

MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
 UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY  
**SIMPLIFICATION**

**IMPORTANT CONCEPTS:**

**1. BODMAS rule:**

B - Bracket

O - Of

D - Division

M - Multiplication

A - Addition

S – Subtraction

**V – BODMAS:**

V = Virnaculum

Before applying BODMAS, apply V.

**2. Types of numbers:**

- Natural number – 1,2, 3....., $\infty$
- Whole number – 0,1,2,3,...  $\infty$
- Integer -  $> -\infty, \dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, \infty$
- Even number – 2,4,6,....
- Odd number – 1,3,5,7,...
- Prime number – 1 & itself (2,3,5,7,11,...)
- Composite number - If a number has more than two factors. Eg: 4,6,9,10,...

1 is neither prime nor composite.

**3. Divisibility rule:**

Rule 2: Ended by even number =  $(20/2) = 10$

Rule 3: Add given number, if that is divided by exactly 3 means divided by '3'

Eg:  $135 = 1+3+5 = 9/3 = 3$

Rule 4: Last two digits divided by four means like your number will be divided by four or lost two numbers or zero means divided by four.

Eg:  $200/4 = 50$  ;  $634/4 = 156$ .

Rule 5: End with 0 or 5.

Eg:  $50/5 = 10$  and  $65/5 = 13$ .

Rule 6: check condition of 2 or 3.

Eg:  $54 = 54/2 = 27$  and  $5+4 = 9/3 = 3$ .

Rule 7: Sum is divided by 9.

Eg:  $18 = 1+8 = 9/9 = 1$ .

#### 4. Square root:

- $1^2 = 1$
- $2^2 = 4$
- $3^2 = 9$
- $4^2 = 16$
- $5^2 = 25$
- $6^2 = 36$
- $7^2 = 49$
- $8^2 = 64$
- $9^2 = 81$
- $10^2 = 100$
- $11^2 = 121$
- $12^2 = 144$
- $13^2 = 169$
- $14^2 = 196$
- $15^2 = 225$
- $16^2 = 256$
- $17^2 = 289$
- $18^2 = 324$
- $19^2 = 361$

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

- $20^2 = 400$

**Cube root:**

- $1^3 = 1$
- $2^3 = 8$
- $3^3 = 27$
- $4^3 = 64$
- $5^3 = 125$
- $6^3 = 216$
- $7^3 = 343$
- $8^3 = 512$
- $9^3 = 729$
- $10^3 = 1000$
- $11^3 = 1331$
- $12^3 = 1728$
- $13^3 = 2197$
- $14^3 = 2744$
- $15^3 = 3375$
- $16^3 = 4096$
- $17^3 = 4913$
- $18^3 = 5832$
- $19^3 = 6859$
- $20^3 = 8000$



**FORMULA:**

$$1. (a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

$$2. (a-b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab$$

$$3. a^2 - b^2 = (a+b)(a-b)$$

$$4. a^2 + b^2 = (a+b)^2 - 2ab$$

$$= (a-b)^2 + 2ab$$

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM**  
**UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

5.  $(a+b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$
6.  $(a-b)^3 = a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3$
7.  $a^3 + b^3 = (a + b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$
8.  $a^3 - b^3 = (a - b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$
9.  $(a+b)^2 - (a-b)^2 = 4ab$
10.  $(a + b + c)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + 2ab + 2bc + 2ac$
11.  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 - 3abc = (a+b+c)(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - ab - bc - ac)$
12. If  $a+b+c=0$ , then  $a^3+b^3+c^3=3abc$
13.  $a^4 + a^2 + 1 = (a^2+a+1)(a^2-a+1)$
14.  $(a^4-b^4) = (a^2+b^2)(a+b)(a-b)$
15.  $a^8-b^8 = (a^4 + b^4)(a^2 + b^2)(a+b)(a-b)$
16.  $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$
17.  $\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$
18.  $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$
19.  $(ab) = a^x b^x$
20.  $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^x = \frac{a^x}{b^x}$
21.  $a^{\frac{1}{x}} = x\sqrt{a}$
22.  $(a+b)^2 + (a-b)^2 = 2(a^2+b^2)$
23.  $(a+b+c)^3 = a^3 + b^3 + c^3 + 3(a+b)(b+c)(c+a)$

**SHORTCUTS:**

1. If  $x + \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = a^2 - 2$
2.  $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = a$ , then  $x + \frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{(a+2)}$
3.  $x - \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^2 - \frac{1}{x^2} = a^2 + 2$

4.  $x^2 - \frac{1}{x^2} = a$ , then  $x + \frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{(a+2)}$

5.  $x + \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x - \frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{(a^2 - 4)}$

6.  $x - \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x + \frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{(a^2 + 4)}$

7.  $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = \left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right) \times \left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right)$

8.  $x + \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} = a^3 - 3a$

9.  $x - \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^3 - \frac{1}{x^3} = a^3 + 3a$

10.  $x + \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4} = (a^2)^2 - 2$

11.  $x - \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^4 - \frac{1}{x^4} = (a^2)^2 + 2$

12.  $x + \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^5 + \frac{1}{x^5} = a^5 - 5a^3 + a(5)$

13.  $x - \frac{1}{x} = a$ , then  $x^5 - \frac{1}{x^5} = a^5 + 5a^3 - a(5)$

14.  $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = a$ ,  $x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} = a^3 - 3a$

E.g:  $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = 23$

$23+2=25$

$23-2=21$

$a^3-3a = 5^3 - 3(5)$

$=125-15$

$=110$

15. To find the quadratic equation.

$$X^2 - (\alpha+\beta)x + \alpha\beta$$

16.  $\sqrt{\left(5 \sqrt{\left(5 \sqrt{\left(5 \sqrt{\dots}\right)}\right)}\right)} \dots \infty$

**MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM**  
**UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

$\infty$  and multiply = so given no is ans.

17. 
$$\sqrt{6 + \sqrt{6 + \sqrt{6 + \sqrt{6 + \dots}}}} = \infty$$

Consecutive numb is  $6 = 2 \times 3$

(+) is given so bigger numb is ans

(-) is given so small number is ans

18.  $x \sqrt{y \sqrt{z \sqrt{a}}} = xyz\sqrt{a}$

19.  $((a^x)^y)^z = a^{xyz}$

20.  $999 \frac{995}{999} 999$

995 = numerator + 1

999 = denominator - 1

AM = 998996

21.

