Surds Worksheet Solutions

1   Write $\sqrt{48}$ in the form $k\sqrt{3}$, where k is an integer.

$$\sqrt{48} = \sqrt{16 \times 3} = 4\sqrt{3}$$

…........................

(Total for question 1 is 2 marks)

2   Write $\sqrt{50}$ in the form $k\sqrt{2}$, where k is an integer.

$$\sqrt{50} = \sqrt{25 \times 2} = 5\sqrt{2}$$

…........................

(Total for question 2 is 2 marks)

3   Write $5\sqrt{27}$ in the form $k\sqrt{3}$, where k is an integer.

$$5\sqrt{27} = 5\sqrt{9 \times 3} = 5 \times 3\sqrt{3} = 15\sqrt{3}$$

…........................

(Total for question 3 is 2 marks)

4   Write $7\sqrt{20}$ in the form $k\sqrt{5}$, where k is an integer.

$$7\sqrt{20} = 7\sqrt{4 \times 5} = 7 \times 2\sqrt{5} = 14\sqrt{5}$$

…........................

(Total for question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Expand and Simplify $(2 + \sqrt{3})(2 - \sqrt{3})$

$$= 2^2 - \sqrt{3}^2$$
$$= 4 - 3$$
$$= 1$$

OR

$$= 4 + 2\sqrt{3} - 2\sqrt{3} - 3$$
$$= 1$$

(Total for question 5 is 2 marks)

6 Write $(3 + \sqrt{5})^2$ in the form $a + b\sqrt{5}$, where a and b are integers.

$$9 + 6\sqrt{5} + 5$$
$$= 14 + 6\sqrt{5}$$

(Total for question 6 is 2 marks)

7 Expand and Simplify $(2 + \sqrt{5})(1 - \sqrt{5})$

$$= 2 + \sqrt{5} - 2\sqrt{5} - 5$$
$$= -3 - \sqrt{5}$$

(Total for question 7 is 2 marks)

8 Write $(3 - \sqrt{2})^2$ in the form $a + b\sqrt{2}$, where a and b are integers.

$$= 3^2 - 6\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{2}^2$$
$$= 9 - 6\sqrt{2} + 2$$
$$= 11 - 6\sqrt{2}$$

OR $(3 - \sqrt{2})(3 - \sqrt{2})$
$$= 9 - 3\sqrt{2} - 3\sqrt{2} + 2$$
$$= 11 - 6\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for question 8 is 2 marks)

9 Expand and Simplify $(2 + \sqrt{3})^2 - (2 - \sqrt{3})^2$

$$(4 + 4\sqrt{3} + 3) - (4 - 4\sqrt{3} + 3)$$

$$= (7 + 4\sqrt{3}) - (7 - 4\sqrt{3})$$

$$= 7 + 4\sqrt{3} - 7 + 4\sqrt{3}$$

$$= 8\sqrt{3}$$

....

(Total for question 9 is 2 marks)

10 Rationalise the denominator $\dfrac{6}{\sqrt{3}}$ $= \dfrac{6}{\sqrt{3}} \times \dfrac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \dfrac{6\sqrt{3}}{3} = 2\sqrt{3}$

....

(Total for question 10 is 2 marks)

11 Rationalise the denominator $\dfrac{x}{\sqrt{x}}$ $= \sqrt{x}$

....

(Total for question 11 is 2 marks)

12 Rationalise the denominator $\dfrac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{2}}$

$$= \dfrac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{2}} \times \dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}} = \dfrac{\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{10}}{2}$$

....

(Total for question 12 is 2 marks)

13 Simplify $\dfrac{(3+\sqrt{6})}{\sqrt{3}}$

$$= \frac{(3+\sqrt{6})}{\sqrt{3}} \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{18}}{3}$$

$$= \frac{3\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{9\times 2}}{3}$$

$$= \frac{3\sqrt{3}+3\sqrt{2}}{3}$$

$$= \sqrt{3}+\sqrt{2}$$

(Total for question 13 is 3 marks)

14 Simplify fully $\dfrac{(4+2\sqrt{3})(4-2\sqrt{3})}{\sqrt{11}}$

You must show all your working.

$$= \frac{16+8\sqrt{3}-8\sqrt{3}-12}{\sqrt{11}}$$

$$= \frac{4}{\sqrt{11}}$$

$$= \frac{4}{\sqrt{11}} \times \frac{\sqrt{11}}{\sqrt{11}} = \frac{4\sqrt{11}}{11}$$

(Total for question 14 is 3 marks)

15 Show that $\dfrac{5 + 2\sqrt{3}}{2 + \sqrt{3}}$ can be written as $4 - \sqrt{3}$

$$= \frac{5 + 2\sqrt{3}}{2 + \sqrt{3}} \times \frac{2 - \sqrt{3}}{2 - \sqrt{3}}$$

$$= \frac{10 + 4\sqrt{3} - 5\sqrt{3} - 6}{2^2 - \sqrt{3}^2}$$

$$= \frac{4 - \sqrt{3}}{4 - 3} = 4 - \sqrt{3}$$

16 Show that $\dfrac{3\sqrt{3} + 3}{3 + \sqrt{3}}$ can be written as $\sqrt{3}$

$$= \frac{3\sqrt{3} + 3}{3 + \sqrt{3}} \times \frac{3 - \sqrt{3}}{3 - \sqrt{3}}$$

$$= \frac{9\sqrt{3} + 9 - 9 - 3\sqrt{3}}{3^2 - \sqrt{3}^2}$$

$$= \frac{6\sqrt{3}}{9 - 3} = \frac{6\sqrt{3}}{6} = \sqrt{3}$$

17 Show that $\dfrac{1}{\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \sqrt{2}}$ can be written as $\dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$

Multiply numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{2}$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \sqrt{2}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{1 + 2}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$$

(Total for question 17 is 3 marks)

18 Show that $\dfrac{2}{\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{3}} + 1}$ can be written as $3 - \sqrt{3}$

Multiply numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{3}$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} + 1\right)}$$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{1 + \sqrt{3}}$$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{1 + \sqrt{3}} \times \frac{1 - \sqrt{3}}{1 - \sqrt{3}} = \frac{2\sqrt{3} - 6}{1^2 - \sqrt{3}^2} = \frac{2\sqrt{3} - 6}{-2} = 3 - \sqrt{3}$$

(Total for question 18 is 3 marks)

19 Simplify fully $(\sqrt{a}+\sqrt{b})(\sqrt{a}-\sqrt{b})$

$$= \sqrt{a}^2 - \sqrt{b}^2$$

$$= a - b$$

or $$= a + \sqrt{ab} - \sqrt{ab} - b$$

$$= a - b$$

20 Simplify fully $(2a + \sqrt{b})^2$

$$= 4a^2 + 4a\sqrt{b} + b$$

$$(\text{first}^2 + \text{twice product} + \text{second}^2)$$

or $(2a + \sqrt{b})(2a + \sqrt{b})$

$$= 4a^2 + 2a\sqrt{b} + 2a\sqrt{b} + b$$

$$= 4a^2 + 4a\sqrt{b} + b$$