

## SURDS

$\sqrt[n]{a}$  is called a surd or radical.

- (i) What is 'a' called?
1. (ii) What is 'n' called?
- (iii) What condition must 'a' satisfy?
- (iv) What condition must 'n' satisfy?
2. (i) Give an example of a pure surd.
- (ii) Give an example of a mixed surd.
3. Express in simplest form:
  - (i)  $\sqrt[5]{1458}$
  - (ii)  $2\sqrt[3]{270}$
  - (iii)  $\sqrt[4]{\frac{16}{27}}$
4. Express as a pure surd:
  - (i)  $2\sqrt[3]{5}$
  - (ii)  $\frac{3}{4}\sqrt{32}$
  - (iii)  $a\sqrt{a+b}$
  - (iv)  $a\sqrt[3]{b^2}$
5. Convert  $\sqrt[4]{3}$  and  $\sqrt[5]{2}$  into surds of the same but smallest order.
6. Arrange the following surds in increasing order:  
 $\sqrt[3]{2}$ ,  $\sqrt[5]{3}$ ,  $\sqrt[2]{4}$
7. Find the rationalising factor of:  
 $\sqrt[3]{32}$ ,  $\sqrt[5]{a^2b^3c^4}$
8. Simplify the following by rationalizing the denominator:
  - (i)  $\frac{6}{\sqrt{3}}$
  - (ii)  $\frac{\sqrt[3]{3}}{2\sqrt[3]{5}}$
9. If  $\sqrt{5} = 2.236$  and  $\sqrt{10} = 3.162$ , find  $\frac{\sqrt{10} - \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{2}}$ .
10. Express  $\frac{1}{5 + \sqrt{6}}$  with a rational denominator.
11. Let  $\frac{\sqrt[3]{6} - \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt[3]{5} - 2\sqrt{6}} = a + \sqrt{30}b$ , find a and b.
12. Simplify:  $\frac{7\sqrt{3}}{(\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{3})} - \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{(\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{5})} - \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{(\sqrt{15} + 3\sqrt{2})}$
13. Express each of the following with a rational denominator:
  - (i)  $\frac{1}{1 - \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}}$
  - (ii)  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{5}}$
14. If  $x = \frac{\sqrt{3} + 1}{\sqrt{3} - 1}$  and  $y = \frac{\sqrt{3} - 1}{\sqrt{3} + 1}$ , find the value of
  - (i)  $x^2 + y^2$
  - (ii)  $x^3 + y^3$