$999 \frac{27}{28} 196$  → If numerator small  
 $\downarrow$   
 $196 \frac{000}{000}$  000 is for 999.

Then  $999 \frac{27}{28} 196 \Rightarrow \left( \frac{196}{28} \right) = 7$

so  $196 \frac{000}{000} - 7$  (numerator small (-))  
 AM - 195993.

**MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM**  
**UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

22.

$$999 \times \frac{5}{4} = 296 \rightarrow \text{if numerator } \underline{\text{big}}$$

296 000

Then  $999 \times \frac{5}{4} = 296 \rightarrow \frac{296}{4} = 74$

$$\begin{array}{r} 296000 \\ + 74 \\ \hline 296074 \end{array} \quad (\text{numerator big})$$

Ans - 296074.

23.



$$999 \times \frac{40}{47} = 47000 \rightarrow \text{same, so take 47}$$

Difference  $\Rightarrow$  numerator & denominator

$$999 \times \frac{40}{47} = 47 \rightarrow 7$$

Numerator small so (-).

$$\begin{array}{r} 47000 \\ - 7 \\ \hline 46993 \end{array}$$

Ans  $\rightarrow$  46993.

**MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

24.

$$\frac{999}{995} \quad \frac{999}{995} \times 995 \rightarrow \text{same}$$

995000

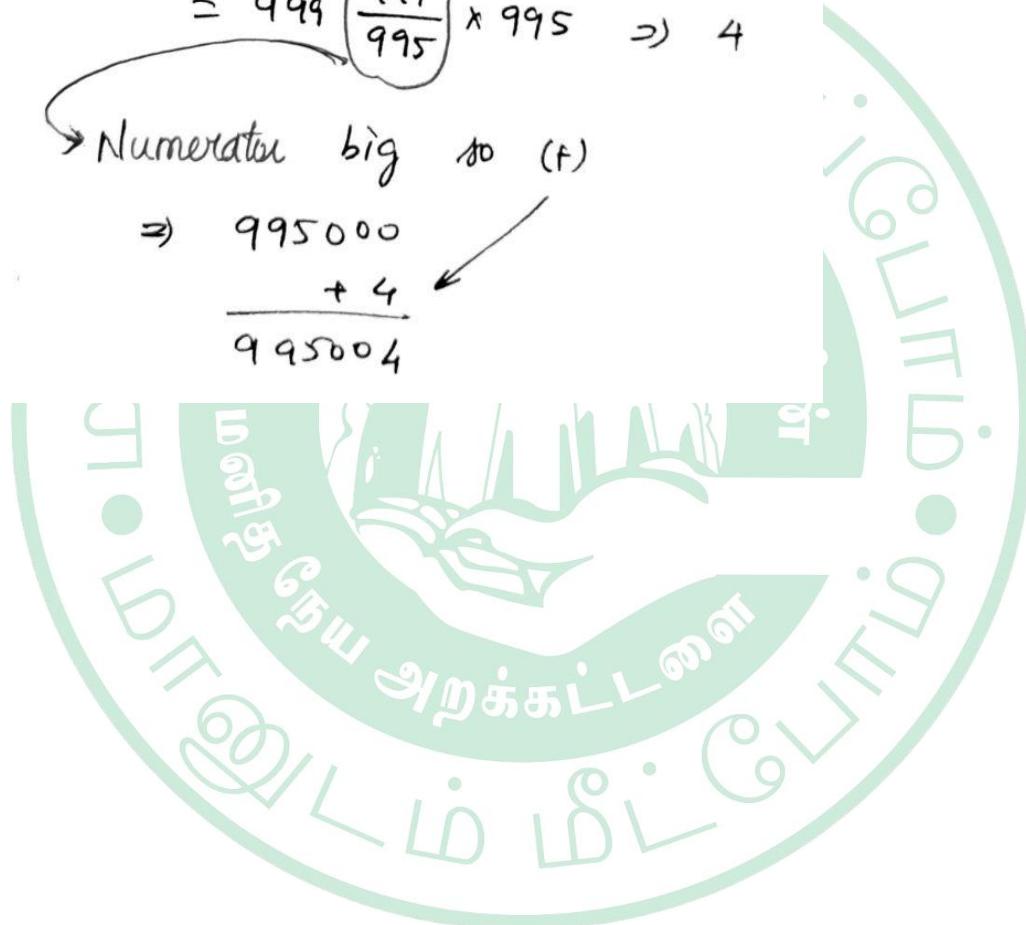
Difference  $\Rightarrow$  numerators denominator

$$= 999 \quad \frac{999}{995} \times 995 \Rightarrow 4$$

$\rightarrow$  Numerator big so (+)

$$\Rightarrow 995000$$

$$\begin{array}{r} + 4 \\ \hline 995004 \end{array}$$



MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

**Problems:**

1. If  $\sqrt{y} = 6x$ , then  $\frac{x^2}{y}$  is

- a. 1/26
- b. 1/36
- c. 1/16
- d. 1/6.

Ans: b

$$\sqrt{y} = 6x$$

$$y = 36x^2$$

$$\frac{x^2}{y} = \frac{1}{36}$$

2. If an operation  $\Delta$  is defined as follows  $a\Delta b = \sqrt{(a^2 + b^2)}$ , where  $a, b \in N$ , then the value of  $(3\Delta 4)\Delta 5$  is?

- a.  $2\sqrt{2}$
- b.  $5\sqrt{2}$
- c.  $2\sqrt{5}$
- d.  $5\sqrt{5}$

Ans: b

$$a\Delta b = \sqrt{(a^2 + b^2)}$$

$$\sqrt{(a^2 + b^2)} = \sqrt{(3^2 + 4^2)}$$

$$= \sqrt{(9 + 16)}$$

$$= \sqrt{(25)}$$

$$= 5$$

$$5\Delta 5 = \sqrt{(5^2 + 5^2)}$$

$$= \sqrt{(25 + 25)}$$

$$= \sqrt{(50)}$$

$$= \sqrt{(2 \times 25)}$$

$$= 5\sqrt{2}$$

3. In an examination a student scores four marks for every correct answer and losses Van Marg for every wrong. Answer if he answers 80 questions in all and gate 150 marks find the number of questions he answered correctly.

