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Exponentials and Logarithms - Lesson 1

Exponentials, Logarithms and Logarithmic Rules

LI

- Know what a logarithm is and how it is related to an exponential.
- Know and use the Logarithmic Rules.

SC

- Rules of indices.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 a^b & = & c \\
 \updownarrow & & \\
 b & = & \log_a c
 \end{array}$$

'a to the power
of b equals c'

'b equals the base
a logarithm of c'

A logarithm is a power

Examples

$$2^3 = 8 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad 3 = \log_2 8$$

$$p^5 = 6 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad 5 = \log_p 6$$

$$4^x = y \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad x = \log_4 y$$

$$5 = \log_n 7 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad n^5 = 7$$

$$4 = \log_2 16 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad 2^4 = 16$$

$$w = \log_a x \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad a^w = x$$

Rules of Logarithms

$$\log_b (p \times q) = \log_b p + \log_b q$$

'multiplication goes to addition'

WARNING :

$$\log_b (p + q) \neq \log_b p + \log_b q$$

$$\log_b (p \div q) = \log_b p - \log_b q$$

'division goes to subtraction'

WARNING :

$$\log_b (p - q) \neq \log_b p - \log_b q$$

$$\log_b p^n = n \log_b p$$

'power goes down'

$$\log_b 1 = 0$$

'log one is zero'

$$\log_b b = 1$$

'log b b is one'

These 5 rules are derived from
the corresponding rules
of indices

Example 1

Simplify $\log_7 3 + \log_7 21$.

$$\begin{aligned}\log_7 3 + \log_7 21 &= \log_7 3 + \log_7 (3 \times 7) \\ &= \log_7 3 + \log_7 3 + \log_7 7 \\ &= 2 \log_7 3 + 1\end{aligned}$$

Example 2

Simplify $(1/3) \log_2 8 - (1/5) \log_2 32$.

$$(1/3) \log_2 8 - (1/5) \log_2 32$$

$$= (1/3) \log_2 2^3 - (1/5) \log_2 2^5$$

$$= (1/3 \times 3) \log_2 2 - (1/5 \times 5) \log_2 2$$

$$= \log_2 2 - \log_2 2$$

$$= \boxed{0}$$

Example 3

Simplify $2 \log_3 9 + \log_3 27 - 4 \log_3 81$.

$$\begin{aligned} & 2 \log_3 9 + \log_3 27 - 4 \log_3 81 \\ &= 2 \log_3 3^2 + \log_3 3^3 - 4 \log_3 3^4 \\ &= 4 \log_3 3 + 3 \log_3 3 - 16 \log_3 3 \\ &= -9 \log_3 3 \\ &= -9 (1) \\ &= \boxed{-9} \end{aligned}$$

Example 4

If $\log_a y = \log_a 7 + 4 \log_a x$,
express y in terms of x .

$$\log_a y = \log_a 7 + 4 \log_a x$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_a y = \log_a 7 + \log_a x^4$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_a y = \log_a (7 x^4)$$

\therefore

$$y = 7 x^4$$

Example 5

If $\log_F w = \log_F r - 17 \log_F N$,
express w in terms of r and N .

$$\log_F w = \log_F r - 17 \log_F N$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_F w = \log_F r - \log_F N^{17}$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_F w = \log_F (r / N^{17})$$

$$\therefore \boxed{w = r / N^{17}}$$

CfE Higher Maths

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