

## Prime Factors Problems

**Time: 1 hour and 25 minutes**

Score: \_\_\_\_/84

**Surname:** .....

**Other names:** .....

Mark Scheme and revision available:  
[www.advancemaths.com/revision/primefactors](http://www.advancemaths.com/revision/primefactors)



### Instructions

- Use black ink or ball-point pen.
- Answer all questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
- If blank paper is used, write down the question's number
- You must show all your working out.

### Information

- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- Blank paper is provided at the end if extra space is needed.
- The questions are arranged in order of increasing difficulty.

### Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

1) Prime Factorise these numbers:

$12 = 2^2 \times 3$

$15 = 3 \times 5$

$18 = 2 \times 3^2$

$19 = 19$

$40 = 2^3 \times 5$

$100 = 2^2 \times 5^2$

$190 = 2 \times 5 \times 19$

$400 = 2^4 \times 5^2$

$1000 = 2^3 \times 5^3$

$125 = 5^3$

$250 = 2 \times 5^3$

$84 = 2^2 \times 3 \times 7$

(12)

2) Find the highest common factor of the following pairs:

a) 12 and 15

$2^2 \times 3 \quad 3 \times 5$

Choose the smallest power from the primes that they share, then multiply.

$3$

(2)

b) 40 and 12

$2^3 \times 5 \quad 2^2 \times 3$

$4$

(2)

c) 1000 and 700

$2^3 \times 5^3 \quad 2^2 \times 5^2 \times 7$

$2^2 \times 5^2 = 100$

(2)

d) 36 and 48

$2^2 \times 3^2 \quad 2^4 \times 3$

$2^2 \times 3 = 12$

(2)

e) 700 and 280

$2^2 \times 5^2 \times 7 \quad 2^3 \times 5 \times 7$

$2^2 \times 5 \times 7 = 140$

(2)

f) 640 and 480

$2^7 \times 5 \quad 2^5 \times 3 \times 5$

$2^5 \times 5 = 160$

(2)

3) Find the lowest common multiple of the following pairs on numbers:

*Choose the highest power of every prime in either prime factorisation, then multiply.*

a) 12 and 15

$$2^2 \times 3 \quad 3 \times 5$$

$$\underline{2^2 \times 3 \times 5 = 60} \quad (2)$$

b) 40 and 13

$$2^3 \times 5 \quad 13$$

$$\underline{2^3 \times 5 \times 13 = 520} \quad (2)$$

c) 1000 and 700

$$2^3 \times 5^3 \quad 2^2 \times 5^2 \times 7$$

$$\underline{2^3 \times 5^3 \times 7 = 7000} \quad (2)$$

d) 36 and 48

$$2^2 \times 3^2 \quad 2^4 \times 3$$

$$\underline{2^4 \times 3^2 = 144} \quad (2)$$

e) 700 and 280

$$2^2 \times 5^2 \times 7 \quad 2^3 \times 5 \times 7$$

$$\underline{2^3 \times 5^2 \times 7 = 1400} \quad (2)$$

f) 640 and 480

$$2^7 \times 5 \quad 2^4 \times 3$$

$$\underline{2^7 \times 3 \times 5 = 1920} \quad (2)$$

4) Find the lowest common multiple of the following sets of numbers:

a) 12, 15 and 18

$$2^2 \times 3 \quad 3 \times 5 \quad 2 \times 3^2$$

$$\underline{2^2 \times 5 \times 3^2 = 180} \quad (3)$$

b) 400, 800 and 120

$$2^4 \times 5^2 \quad 2^5 \times 5^2 \quad 2^3 \times 3 \times 5$$

$$\underline{2^5 \times 3 \times 5^2 = 2400} \quad (3)$$

5) Consider  $A = 2^3 \times 5^x \times 7^8$

Write the following as products of their prime factors:

a)  $15A =$

$$\underline{2^3 \times 3 \times 5^{x+1} \times 7^8} \quad (2)$$

b)  $4A =$

$$\underline{2^5 \times 5^x \times 7^8} \quad (2)$$

c)  $A^3 =$

$$\underline{2^9 \times 5^{3x} \times 7^{24}} \quad (2)$$

d)  $\frac{3A}{7} =$

$$\underline{2^3 \times 3 \times 5^x \times 7^7} \quad (2)$$

- 6) Consider  $A = 2^m \times 3^n \times 5^2 \times 7$  and  $B = 2 \times 3^n \times 5^4 \times 11$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are integers larger than 2.

