

Unit 1: Review – Integers & Rationals [NO CALCULATORS]

1.5 Rationals: Multiplication & Division

- Do **NOT** need a common denominator to multiply or divide
- Can **NOT** easily multiply or divide in mixed number form – change to improper

Multiplication

- Cancel (divide) common factors from numerator/denominator pairs and then multiply straight across

Ex. Evaluate:

$$\text{a) } \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{4}$$

$$= \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\text{b) } \frac{5}{12} \times \frac{3}{20}$$

$$= \frac{3}{16}$$

$$\text{c) } \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{16}{1}$$

$$= \frac{12}{1}$$

$$= 12$$

Ex. Evaluate:

$$\text{a) } 2\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$$

$$= \frac{5}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$$

$$= \frac{15}{8}$$

OR $1\frac{7}{8}$

$$\text{b) } 2 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$$

$$= \frac{2}{1} \times \frac{15}{4}$$

$$= \frac{15}{2}$$

OR $7\frac{1}{2}$

$$\text{c) } 5\frac{1}{3} \times 2\frac{1}{10}$$

$$= \frac{16}{3} \times \frac{21}{10}$$

$$= \frac{56}{5}$$

OR $11\frac{1}{5}$

Reciprocals

- The reciprocal of a fraction switches the numerator & denominator

"flip" the fraction

Ex. State the reciprocal of each:

$$\text{a) } \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\frac{3}{2}$$

$$\text{b) } \frac{1}{5}$$

$$5$$

$$\text{c) } \frac{6}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

Division

- Change division to multiplication by the reciprocal

Ex. Evaluate:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } \frac{3}{4} \div \frac{5}{2} \\ = \frac{3}{\cancel{4}^2} \times \frac{\cancel{2}^1}{5} \\ = \boxed{\frac{3}{10}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } 3\frac{1}{2} \div 5\frac{1}{4} \\ = \frac{7}{2} \div \frac{21}{4} \\ = \frac{\cancel{7}^1}{\cancel{2}^1} \times \frac{\cancel{4}^2}{\cancel{21}_{\cancel{3}}^7} \\ = \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \end{aligned}$$

* reciprocal of
the divisor (after $\div$)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } 5 \div 3\frac{1}{3} \\ = \frac{5}{1} \div \frac{10}{3} \\ = \frac{\cancel{5}^1}{1} \times \frac{3}{\cancel{10}_2^5} \\ = \boxed{\frac{3}{2} \text{ or } 1\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$