

Indices and Factors

Learning objectives

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The work in this unit focuses on the use of indices to simplify algebraic expression and its applications for expressing numbers in standard form (sometimes known as scientific notation).

After completing this unit you should

- be familiar with the notation for square, square root, cube and cube root
- be able to extend this concept to negative and fractional powers
- understand and be able to use the rules of indices
- understand what is meant by a factor
- be able to express any positive integer as a product of prime factors
- be able to find the highest common factor (HCF) and lowest common multiple (LCM) of two positive integers.