Huxlow & Rushden Academy

SIXTH FORM

One Trust, Two Schools, One Vision of Excellence

Maths A Level

Transition Task

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The following activities have been intentionally and carefully selected, highlighted as skills that are crucial to be comfortable with prior to starting the course.

To ensure we start the course on the front foot, please complete the tasks to the best of your abilities, and self-assess using the answers provided. We encourage you to focus on the way you communicate your written maths, ensuring that your work is laid out clearly and neatly.

Feel free to contact **t.booker@rushden-academy.net** with any issues or concerns relating to specific questions over the holidays.

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Surds and rationalising the denominator

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1a. Algebraic expressions – basic algebraic manipulation, indices and surds

Key points

- A surd is the square root of a number that is not a square number, for example $\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}$, etc.
- Surds can be used to give the exact value for an answer.
- $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$
- $\sqrt{\dfrac{a}{b}} = \dfrac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}}$
- To rationalise the denominator means to remove the surd from the denominator of a fraction.
- To rationalise $\dfrac{a}{\sqrt{b}}$ you multiply the numerator and denominator by the surd $\sqrt{b}$
- To rationalise $\dfrac{a}{b+\sqrt{c}}$ you multiply the numerator and denominator by $b-\sqrt{c}$

Examples

Example 1 Simplify $\sqrt{50}$

$\sqrt{50} = \sqrt{25 \times 2}$	**1** Choose two numbers that are factors of 50. One of the factors must be a square number
$= \sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{2}$	**2** Use the rule $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$
$= 5 \times \sqrt{2}$	**3** Use $\sqrt{25} = 5$
$= 5\sqrt{2}$	

Example 2 Simplify $\sqrt{147} - 2\sqrt{12}$

$\sqrt{147} - 2\sqrt{12}$ $= \sqrt{49 \times 3} - 2\sqrt{4 \times 3}$	**1** Simplify $\sqrt{147}$ and $2\sqrt{12}$. Choose two numbers that are factors of 147 and two numbers that are factors of 12. One of each pair of factors must be a square number
$= \sqrt{49} \times \sqrt{3} - 2\sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{3}$	**2** Use the rule $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$
$= 7 \times \sqrt{3} - 2 \times 2 \times \sqrt{3}$	**3** Use $\sqrt{49} = 7$ and $\sqrt{4} = 2$
$= 7\sqrt{3} - 4\sqrt{3}$ $= 3\sqrt{3}$	**4** Collect like terms

Example 3 Simplify $\left(\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{2}\right)\left(\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{2}\right)$

$\left(\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{2}\right)\left(\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{2}\right)$ $=\sqrt{49}-\sqrt{7}\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{2}\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{4}$ $=7-2$ $=5$	**1** Expand the brackets. A common mistake here is to write $\left(\sqrt{7}\right)^2=49$ **2** Collect like terms: $-\sqrt{7}\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{2}\sqrt{7}$ $=-\sqrt{7}\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{7}\sqrt{2}=0$

Example 4 Rationalise $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$

$\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{3}}=\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\times\dfrac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}}$ $=\dfrac{1\times\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{9}}$ $=\dfrac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	**1** Multiply the numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{3}$ **2** Use $\sqrt{9}=3$

Example 5 Rationalise and simplify $\dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}}$

$\dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}}=\dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{12}}\times\dfrac{\sqrt{12}}{\sqrt{12}}$ $=\dfrac{\sqrt{2}\times\sqrt{4\times3}}{12}$ $=\dfrac{2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{12}$ $=\dfrac{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{6}$	**1** Multiply the numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{12}$ **2** Simplify $\sqrt{12}$ in the numerator. Choose two numbers that are factors of 12. One of the factors must be a square number **3** Use the rule $\sqrt{ab}=\sqrt{a}\times\sqrt{b}$ **4** Use $\sqrt{4}=2$ **5** Simplify the fraction: $\dfrac{2}{12}$ simplifies to $\dfrac{1}{6}$