Write the following as products of their prime factors:

a)  $AB =$

$$\underline{2^{m+1} \times 3^{2n} \times 5^6 \times 7 \times 11} \quad (2)$$

b)  $2AB^2 =$

$$\underline{2^{m+3} \times 3^{3n} \times 5^{10} \times 7 \times 11^2} \quad (3)$$

- c) The highest common factor of A and B

$$\underline{2 \times 3^n \times 5^2} \quad (2)$$

- d) The lowest common multiple of A and B

$$\underline{2^m \times 3^n \times 5^4 \times 7 \times 11} \quad (2)$$

7) Consider  $A = 2^{10} \times 3^{20} \times 5^{30}$

Write the following as products of their prime factors:

a)  $10A =$

$$\underline{2^{11} \times 3^{20} \times 5^{31}} \quad (2)$$

b)  $\sqrt{A} =$

$$\underline{2^5 \times 3^{10} \times 5^{15}} \quad (2)$$

c)  $\sqrt{81A}$

$$\underline{2^5 \times 3^{12} \times 5^{15}} \quad (2)$$

d)  $\sqrt[5]{A}$

$$\underline{2^2 \times 3^4 \times 5^6} \quad (2)$$

- 8a) Write  $2^{12} \times 3^3 \times 5^{11}$  in standard form.  
Show your working.

$$2 \times 3^3 \times 2^{11} \times 5^{11}$$

$$54 \times 10^{11} = 5.4 \times 10^{12}$$

$$\underline{5.4 \times 10^{12}} \quad (3)$$

- b) The number of radioactive atoms in a sample of in a sample is  $7.5 \times 10^{28}$ .

$$75 \times 10^{27}$$

$$3 \times 5^2 \times 2^{27} \times 5^{27}$$

$$\underline{2^{27} \times 3 \times 5^{29}} \quad (3)$$

- c) It is estimated that there are about  $3.15 \times 10^{79}$  protons in the universe.

Write this number as a product of its prime factors.

$$315 \times 10^{77}$$

$$3^2 \times 5 \times 7 \times 2^{77} \times 5^{77}$$

$$\underline{2^{77} \times 3^2 \times 5^{78} \times 7} \quad (3)$$



9) Consider the number  $N = 3^4 \times 5^6 \times 13^8$

a) Fred multiplies  $N$  by a number to make it even.

i) What is the smallest number Fred could have chosen?

*Write your answer as an integer.*

ii) Explain your answer.

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The number  $N$  is odd. You can make  
it even by doubling it. (2)

b) Milly multiplies  $N$  by a number to make it a multiple of 42.

i) What is the smallest number Milly could have chosen?

*Write your answer as an integer.*

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ii) Explain your answer.

Multiples of 42 must have prime factors  
of at least  $2 \times 3 \times 7$ . (2)  
Hence we need  $2 \times 7$ .

Question 9 Continued

$$N = 3^4 \times 5^6 \times 13^8$$

c) Ahmed multiplies  $N$  by a number to make it a square number.

i) What is the smallest number Ahmed could have chosen?  
*Write your answer as an integer.*

$$N = (3^2 \times 5^3 \times 13^4)^2$$

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ii) Explain your answer.

It is already square because of  
prime powers are even. (2)

d) Abby multiplies  $N$  by a number to make it a cube number.

i) What is the smallest number Abby could have chosen?  
*Write your answer as an integer.*

$$3^2 \times 13$$

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ii) Explain your answer.

We need to make all the powers  
into multiples of 3. (2)