- a. 46
- b. 26
- c. 36
- d. 56

**Ans: a**

No. Of correct answers be  $x$ .

No. Of wrong answers be  $80 - x$ .

$$4x - 1(80 - x) = 150$$

$$4x - 80 + x = 150$$

$$5x = 150 + 80$$

$$X = 230/5$$

$$X = 46.$$

4. Simplify  $\frac{x^3}{(x-3)} + \frac{27}{3-x}$

- a.  $x^2 - 3x + 9$
- b.  $x^2 + 3x + 9$
- c.  $x^2 - 3x - 9$
- d.  $x^2 + 3x - 9$

**Ans: b**

$$\frac{x^3}{(x-3)} + \frac{27}{3-x}$$

We know that,  $a^3 - b^3 = (a - b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$

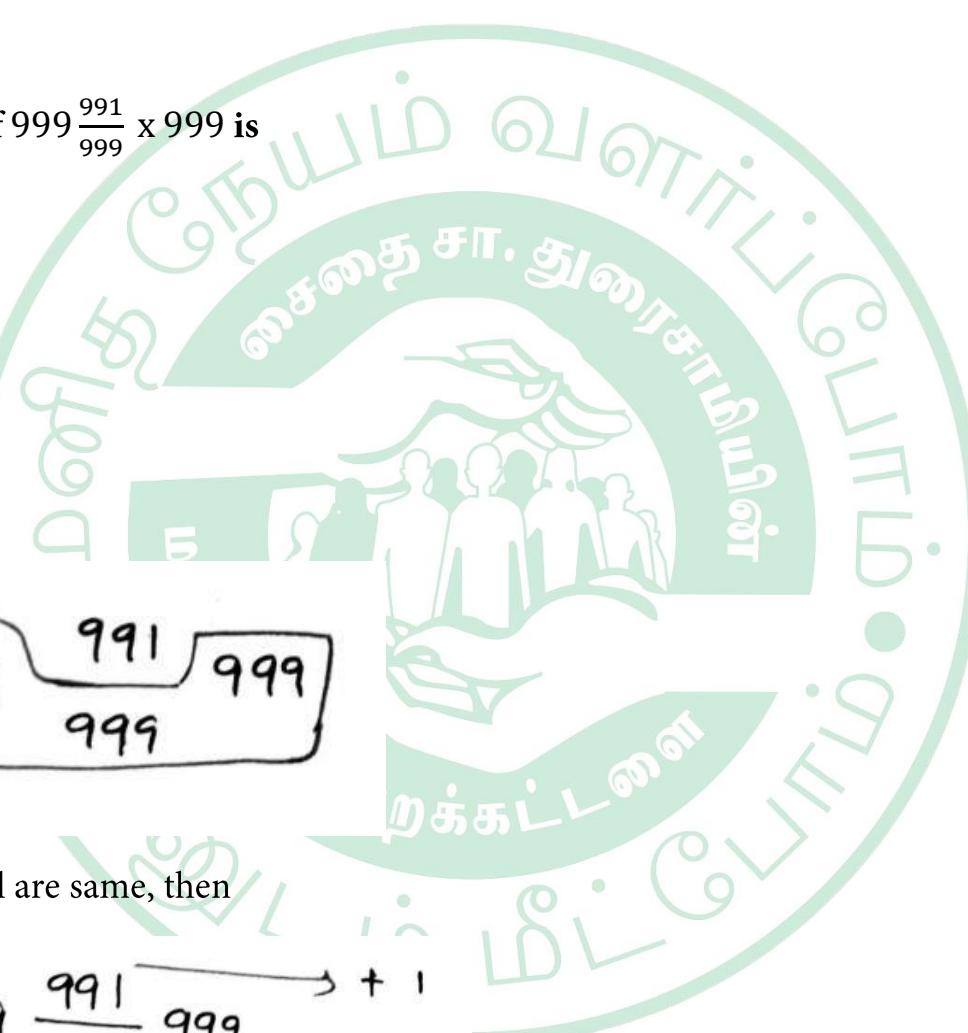
$$\frac{x^3 - 27}{(x-3)} = \frac{(x-3)(x^2 + 3x + 9)}{(x-3)}$$

$$= x^2 + 3x + 9$$

5. The value of  $999\frac{991}{999} \times 999$  is

- a. 990809
- b. 998990
- c. 999824
- d. 998992

**Ans: d**



$$\begin{array}{c} 999 & 991 & 999 \\ \swarrow & \downarrow & \searrow \\ 999 & & 999 \end{array}$$

If all are same, then

$$\begin{array}{r} 999 \quad 991 \\ \hline 999 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 991 \\ \hline 999 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} +1 \\ -1 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow 998992$$

6. If  $\frac{x}{y} = \frac{12}{13}$ , then  $\frac{14}{17} + \frac{3y-x}{3y+x}$  is

- a. 69/57
- b. 27/51
- c. 51/69
- d. 58/31

**Ans: a**

$$\frac{14}{17} + \frac{3(13) - 12}{3(13) + 12}$$

$$\frac{14}{17} + \frac{39 - 12}{39 + 12}$$

$$\frac{14}{17} + \frac{27}{51}$$

$$\frac{42 + 27}{51}$$

$$\frac{69}{51}$$

7. value of  $\frac{(9+9+9+9)\div 9}{7+7+7+7\div 7}$

- a. 11/2
- b. 2/11
- c. 22/4
- d. 12/4

**Ans: b**

BODMAS rule

$$\frac{36 \div 9}{7 + 7 + 7 + 7 \div 7}$$

$$\frac{36 \div 9}{7 + 7 + 7 + (7 \div 7)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{4}{7 + 7 + 7 + 1} \\ &= \frac{4}{22} \\ &= \frac{2}{11} \end{aligned}$$

8. Find the value of  $(6561)^{\frac{5}{4}}$

- a. 56561
- b. 59149
- c. 59049
- d. 59069

**Ans: c**

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left( \sqrt[4]{(6561)} \right)^5 \\ &= \left( \sqrt[4]{(81 \times 81 \times 81 \times 81)} \right)^5 \\ &= (81)^5 \\ &= 59049 \end{aligned}$$