Example 6 Rationalise and simplify $\dfrac{3}{2+\sqrt{5}}$

$\dfrac{3}{2+\sqrt{5}} = \dfrac{3}{2+\sqrt{5}} \times \dfrac{2-\sqrt{5}}{2-\sqrt{5}}$	**1** Multiply the numerator and denominator by $2-\sqrt{5}$
$= \dfrac{3\left(2-\sqrt{5}\right)}{\left(2+\sqrt{5}\right)\left(2-\sqrt{5}\right)}$	**2** Expand the brackets
$= \dfrac{6-3\sqrt{5}}{4+2\sqrt{5}-2\sqrt{5}-5}$	**3** Simplify the fraction
$= \dfrac{6-3\sqrt{5}}{-1}$ $= 3\sqrt{5}-6$	**4** Divide the numerator by -1 Remember to change the sign of all terms when dividing by -1

Practice

1 Simplify.

a $\sqrt{45}$ **b** $\sqrt{125}$

c $\sqrt{48}$ **d** $\sqrt{175}$

e $\sqrt{300}$ **f** $\sqrt{28}$

g $\sqrt{72}$ **h** $\sqrt{162}$

> **Hint**
>
> One of the two numbers you choose at the start must be a square number.

2 Simplify.

a $\sqrt{72}+\sqrt{162}$ **b** $\sqrt{45}-2\sqrt{5}$

c $\sqrt{50}-\sqrt{8}$ **d** $\sqrt{75}-\sqrt{48}$

e $2\sqrt{28}+\sqrt{28}$ **f** $2\sqrt{12}-\sqrt{12}+\sqrt{27}$

> **Watch out!**
>
> Check you have chosen the highest square number at the start.

3 Expand and simplify.

a $(\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3})(\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{3})$ **b** $(3+\sqrt{3})(5-\sqrt{12})$

c $(4-\sqrt{5})(\sqrt{45}+2)$ **d** $(5+\sqrt{2})(6-\sqrt{8})$

4 Rationalise and simplify, if possible.

a $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$

b $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{11}}$

c $\dfrac{2}{\sqrt{7}}$

d $\dfrac{2}{\sqrt{8}}$

e $\dfrac{2}{\sqrt{2}}$

f $\dfrac{5}{\sqrt{5}}$

g $\dfrac{\sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{24}}$

h $\dfrac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{45}}$

5 Rationalise and simplify.

a $\dfrac{1}{3-\sqrt{5}}$

b $\dfrac{2}{4+\sqrt{3}}$

c $\dfrac{6}{5-\sqrt{2}}$

Extend

6 Expand and simplify $\left(\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}\right)\left(\sqrt{x}-\sqrt{y}\right)$

7 Rationalise and simplify, if possible.

a $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{9}-\sqrt{8}}$

b $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x}-\sqrt{y}}$

Answers

1 a $3\sqrt{5}$ b $5\sqrt{5}$
c $4\sqrt{3}$ d $5\sqrt{7}$
e $10\sqrt{3}$ f $2\sqrt{7}$
g $6\sqrt{2}$ h $9\sqrt{2}$

2 a $15\sqrt{2}$ b $\sqrt{5}$
c $3\sqrt{2}$ d $\sqrt{3}$
e $6\sqrt{7}$ f $5\sqrt{3}$

3 a -1 b $9-\sqrt{3}$
c $10\sqrt{5}-7$ d $26-4\sqrt{2}$

4 a $\frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}$ b $\frac{\sqrt{11}}{11}$
c $\frac{2\sqrt{7}}{7}$ d $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$
e $\sqrt{2}$ f $\sqrt{5}$
g $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$ h $\frac{1}{3}$

5 a $\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4}$ b $\frac{2(4-\sqrt{3})}{13}$ c $\frac{6(5+\sqrt{2})}{23}$

6 $x-y$

7 a $3+2\sqrt{2}$ b $\frac{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}}{x-y}$

Rules of indices

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1a. Algebraic expressions – basic algebraic manipulation, indices and surds

Key points

- $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$
- $\dfrac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$
- $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$
- $a^0 = 1$
- $a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$ i.e. the *n*th root of a
- $a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = \left(\sqrt[n]{a}\right)^m$
- $a^{-m} = \dfrac{1}{a^m}$
- The square root of a number produces two solutions, e.g. $\sqrt{16} = \pm 4$.

