



# Calculating with Surds

REVISE THIS  
TOPIC

1 Express  $\sqrt{12}$  in its simplest form.

$$\sqrt{12} = \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{3}$$

$$2\sqrt{3}$$

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Express  $\sqrt{50}$  in its simplest form.

$$\sqrt{50} = \sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{2}$$

$$5\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 Express  $\sqrt{500}$  in its simplest form.

$$\sqrt{500} = \sqrt{100} \times \sqrt{5}$$

$$10\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

4 Express  $\sqrt{27}$  in its simplest form.

$$\sqrt{27} = \sqrt{9} \times \sqrt{3}$$

$$3\sqrt{3}$$

(Total for Question 4 is 1 mark)

5 Express  $\sqrt{98}$  in its simplest form.

$$\sqrt{98} = \sqrt{49} \times \sqrt{2}$$

$$7\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

6 Express  $\sqrt{48}$  in its simplest form.

$$\sqrt{48} = \sqrt{16} \times \sqrt{3}$$

$$4\sqrt{3}$$

(Total for Question 6 is 1 mark)





7 Express  $5\sqrt{8}$  in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} & 5 \times \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{2} \\ & = 5 \times 2 \times \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$10\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

8 Express  $4\sqrt{18}$  in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} & 4 \times \sqrt{9} \times \sqrt{2} \\ & = 4 \times 3 \times \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$12\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

9 Express  $2\sqrt{200}$  in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} & 2 \times \sqrt{100} \times \sqrt{2} \\ & = 2 \times 10 \times \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$20\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 9 is 1 mark)

10 Express  $9\sqrt{20}$  in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} & 9 \times \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{5} \\ & = 9 \times 2 \times \sqrt{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$18\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for Question 10 is 1 mark)

11 Express  $7\sqrt{640}$  in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} & 7 \times \sqrt{64} \times \sqrt{10} \\ & = 7 \times 8 \times \sqrt{10} \end{aligned}$$

$$56\sqrt{10}$$

(Total for Question 11 is 1 mark)

12 Express  $5\sqrt{80}$  in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} & 5 \times \sqrt{16} \times \sqrt{5} \\ & = 5 \times 4 \times \sqrt{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$20\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for Question 12 is 1 mark)

13 Express  $3\sqrt{72}$  in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} & 3 \times \sqrt{36} \times \sqrt{2} \\ & = 3 \times 6 \times \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$18\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 13 is 1 mark)



14 Work out  $\sqrt{6} \times \sqrt{3}$  giving your answer in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{18} &= \sqrt{9} \times \sqrt{2} \\ &= 3 \times \sqrt{2}\end{aligned}$$

$$3\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 14 is 2 marks)

15 Work out  $\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{6}$  giving your answer in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{60} &= \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{15} \\ &= 2 \times \sqrt{15}\end{aligned}$$

$$2\sqrt{15}$$

(Total for Question 15 is 2 marks)

16 Work out  $2\sqrt{5} \times 5\sqrt{8}$  giving your answer in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned}10\sqrt{40} &= 10 \times \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{10} \\ &= 10 \times 2 \times \sqrt{10}\end{aligned}$$

$$20\sqrt{10}$$

(Total for Question 16 is 2 marks)

17 Work out  $4\sqrt{2} \times 2\sqrt{12}$  giving your answer in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned}8\sqrt{24} &= 8 \times \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{6} \\ &= 8 \times 2 \times \sqrt{6}\end{aligned}$$

$$16\sqrt{6}$$

(Total for Question 17 is 2 marks)

18 Work out  $2\sqrt{20} \times 3\sqrt{5}$  giving your answer as an integer.

$$6\sqrt{100} = 6 \times 10$$

$$60$$

(Total for Question 18 is 2 marks)





19 Work out  $(\sqrt{6})^2$  giving your answer as an integer.

$$\sqrt{6} \times \sqrt{6} = \sqrt{36}$$

6

(Total for Question 19 is 2 marks)

20 Work out  $(\sqrt{5})^4$  giving your answer as an integer.

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

25

(Total for Question 20 is 2 marks)

21 Work out  $(2\sqrt{3})^3$  giving your answer in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} 2\sqrt{3} \times 2\sqrt{3} \times 2\sqrt{3} &= 8\sqrt{27} \\ &= 8 \times \sqrt{9} \times \sqrt{3} \\ &= 8 \times 3 \times \sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

$24\sqrt{3}$

(Total for Question 21 is 2 marks)

22 Work out  $(\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{5})^2$  giving your answer as an integer.

$$(\sqrt{30})^2 = \sqrt{30} \times \sqrt{30}$$

30

(Total for Question 22 is 2 marks)

23 Express  $(\sqrt{3})^7$  in the form  $a\sqrt{3}$ , where  $a$  is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3} \\ &= 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times \sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