9. If  $a + b = 2x$ , then value of  $\frac{x}{a-x} + \frac{x}{b-x}$

- a. 2
- b. -1
- c. 0
- d. 1

**Ans: c**

$$\frac{x}{a-x} + \frac{x}{b-x}$$

LCM

## UNIT – X – APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x(b-x) + x(a-x)}{(a-x)(b-x)} \\ &= \frac{bx - x^2 + ax - x^2}{(a-x)(b-x)} \\ &= \frac{x(b-x+a-x)}{(a-x)(b-x)} \quad \text{-----1} \end{aligned}$$

$a + b = 2x$  in equation 1

$$\frac{x(2x - 2x)}{(a-x)(b-x)} = 0$$

10. Value of  $\sqrt{\left(7\sqrt{7}\left(\sqrt{7}(\sqrt{7})\right)\right)}$

- a. 7
- b. Infinity
- c. 0
- d.  $\sqrt{7}$

Ans: a

$$\sqrt{\left(7\sqrt{7}\left(\sqrt{7}(\sqrt{7})\right)\right)} = x$$

Square on both sides.

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\sqrt{\left(7\sqrt{7}\left(\sqrt{7}(\sqrt{7})\right)\right)}\right)^2 = x^2 \\ & \left(7\sqrt{7}\left(\sqrt{7}(\sqrt{7})\right)\right) = x^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$(7x) = x^2$$

$$x = 7$$

11. If  $\left(\frac{9}{14}\right)^9 \times \left(\frac{9}{14}\right)^{3x} = \left(\frac{9}{14}\right)^{12}$ , then the value of x is

- a. 3
- b. 2
- c. 5
- d. 1

**Ans: d**

$$9 + 3x = 12$$

$$\text{Option d} \Rightarrow 12 = 12$$

LHS = RHS

12. The value of  $\frac{3.25 \times 3.25 + 2 \times 3.25 \times 1.25 + 1.25 \times 1.25}{3.25 \times 3.25 - 1.25 \times 1.25}$

- a. 1.25
- b. 2.25
- c. 2.50
- d. 3.25

**Ans: b**

Let a = 3.25, b = 1.25

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a^2 + 2ab + b^2}{a^2 - b^2} &= \frac{(a+b)^2}{(a+b)(a-b)} \\ &= \frac{(a+b)}{(a-b)} \\ &= \frac{(3.25 + 1.25)}{(3.25 - 1.25)} \\ &= \frac{4.50}{2} = 2.25 \end{aligned}$$

13. Simplify  $\left(-2\frac{3}{9}\right) + \left(5\frac{7}{9}\right) + \left(-7\frac{11}{9}\right)$

- a. 22/9
- b. 43/9
- c. -43/9
- d. 42/9

**Ans: c**

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \left(\frac{-21}{9}\right) + \left(\frac{52}{9}\right) + \left(\frac{-74}{9}\right) \\
 &= \frac{-21 + 52 - 74}{9} \\
 &= \frac{-43}{9}
 \end{aligned}$$

14. If  $a - \frac{1}{a} = 5$ , find  $a^3 - \frac{1}{a^3}$

- a. 150
- b. 160
- c. 140
- d. 130

**Ans: c**

$$(a-b)^3 = a^3 - b^3 - 3ab(a-b)$$

$$a=a; b=1/a$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(a - \frac{1}{a}\right)^3 &= a^3 - \left(\frac{1}{a}\right)^3 - 3 \left(a \times \frac{1}{a}\right) \left(a - \frac{1}{a}\right) \\
 5^3 &= a^3 - \left(\frac{1}{a^3}\right) - 3 \times 5 \\
 125 &= a^3 - \left(\frac{1}{a^3}\right) - 15
 \end{aligned}$$

$$a^3 - \frac{1}{a^3} = 140$$

15.  $\frac{(3^4)^{-2} \times (2^3)^{-4}}{(2^4)^{-2} \times (3^{-5}) \times 4^{-3}}$  Is

a.  $4/27$

b.  $27/4$

c.  $5/30$

d.  $5/27$

**Ans: a**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{3^{-8} \times 2^{-12}}{(2^{-8} \times 3^{-5} \times 4^{-3})} \\
 &= 3^{-8} \times 2^{-12} \times 2^8 \times 3^5 \times 2^6 \\
 &= 3^{-8+5} \times 2^{-12+8+6} \\
 &= 3^{-3} \times 2^2 \\
 &= \frac{2^2}{3^3} \\
 &= \frac{4}{27}
 \end{aligned}$$

16. Simplify  $8\sqrt[3]{(x^4)^{\frac{1}{3}}}$

a.  $x^{\frac{1}{6}}$

b.  $x^{\frac{1}{4}}$

c.  $x^{\frac{1}{2}}$

d.  $x^{\frac{1}{8}}$

**Ans: a**

$$\sqrt[3]{x^4} = (x^4)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \left(x^{\frac{4}{3}}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 8 \sqrt{\left(x^{\frac{4}{3}}\right)} &= \left(x^{\frac{4}{3}}\right)^{\frac{1}{8}} \\ &= x^{\frac{4}{3} \times \frac{1}{8}} \\ &= x^{\frac{1}{6}} \end{aligned}$$

17. The value of  $\frac{2x^2-4x}{2x^2+4x} \times \frac{4x+8}{x-2}$

- a. 2
- b. 4
- c. 8
- d. 16

**Ans: b**

$$\frac{2x^2-4x}{2x^2+4x} \times \frac{4x+8}{x-2} = 4$$

18.  $y^{\frac{3}{2}}: 25 = 36: \sqrt{y}$ , then what is the value of y?