Examples

Example 1 Evaluate 10^0

$10^0 = 1$	Any value raised to the power of zero is equal to 1

Example 2 Evaluate $9^{\frac{1}{2}}$

$9^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{9}$ $= 3$	Use the rule $a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$

Example 3 Evaluate $27^{\frac{2}{3}}$

$27^{\frac{2}{3}} = \left(\sqrt[3]{27}\right)^2$ $= 3^2$ $= 9$	**1** Use the rule $a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \left(\sqrt[n]{a}\right)^m$ **2** Use $\sqrt[3]{27} = 3$

Example 4 Evaluate 4^{-2}

$4^{-2} = \frac{1}{4^2}$ $= \frac{1}{16}$	**1** Use the rule $a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$ **2** Use $4^2 = 16$

Example 5 Simplify $\frac{6x^5}{2x^2}$

$\frac{6x^5}{2x^2} = 3x^3$	$6 \div 2 = 3$ and use the rule $\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$ to give $\frac{x^5}{x^2} = x^{5-2} = x^3$

Example 6 Simplify $\frac{x^3 \times x^5}{x^4}$

$\frac{x^3 \times x^5}{x^4} = \frac{x^{3+5}}{x^4} = \frac{x^8}{x^4}$ $= x^{8-4} = x^4$	**1** Use the rule $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$ **2** Use the rule $\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$

Example 7 Write $\frac{1}{3x}$ as a single power of x

$\frac{1}{3x} = \frac{1}{3}x^{-1}$	Use the rule $\frac{1}{a^m} = a^{-m}$, note that the fraction $\frac{1}{3}$ remains unchanged

Example 8 Write $\frac{4}{\sqrt{x}}$ as a single power of x

$\frac{4}{\sqrt{x}} = \frac{4}{x^{\frac{1}{2}}}$ $= 4x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$	**1** Use the rule $a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$ **2** Use the rule $\frac{1}{a^m} = a^{-m}$

Practice

1 Evaluate.

a 14^0 **b** 3^0 **c** 5^0 **d** x^0

2 Evaluate.

a $49^{\frac{1}{2}}$ **b** $64^{\frac{1}{3}}$ **c** $125^{\frac{1}{3}}$ **d** $16^{\frac{1}{4}}$

3 Evaluate.

a $25^{\frac{3}{2}}$ **b** $8^{\frac{5}{3}}$ **c** $49^{\frac{3}{2}}$ **d** $16^{\frac{3}{4}}$

4 Evaluate.

a 5^{-2} **b** 4^{-3} **c** 2^{-5} **d** 6^{-2}

5 Simplify.

a $\dfrac{3x^2 \times x^3}{2x^2}$ **b** $\dfrac{10x^5}{2x^2 \times x}$

c $\dfrac{3x \times 2x^3}{2x^3}$ **d** $\dfrac{7x^3y^2}{14x^5y}$

e $\dfrac{y^2}{y^{\frac{1}{2}} \times y}$ **f** $\dfrac{c^{\frac{1}{2}}}{c^2 \times c^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

g $\dfrac{(2x^2)^3}{4x^0}$ **h** $\dfrac{x^{\frac{1}{2}} \times x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{x^{-2} \times x^3}$

Watch out!

Remember that any value raised to the power of zero is 1. This is the rule $a^0 = 1$.

