

Chapter - 6 Indices / Exponents

$$a = x^m \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Exponent of power} \\ \text{Base of power} \end{array}$$

'a' is mth power of x

x^m is exponential form of 'a'

Indices :-

For any real number 'a' and positive integer m, we define :- $axaxa \dots$ to m factors $= a^m$

OR $xxxxx \dots$ to m factors $= x^m$

→ The plural of index is indices

We define, $a^0 = 1$ and $a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$

Example :- (i) $3^0 = 1$, $\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^0 = 1$

$$(ii) 2^{-5} = \frac{1}{2^5} = \frac{1}{32}$$

Fractional Indices

The nth root is denoted by $\sqrt[n]{a}$ or $a^{\frac{1}{n}}$

$$\text{If } \sqrt[n]{a} = x \Rightarrow a^{\frac{1}{n}} = x \Rightarrow a = x^n$$

$$\text{Example :- } \sqrt{9} = 9^{\frac{1}{2}} = (3^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = 3$$

$$\sqrt[3]{8} = 8^{\frac{1}{3}} = (2^3)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 2$$

Note :- $(-9)^{\frac{1}{2}}$, $(-16)^{\frac{1}{4}}$, $(-64)^{\frac{1}{8}}$ are not defined

For any rational number $\frac{p}{q}$, we define

$$a^{\frac{p}{q}} = \left(a^{\frac{1}{q}}\right)^p = \left(a^p\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} = \sqrt[q]{a^p}$$

Laws of Indices

For all real numbers 'a' and 'b' and all rational numbers 'm' and 'n', we have :-

$$(i) a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$$

$$(ii) \frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}, a \neq 0$$

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

$$(iv) (ab)^n = a^n b^n$$

$$(v) \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}, b \neq 0$$

$$(vi) a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}, a \neq 0$$

$$(vii) \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{-n} = \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^n$$

$$(viii) a^m = a^n \Rightarrow m = n, \text{ where } a > 0, a \neq 1$$

$$(ix) a^m = b^m, m \neq 0 \Rightarrow a = b, \text{ where 'a' and 'b' are positive}$$

$$(x) p^m \times q^n \times r^s = p^a q^b r^c$$

$$\Rightarrow m = a, n = b, s = c$$

where p, q, r are different primes

Example:- Simplify $\frac{5^{n+3} - 6 \times 5^{n+1}}{9 \times 5^n - 2^2 \times 5^n}$

$$\frac{5^{n+3} - 6 \times 5^{n+1}}{9 \times 5^n - 2^2 \times 5^n} = \frac{5^2 \times 5^{n+1} - 6 \times 5^{n+1}}{9 \times 5^n - 4 \times 5^n}$$

$$= \frac{25 \times 5^{n+1} - 6 \times 5^{n+1}}{9 \times 5^n - 4 \times 5^n}$$

$$= \frac{5^{n+1} \times (25 - 6)}{5^n \times (9 - 4)} = \frac{19 \times 5^{n+1}}{5 \times 5^n} = \frac{19 \times 5^{n+1}}{5^{n+1}} = 19$$

Example 2:- Solve

$$(i) \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{1-2x}} = 4\left(\frac{17}{27}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{1-2x}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{125}{27} \Rightarrow \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{\frac{1-2x}{2}} = \frac{125}{27}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}-x} = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^3 \Rightarrow \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}-x} = \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{-3}$$

Since base is same, so we compare powers

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} - x = -3 \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{2} + 3 = 3.5$$

$$(ii) \sqrt{\left(5^0 + \frac{2}{3}\right)} = (0.6)^{2-3x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{2}{3}\right)} = \left(\frac{6}{10}\right)^{2-3x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{2-3x} \Rightarrow \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^{-2+3x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = -2 + 3x \Rightarrow 3x = \frac{1}{2} + 2 \Rightarrow 3x = \frac{5}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{5}{6} \quad \text{Hence, } x = \frac{5}{6} \text{ is the solution of}$$

the given equation.