- a. 10
- b. 30
- c. 25
- d. 50

**Ans: b**

a:b = c:d

$$y^{\frac{3}{2}} \times y^{\frac{1}{2}} = 25 \times 36$$

$$y^{\frac{4}{2}} = 25 \times 36$$

$$y^2 = 25 \times 36$$

$$y = \sqrt{(25 \times 36)}$$

$$y = 5 \times 6 = 30$$

19. Simplify  $5\frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{4}$  of  $\frac{8}{9}$

- a. 12(5/6)
- b. 6(5/12)
- c. 5(12/6)
- d. 77(5/6)

**Ans: b**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{8}{9} &= \frac{2}{3} \\ 5\frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{3} &= \frac{23}{4} + \frac{2}{3} \\ &= \frac{77}{12} = 6\frac{5}{12}\end{aligned}$$

20. Simplify  $\frac{m}{m-1} - \frac{1}{m-1} - \frac{m}{m^2+1}$

- a.  $\frac{m^2}{m^2-1}$
- b.  $\frac{m^3}{m^2-1}$
- c.  $\frac{m^2}{m^2+1}$
- d.  $\frac{m^3}{m^2+1}$

**Ans: c**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{m}{m-1} - \frac{1}{m-1} - \frac{m}{m^2+1} \\ \frac{m}{m-1} - \frac{1}{m-1} &= \frac{m-1}{m-1} \\ 1 - \frac{m}{m^2+1} &= \frac{m^2+1-1}{m^2+1}\end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{m^2}{m^2 + 1}$$

21. Chandra and Lekha, each had a number of bangles. Chandra said to Lekha, 'If you give me five of your bangles, my number will be thrice of yours'. Lekha replied 'If you give me 45 my number will be thrice yours'. What are the total bangles together with them?

- a. 70
  - b. 80
  - c. 90
  - d. 100

Ans: d

No. Of Chandra bangles = M

No. Of Lekha bangles = L

Total numb of bangles = M+L

$$(m+5) = 3(L-5)$$

$$(m+5) = 3L - 15$$

$$M-3L = -20 \dots$$

3(M-45) = I + 45

3M-I = 180 -----?