6 Evaluate.

a $4^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **b** $27^{-\frac{2}{3}}$ **c** $9^{-\frac{1}{2}} \times 2^3$

d $16^{\frac{1}{4}} \times 2^{-3}$ **e** $\left(\dfrac{9}{16}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **f** $\left(\dfrac{27}{64}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$

7 Write the following as a single power of x.

a $\dfrac{1}{x}$ **b** $\dfrac{1}{x^7}$ **c** $\sqrt[4]{x}$

d $\sqrt[5]{x^2}$ **e** $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$ **f** $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$

8 Write the following without negative or fractional powers.

a x^{-3} **b** x^0 **c** $x^{\frac{1}{5}}$

d $x^{\frac{2}{5}}$ **e** $x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **f** $x^{-\frac{3}{4}}$

9 Write the following in the form ax^n.

a $5\sqrt{x}$ **b** $\dfrac{2}{x^3}$ **c** $\dfrac{1}{3x^4}$

d $\dfrac{2}{\sqrt{x}}$ **e** $\dfrac{4}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$ **f** 3

Extend

10 Write as sums of powers of x.

a $\dfrac{x^5+1}{x^2}$ **b** $x^2\left(x+\dfrac{1}{x}\right)$ **c** $x^{-4}\left(x^2+\dfrac{1}{x^3}\right)$

Answers

1	**a**	1	**b**	1	**c**	1	**d**	1
2	**a**	7	**b**	4	**c**	5	**d**	2
3	**a**	125	**b**	32	**c**	343	**d**	8
4	**a**	$\frac{1}{25}$	**b**	$\frac{1}{64}$	**c**	$\frac{1}{32}$	**d**	$\frac{1}{36}$
5	**a**	$\frac{3x^3}{2}$	**b**	$5x^2$				
	c	$3x$	**d**	$\frac{y}{2x^2}$				
	e	$y^{\frac{1}{2}}$	**f**	c^{-3}				
	g	$2x^6$	**h**	x				
6	**a**	$\frac{1}{2}$	**b**	$\frac{1}{9}$	**c**	$\frac{8}{3}$		
	d	$\frac{1}{4}$	**e**	$\frac{4}{3}$	**f**	$\frac{16}{9}$		
7	**a**	x^{-1}	**b**	x^{-7}	**c**	$x^{\frac{1}{4}}$		
	d	$x^{\frac{2}{5}}$	**e**	$x^{-\frac{1}{3}}$	**f**	$x^{-\frac{2}{3}}$		
8	**a**	$\frac{1}{x^3}$	**b**	1	**c**	$\sqrt[5]{x}$		
	d	$\sqrt[5]{x^2}$	**e**	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$	**f**	$\frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{x^3}}$		
9	**a**	$5x^{\frac{1}{2}}$	**b**	$2x^{-3}$	**c**	$\frac{1}{3}x^{-4}$		
	d	$2x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$	**e**	$4x^{-\frac{1}{3}}$	**f**	$3x^0$		
10	**a**	x^3+x^{-2}	**b**	x^3+x	**c**	$x^{-2}+x^{-7}$		

Factorising expressions

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1b. Quadratic functions – factorising, solving, graphs and the discriminants

Key points

- Factorising an expression is the opposite of expanding the brackets.
- A quadratic expression is in the form $ax^2 + bx + c$, where $a \neq 0$.
- To factorise a quadratic equation find two numbers whose sum is b and whose product is ac.
- An expression in the form $x^2 - y^2$ is called the difference of two squares. It factorises to $(x - y)(x + y)$.

Examples

Example 1 Factorise $15x^2y^3 + 9x^4y$

$15x^2y^3 + 9x^4y = 3x^2y(5y^2 + 3x^2)$	The highest common factor is $3x^2y$. So take $3x^2y$ outside the brackets and then divide each term by $3x^2y$ to find the terms in the brackets

Example 2 Factorise $4x^2 - 25y^2$

$4x^2 - 25y^2 = (2x + 5y)(2x - 5y)$	This is the difference of two squares as the two terms can be written as $(2x)^2$ and $(5y)^2$

Example 3 Factorise $x^2 + 3x - 10$

$b = 3$, $ac = -10$	**1** Work out the two factors of $ac = -10$ which add to give $b = 3$ (5 and −2)
So $x^2 + 3x - 10 = x^2 + 5x - 2x - 10$	**2** Rewrite the b term ($3x$) using these two factors
$= x(x + 5) - 2(x + 5)$	**3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms
$= (x + 5)(x - 2)$	**4** $(x + 5)$ is a factor of both terms