$27\sqrt{3}$

(Total for Question 23 is 2 marks)



24 Work out  $\sqrt{60} \div \sqrt{3}$  giving your answer in its simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{20} &= \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{5} \\ &= 2 \times \sqrt{5}\end{aligned}$$

$$2\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for Question 24 is 2 marks)

25 Work out  $8\sqrt{30} \div 4\sqrt{6}$  giving your answer in its simplest form.

$$2\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for Question 25 is 1 mark)

26 Simplify fully  $\frac{18\sqrt{150}}{9\sqrt{3}}$

$$\begin{aligned}2\sqrt{50} &= 2 \times \sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{2} \\ &= 2 \times 5 \times \sqrt{2}\end{aligned}$$

$$10\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 26 is 2 marks)

27 Simplify fully  $\frac{40\sqrt{40}}{5\sqrt{10}}$

$$8\sqrt{4} = 8 \times 2$$

$$16$$

(Total for Question 27 is 2 marks)

28 Simplify fully  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{5}}\right)^2$

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{5}}\right)^2 = \sqrt{\frac{2}{5}} \times \sqrt{\frac{2}{5}}$$

$$\frac{2}{5}$$

(Total for Question 28 is 2 marks)





29 Simplify  $\sqrt{11} + \sqrt{11} + \sqrt{11}$

$$3\sqrt{11}$$

(Total for Question 29 is 1 mark)

30 Simplify  $3\sqrt{5} + 6\sqrt{5}$

$$9\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for Question 30 is 1 mark)

31 Simplify  $9\sqrt{7} + 3\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{7}$

$$11\sqrt{7}$$

(Total for Question 31 is 1 mark)

32 Work out  $(\sqrt{2} + 6\sqrt{2} - 2\sqrt{2})^2$  giving your answer as an integer.

$$\begin{aligned}(5\sqrt{2})^2 &= 5\sqrt{2} \times 5\sqrt{2} \\ &= 25\sqrt{4}\end{aligned}$$

$$50$$

(Total for Question 32 is 2 marks)

33 Simplify  $\underline{4\sqrt{3}} + \underline{6\sqrt{2}} - \underline{\sqrt{3}} + \underline{8\sqrt{2}}$

$$3\sqrt{3} + 14\sqrt{2}$$

$$3\sqrt{3} + 14\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 33 is 2 marks)



34 Express  $\sqrt{18} + \sqrt{2}$  in the form  $a\sqrt{2}$ , where  $a$  is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{9} \times \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{2} \\ &= 3\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$4\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 34 is 2 marks)

35 Express  $2\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{75}$  in the form  $a\sqrt{3}$ , where  $a$  is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & 2\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{3} \\ &= 2\sqrt{3} + 5\sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$7\sqrt{3}$$

(Total for Question 35 is 2 marks)

36 Express  $\sqrt{32} + \sqrt{8}$  in the form  $a\sqrt{2}$ , where  $a$  is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{16} \times \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{2} \\ &= 4\sqrt{2} + 2\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$6\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for Question 36 is 3 marks)

37 Express  $3\sqrt{500} - \sqrt{20}$  in the form  $a\sqrt{5}$ , where  $a$  is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & 3 \times \sqrt{100} \times \sqrt{5} - \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{5} \\ &= 30\sqrt{5} - 2\sqrt{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$28\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for Question 37 is 3 marks)

38 Express  $\sqrt{28} + \sqrt{175} - 3\sqrt{7}$  in the form  $a\sqrt{7}$ , where  $a$  is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{7} + \sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{7} - 3\sqrt{7} \\ &= 2\sqrt{7} + 5\sqrt{7} - 3\sqrt{7} \end{aligned}$$

$$4\sqrt{7}$$

(Total for Question 38 is 3 marks)





39 Ross is doing a surds question.

Ross writes:

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{300} + \sqrt{12} &= \sqrt{312} \\ &= \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{78} \\ &= 2 \times \sqrt{78} \\ &= 2\sqrt{78}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{300} + \sqrt{12} \\ &= \sqrt{100} \times \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{3} \\ &= 10\sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{3} \\ &= 12\sqrt{3}\end{aligned}$$

Explain the mistake that Ross has made

You cannot add  $\sqrt{300}$  and  $\sqrt{12}$  as they do not have the same number inside the root.  
Ross should simplify them first.

(Total for Question 39 is 1 mark)

40 Work out  $\frac{\sqrt{30} \times 5\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{125} - \sqrt{20}}$  giving your answer as an integer.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{5\sqrt{180}}{\sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{5} - \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{5}} &= \frac{5 \times \sqrt{36} \times \sqrt{5}}{5\sqrt{5} - 2\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{5 \times 6 \times \sqrt{5}}{3\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{30\cancel{\sqrt{5}}}{3\cancel{\sqrt{5}}}\end{aligned}$$

10

(Total for Question 40 is 4 marks)