From 1.8x2

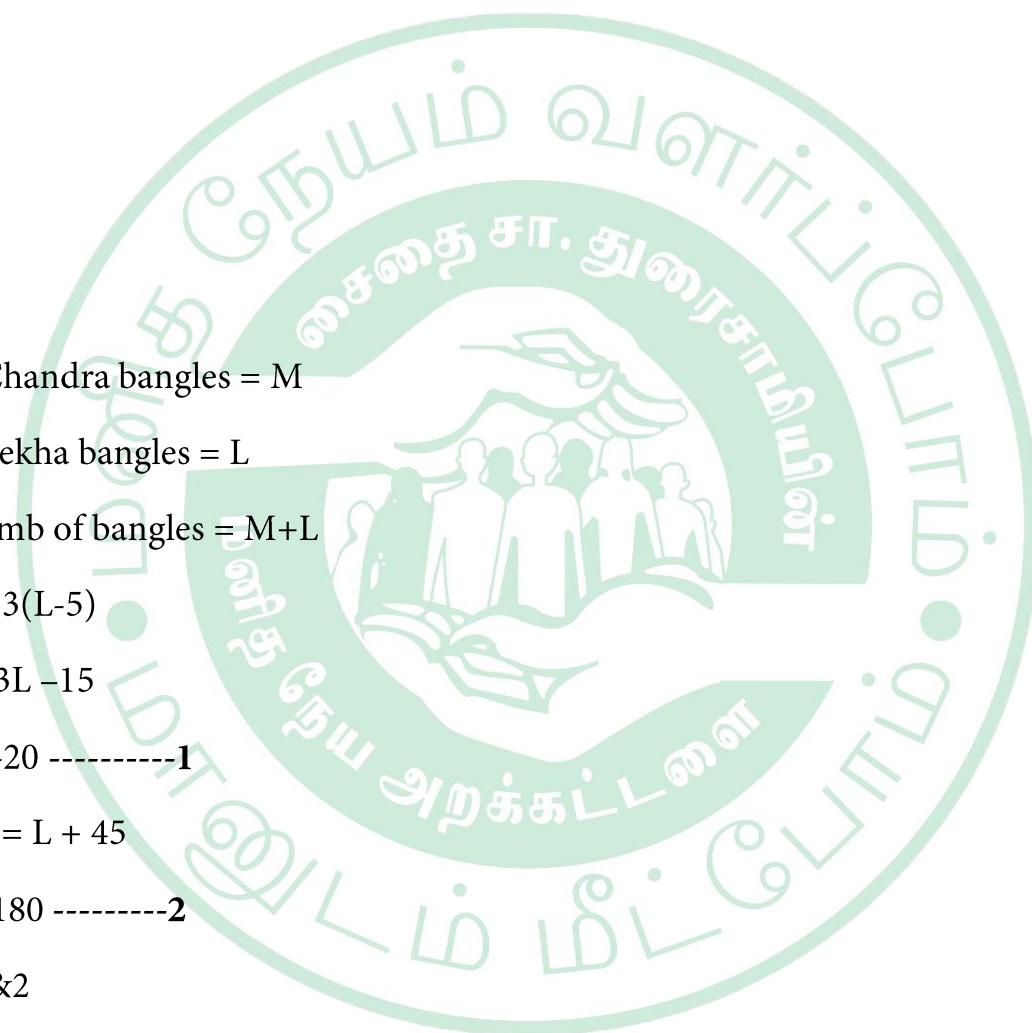
$$3m - 9l = -60$$

$$3m-I = 180$$

$$-8I = -240$$

$L \equiv 30$

### Substituting L in 1



**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

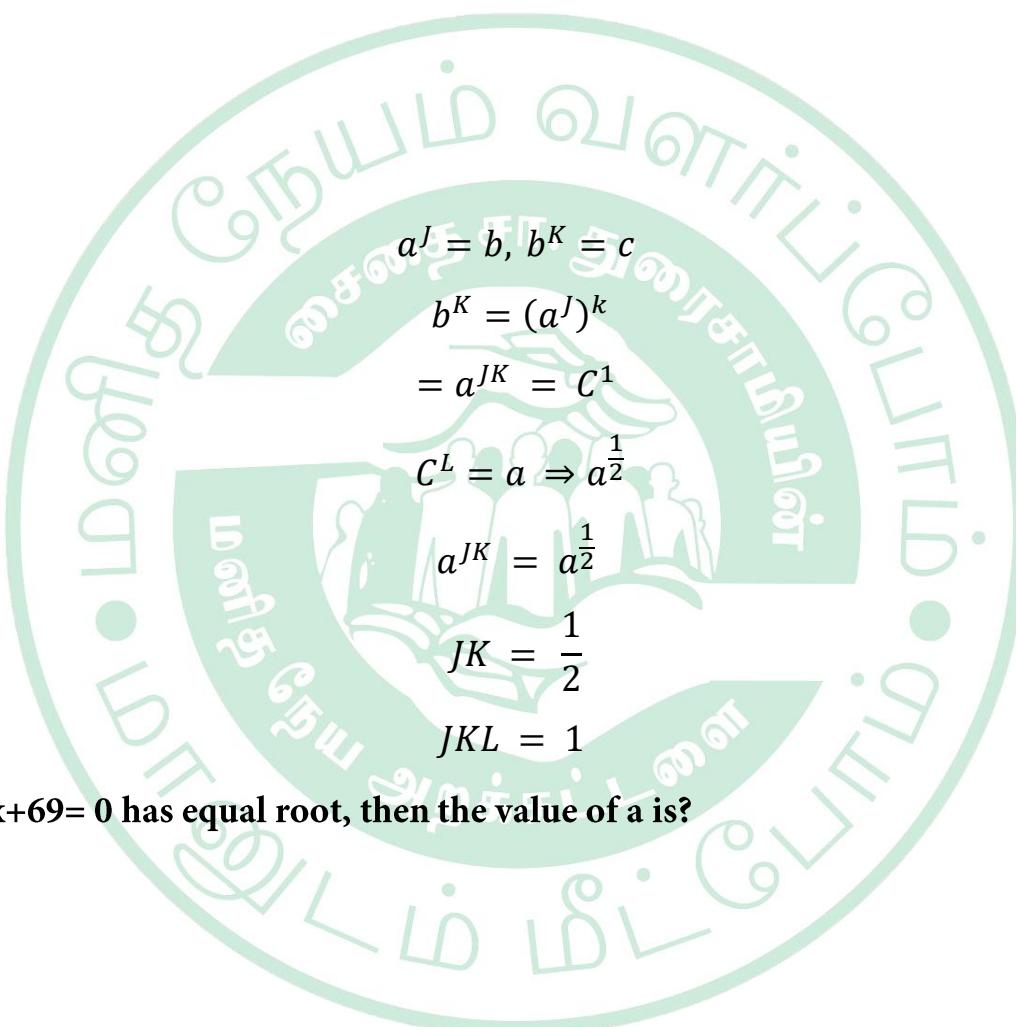
M = 70

$$L+M= 30 + 70 = 100$$

**22.**If  $a^J = b$ ,  $b^K = c$ ,  $c^L = a$ , then what is the value of  $JKL$ ?

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 9
- d. 1

**Ans: d**



**23.**If  $ax^2 - 32x + 69 = 0$  has equal root, then the value of a is?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

**Ans: d**

$$a=a; b= -32; c= 64$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 0$$

$$(-32)^2 - 4(a)(64) = 0$$

$$1024 - 256a = 0$$

$$1024 = 256a$$

$$a = 1024/256$$

$$a = 4$$

**24.** In a two digit number the digit in the units place is twice of the digit in the 10<sup>th</sup> place. If the digits are reversed the new number is 36 more than the given number. Find the number.

- a. 84
- b. 48
- c. 24
- d. 42

**Ans: b**

From option, b is 48

Unit place = 4

10<sup>th</sup> place = 8

$$84 - 48 = 36$$

**25.**  $6a + 8b = 44$ ,  $8a - 5b = 4$ , then  $a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$  is?

- a. 36
- b. 72
- c. 25
- d. 49

**Ans: a**

$$6a + 8b = 44 \text{ -----1}$$

**MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM**  
**UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

$$8a - 5b = 4 \quad \dots \quad 2$$

Multiply equ 1 by 8 and 2 by 6, then

$$48a + 64b = 352$$

$$48a - 30b = -24$$

$$94b = 376$$

$$b = 4$$

Substitute b in equ 1,

$$6a + 8(4) = 44$$

$$6a = 44 - 32 = 12$$

$$a = 2$$

$$a^2 + b^2 + 2ab = 4 + 16 + 2(8)$$

$$a^2 + b^2 + 2ab = 36$$

26. Simplify  $\frac{2}{1.2.3} + \frac{2}{2.3.4} + \frac{2}{3.4.5} + \frac{2}{4.5.6}$  is equal to.

- a.  $\frac{7}{30}$
- b.  $\frac{11}{30}$
- c.  $\frac{7}{15}$
- d.  $\frac{11}{15}$

**Ans: c**

$$\text{LCM} = 120$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2 \times 20}{6 \times 20} + \frac{2 \times 5}{24 \times 5} + \frac{2 \times 2}{60 \times 2} + \frac{2}{120} \\ & \frac{40}{120} + \frac{10}{120} + \frac{4}{120} + \frac{2}{120} \\ & \frac{56}{120} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{7}{15}$$

27. Find the value of

$$\sqrt{58 + \sqrt{31 + \sqrt{21 + \sqrt{11 + \sqrt{21 + \sqrt{31 + \sqrt{9}}}}}}}}$$

- a. 7
- b. 8
- c. 9
- d. 6

**Ans: b**

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{9} &= 3 \gg \sqrt{(13+3)} = \sqrt{16} = 4 \\ \sqrt{(21+4)} &= \sqrt{25} = 5 \gg \sqrt{(11+5)} = \sqrt{16} = 4 \\ \sqrt{(21+4)} &= \sqrt{25} = 5 \gg \sqrt{(31+5)} = \sqrt{36} = 6 \\ \sqrt{(58+6)} &= \sqrt{64} = 8\end{aligned}$$

28. A boy is now twice as old as his sister. Four years ago, he was thrice as old as her.

What are their ages now?