Example 4 Factorise $6x^2 - 11x - 10$

$b = -11$, $ac = -60$	**1** Work out the two factors of $ac = -60$ which add to give $b = -11$ (−15 and 4)
So $6x^2 - 11x - 10 = 6x^2 - 15x + 4x - 10$	**2** Rewrite the b term ($-11x$) using these two factors
$= 3x(2x - 5) + 2(2x - 5)$	**3** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms
$= (2x - 5)(3x + 2)$	**4** $(2x - 5)$ is a factor of both terms

Example 5 Simplify $\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9}$

$\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9}$	**1** Factorise the numerator and the denominator
For the numerator: $b = -4$, $ac = -21$	**2** Work out the two factors of $ac = -21$ which add to give $b = -4$ (−7 and 3)
So $x^2 - 4x - 21 = x^2 - 7x + 3x - 21$	**3** Rewrite the b term ($-4x$) using these two factors
$= x(x - 7) + 3(x - 7)$	**4** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms
$= (x - 7)(x + 3)$	**5** $(x - 7)$ is a factor of both terms
For the denominator: $b = 9$, $ac = 18$	**6** Work out the two factors of $ac = 18$ which add to give $b = 9$ (6 and 3)
So $2x^2 + 9x + 9 = 2x^2 + 6x + 3x + 9$	**7** Rewrite the b term ($9x$) using these two factors
$= 2x(x + 3) + 3(x + 3)$	**8** Factorise the first two terms and the last two terms
$= (x + 3)(2x + 3)$	**9** $(x + 3)$ is a factor of both terms
So $\dfrac{x^2 - 4x - 21}{2x^2 + 9x + 9} = \dfrac{(x-7)(x+3)}{(x+3)(2x+3)}$ $= \dfrac{x-7}{2x+3}$	**10** $(x + 3)$ is a factor of both the numerator and denominator so cancels out as a value divided by itself is 1

Practice

Hint

Take the highest common factor outside the bracket.

1 Factorise.

a $6x^4y^3 - 10x^3y^4$ **b** $21a^3b^5 + 35a^5b^2$

c $25x^2y^2 - 10x^3y^2 + 15x^2y^3$

2 Factorise

a $x^2 + 7x + 12$ **b** $x^2 + 5x - 14$

c $x^2 - 11x + 30$ **d** $x^2 - 5x - 24$

e $x^2 - 7x - 18$ **f** $x^2 + x - 20$

g $x^2 - 3x - 40$ **h** $x^2 + 3x - 28$

3 Factorise

a $36x^2 - 49y^2$ **b** $4x^2 - 81y^2$

c $18a^2 - 200b^2c^2$

4 Factorise

a $2x^2 + x - 3$ **b** $6x^2 + 17x + 5$

c $2x^2 + 7x + 3$ **d** $9x^2 - 15x + 4$

e $10x^2 + 21x + 9$ **f** $12x^2 - 38x + 20$

5 Simplify the algebraic fractions.

a $\dfrac{2x^2 + 4x}{x^2 - x}$ **b** $\dfrac{x^2 + 3x}{x^2 + 2x - 3}$

c $\dfrac{x^2 - 2x - 8}{x^2 - 4x}$ **d** $\dfrac{x^2 - 5x}{x^2 - 25}$

e $\dfrac{x^2 - x - 12}{x^2 - 4x}$ **f** $\dfrac{2x^2 + 14x}{2x^2 + 4x - 70}$

6 Simplify

a $\dfrac{9x^2 - 16}{3x^2 + 17x - 28}$ **b** $\dfrac{2x^2 - 7x - 15}{3x^2 - 17x + 10}$

c $\dfrac{4 - 25x^2}{10x^2 - 11x - 6}$ **d** $\dfrac{6x^2 - x - 1}{2x^2 + 7x - 4}$

Extend

7 Simplify $\sqrt{x^2 + 10x + 25}$

8 Simplify $\dfrac{(x+2)^2 + 3(x+2)^2}{x^2 - 4}$