YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Student Life

Library and Learning Services

Laws of indices Study Development Worksheet

Example

Simplify $x^3 \div x^{\frac{2}{3}}$.

Answer

 $x^3 \div x^{\frac{2}{3}} = x^{\left(3-\frac{2}{3}\right)} = x^{\frac{7}{3}} \left(= \sqrt[3]{x^7}\right)$

Questions

Simplify:

1. $x^2 \times x^5$ 2. $y^3 \times y^{\frac{1}{3}}$ 3. $a^4 \div a^2$ 4. $b^6 \times b^2 \div b^3$ 5. $(c^{-1})^3$ 6. $d^{-\frac{1}{2}} \times d^{\frac{1}{2}}$ 7. $(z^{-2})^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

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Answers

1. $x^{2} \times x^{5} = x^{(2+5)} = x^{7}$ 2. $y^{3} \times y^{\frac{1}{3}} = y^{\left(3+\frac{1}{3}\right)} = y^{\frac{10}{3}} \left(= \sqrt[3]{y^{10}}\right)$ 3. $a^{4} \div a^{2} = a^{4-2} = a^{2}$ 4. $b^{6} \times b^{2} \div b^{3} = b^{(6+2-3)} = b^{5}$ 5. $(c^{-1})^{3} = c^{(-1)\times 3} = c^{-3} \left(= \frac{1}{c^{3}}\right)$ 6. $d^{-\frac{1}{2}} \times d^{\frac{1}{2}} = d^{\left(-\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}\right)} = d^{0} = 1$

7.
$$(z^{-2})^{-\frac{1}{2}} = z^{(-2) \times (-\frac{1}{2})} = z^1 = z$$

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