$$

⑥ Negative Powers

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$$

make reciprocal

Equations with indices

Method:

- 1) You must write all the numbers in the equation as the same base value i.e. 2, 3, 5, 7
- 2) Use rules of indices to tidy up the equation
- 3) Cancel the base values and solve to find the value of x

Eg 1) Solve for x

$$2^x = 8$$

$$2^x = (2^3)$$

$$x = 3$$

$$2^3 = 8 \quad \checkmark$$

$$2^x = (2^3)$$

$$x = 3$$

$$2^3 = 8 \checkmark$$

Eg2) Solve for x

$$25^x = 125$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$$
$$(5^2)^x = (5^3)$$

$$5^{2x} = 5^3$$

$$\div 2 \quad | \quad 2x = 3 \quad | \quad \div 2$$
$$x = 3/2 \quad | \quad \div 2$$

Eg3) $2^x = \frac{1}{4}$

$$2^x = \frac{1}{2^2}$$

$$2^x = 2^{-2}$$

$$x = -2$$

C/W \rightarrow H/W

Pg 41

Q 4, 8, 12, 16, 20

PROJECT MATHS

Text & Tests

Leaving 3 Certificate

Algebra 2: Quadratic Equations

chapter

2

Section 2.8 Equations involving indices

Exercise 2.8

1. Express each of the following in the form 2^k , where k is an integer:

(i) 8

(ii) 16

(iii) $\frac{1}{4}$

(iv) $\frac{1}{8}$

(v) $\frac{1}{32}$