- a. 18,9
- b. 14,7
- c. 16,8
- d. 12,6

**Ans: c**

From option c

**MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM**  
**UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

A boy is now twice as old as his sister i.e., 16 and 8

Four years before he was thrice as old as her i.e., 12 and 4

**29.** Simplify  $\left(-\frac{1}{5}\right) - \left\{1 \div \left(\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{5}{7}\right) + 8 - \left(5 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}\right)\right\}$

a.  $-11(5/20)$

b.  $-5(11/20)$

c.  $-20(11/5)$

d.  $-10(11/10)$

**Ans: b**

$$\left(-\frac{1}{5}\right) - \left\{1 \div \left(\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{5}{7}\right) + 8 - \left(5 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}\right)\right\}$$

$$\left(-\frac{1}{5}\right) - \left\{1 \div \left(\frac{10}{21}\right) + 8 - \left(5 - \frac{1}{4}\right)\right\}$$

$$\left(-\frac{1}{5}\right) - \left\{\left(\frac{10}{21}\right) + 8 - \left(\frac{19}{4}\right)\right\}$$

$$= (-1/5) - (214/40)$$

$$= (-8-214)/40$$

$$= (-222)/40$$

$$= -5(11/20)$$

**30.** Solve  $\sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{x}{961}\right)} = \frac{32}{31}$

a. 63

b. 32

c. 31

d. 36

**Ans: a**

$$\sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{x}{961}\right)} = \frac{32}{31}$$

If numerator is big (+)

If numerator is small (-)

$$32 + 31 = 63.$$

31.  $\sqrt{\left(30 - \sqrt{\left(30 - \sqrt{\left(30 - \sqrt{\left(30 \dots \dots\right)}\right)}\right)}\right)} = \infty$

- a. 6
- b. 5
- c. 30
- d. 3

**Ans: b**

$$\sqrt{\left(30 - \sqrt{\left(30 - \sqrt{\left(30 - \sqrt{\left(30 \dots \dots\right)}\right)}\right)}\right)} = \infty$$

Consecutive number multiplication.

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

If (-) is given, small number is answer

If (+) is given, big number is answer.

So, Ans is 5.

32. Solve  $\frac{14^{14}}{14^{12}}$

- a. 196
- b. 14
- c.  $14^3$

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

d. 28

**Ans: a**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{a^m}{a^n} &= a^{m-n} \\ &= 14^{14-12} \\ &= 14^2 \\ &= 196\end{aligned}$$

33. If  $x + \frac{1}{x} = 7$ , then find the value of  $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}$

- a. 7
- b. 17
- c. 49
- d. 47

**Ans: d**

$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

$$\begin{aligned}\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 &= 7^2 \\ x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2(x)\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) &= 49 \\ x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} &= 49 - 2 \\ x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} &= 47\end{aligned}$$

34. If  $\sqrt{6561} = 81$ , then the value of  $\sqrt{(6561)} + \sqrt{65.65} + \sqrt{0.006561}$

- a. 81
- b. 891.81
- c. 89.181

d. 8.9181

**Ans: c**

$$\sqrt{6561} = 81$$

$$\sqrt{65.61} = 8.1$$

$$\sqrt{0.006561} = 0.081$$

$$\sqrt{(6561)} + \sqrt{65.61} + \sqrt{0.006561} = 89.181$$

**35.1.6666 expressed as a fraction is**

- a. 16/10
- b. 16/9
- c. 5/3
- d. 4/8

**Ans: c**

From option,

$$(5/3) = 1.66666$$

$$(16/9) = 1.7777$$

$$(16/10) = 1.6$$

$$(4/8) = 0.5$$

**36. Find quadratic equation whose root are  $2 + \sqrt{7}$  &  $2 - \sqrt{7}$**

- a.  $x^2+4x+3$
- b.  $x^2-4x+3$
- c.  $x^2-4x-3$
- d.  $x^2+4x-3$

**Ans: c**

$$\alpha = 2 + \sqrt{7} \text{ & } \beta = 2 - \sqrt{7}$$

MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

$$X^2 - (\alpha + \beta)x + \alpha\beta$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= x^2 - (2 + \sqrt{7} + 2 - \sqrt{7})x + (2 + \sqrt{7})(2 - \sqrt{7}) \\
 &= x^2 - 4x + (4 + 2\sqrt{7} - 2\sqrt{7} - 7) \\
 &= x^2 - 4x + (4 - 7) \\
 &= x^2 - 4x - 3
 \end{aligned}$$

37. Simplify  $\frac{1}{1+\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{99}+\sqrt{100}}$

- a. 9
- b.  $\sqrt{9}$
- c. 81
- d.  $\sqrt{99}$

**Ans: a**

If all the signs are (+), then

$$\text{Last term} - \text{first term} = \sqrt{100} - 1 = 10 - 1 = 9$$

38. If  $x + \frac{1}{x} = 3$ , then find the value of  $x^5 + \frac{1}{x^5}$

- a. 3
- b. 123
- c. 81
- d.  $3^5$

**Ans: b**

$$Z^5 - 5(2^3) + 5(Z)$$

$$3^5 - 5(3^3) + 5(3) = 243 - 135 + 15$$

$$= 123$$

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

**39.**  $a^2 - b^2 = 117$ ,  $ab = 54$ , then find the value of  $\frac{a-b}{a+b}$

- a. 15/3
- b. 31/5
- c. 3/15
- d. 5/31

**Ans: c**

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{(a-b)^2}{(a+b)^2} &= \frac{a^2 + b^2 - 2ab}{a^2 + b^2 + 2ab} \\
 \frac{(a-b)^2}{(a+b)^2} &= \frac{a^2 + b^2 - 2ab}{a^2 + b^2 + 2ab} = \frac{117 - 2(54)}{117 + 2(54)} \\
 &= \frac{117 - 108}{117 + 108} \\
 &= \frac{9}{225} \\
 \frac{(a-b)}{(a+b)} &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{9}{225}\right)} \\
 \frac{(a-b)}{(a+b)} &= \frac{3}{15}
 \end{aligned}$$

**40.** The sum of  $x, x+3, x+6, x+9, x+12$  is 60, then the value of  $x$  is

- a. 32
- b. 6
- c. 8
- d. 9

**Ans: b**

From option,  $x=6$

$$6, 6+3, 6+6, 6+9, 6+12 = 60$$

**MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM**  
**UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

$$6+9+12+15+18 = 60$$

$$60 = 60$$

**41. Simplify  $(100)^{1/2} \times (0.008)^{1/3} - (0.0016)^{1/4} \times 3^{\circ} - 1(5/4)^{-1}$**

- a. 0
- b. 1
- c. 2
- d. 3

**Ans: b**

$$(100)^{1/2} \times (0.008)^{1/3} - (0.0016)^{1/4} \times 3^{\circ} - 1(5/4)^{-1}$$

$$= 10 \times 0.2 - 0.2 \times 1 + (4/5)$$

$$= 2 - 0.2 + 0.8$$

$$= 2 - 1 = 1$$

**42. If  $\left\{ 4 - \frac{5}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{4}}}}} \right\}^{th}$  part of a journey takes 10 minutes, then to complete  $(3/4)^{th}$  of that journey , it will take ?**

- a. 1hr
- b. 1.2hr
- c. 55min
- d. 57min

**Ans: a**

$$4 - \frac{5}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{27 + \frac{4}{9}}}} = 4 - \frac{5}{1 + \frac{9}{31}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 4 - \frac{5}{\frac{40}{31}} \\
 &= 4 - \left( 5 \times \frac{31}{40} \right) \\
 &= 4 - \frac{31}{8} \\
 &= \frac{32 - 31}{8} \\
 &= \frac{1}{8}
 \end{aligned}$$

Time taken to complete  $(1/8)^{\text{th}}$  part = 10min

Time taken to complete  $(3/4)^{\text{th}}$  part =  $10 \times 8 \times (3/4)$

$$= 20 \times 3$$

$$= 60 \text{ min}$$

$$= 1 \text{ hr}$$

**43.** The least number that should be subtracted from the number 32145 to make it a perfect square is?

- a. 103
- b. 105
- c. 104
- d. 108

**Ans: c**

$$\sqrt{32145} > 179$$

$$179 \times 179 = 32041$$

$$32145 - 32041 = 104$$

44. Each member of a group contributes as much rupees as much paise as the number of members of the group. If their total contribution is Rs.3 636, the number of members of the club is?

- a. 60
- b. 36
- c. 90
- d. 120

**Ans: a**

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{10x^2 + x^2}{100} &= 3636 \\
 101x^2 &= 363600 \\
 x^2 &= \frac{363600}{101} = 3600 \\
 x^2 &= 3600 \\
 x &= \sqrt{3600} \\
 &= 6 \times 10 \\
 &= 60
 \end{aligned}$$

45. The product of two positive integers is 4608 and one of them is twice the other, then the smallest number is?

- a. 48
- b. 96
- c. 42
- d. 84

**Ans: a**

Smallest number = x

Larger number = 2x

$$x \times 2x = 4096$$

$$2x^2 = 4096$$

$$X^2 = 4096/2 = 2304$$

$$x = 48$$

**46. Perfect square numbers between 48 and 1000**

- a. 23
- b. 24
- c. 25
- d. 21

**Ans: c**

$$\begin{aligned} & 7^2 \text{ to } 31^2 \\ & = (31-7) + 1 \\ & = 24 + 1 \\ & = 25 \end{aligned}$$

**47. If + means X, X means -, ÷ means +, - means ÷, then what will be the value of the following expression  $9+3 \div 4-8X2=?$**

- a.  $3/4$
- b.  $4/3$
- c. 25
- d. 52

**Ans: c**

$$\begin{aligned} & = 9X3 + 4 \div 8-2 \\ & = 9X3+(1/2)-2 \\ & = 27 + (1/2)-2 \end{aligned}$$

**MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

$$=(54/2)-2$$

$$=(54-4)/2$$

$$=50/2$$

$$=25$$

**48.**If  $(n^x - pn + 1/4)$  be a perfect square, then the value of p is

- a.  $\pm 2$
- b. 1.2
- c. 2.3
- d.  $\pm 1$

**Ans:d**

To be a perfect square,  $r = 2$ ,  $t = \pm 1$

$$n^2 - n + (1/4) = n^2 - 2n - (1/2) + (1/4)$$

$$= (n - (1/2))^2$$

$$n^2 + n + (1/4) = n^2 + 2n \cdot 1/2 + 1/4$$

$$= (n + (1/2))^2$$

**49.**The value of  $\left(2 - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) + \left(2 - \frac{2}{n+1}\right) + \left(2 - \frac{3}{n+1}\right) + \dots + \left(2 - \frac{n}{n+1}\right)$

- a.  $(1/2)n$
- b.  $(2/3)n$
- c.  $2n$
- d.  $(3/2)n$

**Ans: d**

$$\begin{aligned} 2n - & \left( \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{2}{n+1} + \frac{3}{n+1} + \dots + \frac{n}{n+1} \right) \\ 2n - & \frac{1+2+3+\dots+n}{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 2n - \frac{n(n+1)}{2(n+1)} \\
 &= 2n - \frac{n}{2} \\
 &= \frac{4n - n}{2} \\
 &= \frac{3n}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

### PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

1. Let  $x = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \dots + \infty}}}$ , which of the following is correct?

- a.  $x^2+x+1$
- b.  $x^2-x+1$
- c.  $x^2+x-1$
- d.  $x^2-x-1$

2.  $\frac{7}{5}$  of 58 +  $\frac{3}{8}$  of 139.2?

- a. 133.4
- b. 137.2
- c. 127.8
- d. 131.6

3. The value of  $\sqrt{10 + \sqrt{25 + \sqrt{108 + \sqrt{154 + \sqrt{225}}}}}$

- a. 4

- b. 6

MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

- c. 8
  - d. 10
- 4. Find the value of  $1000^9 \div 10^{24}$**
- a. 10000
  - b. 1000**
  - c. 100
  - d. 10
- 5.  $1 \div \left(\frac{5}{7} \text{ of } 6\frac{3}{10}\right) - \frac{2}{9}$  is**
- a. 1
  - b. 0**
  - c. 2
  - d.  $1/2$
- 6. If  $\frac{13^3 + 7^3}{169 + 49 - x} = 20$ , then the value of x is?**
- a. 6
  - b. 20
  - c. 91**
  - d. 42
- 7. Find the value of  $\left(\frac{-1}{216}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}}$**
- a. 36**
  - b. - 36
  - c.  $1/36$
  - d.  $-1/36$

MANIDHANA EYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC - PRELIMINARY EXAM  
UNIT – X – APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

8. The simplest form of  $\left(\frac{9}{115}\right)$  is

- a. 2/3
- b. 2/5
- c. 3/5
- d. 4/5

9. Which is true for the statements?

1. The degree of the polynomial is the highest power of the variable involved in the term
2. The GCD of co-prime factor is 1
3. The LCM of ab, bc, ca is abc
4. One is a prime number

- a. 1,2,3
- b. 1,2,4
- c. 2,3,4
- d. all

10. Simplify 1 hectare :  $150\text{m}^2$

- a. 200: 3
- b. 2000: 3
- c. 20: 3
- d. 2: 3

11. Simplify  $\sqrt{48} - 3\sqrt{108} + 2\sqrt{27} + \sqrt{192}$

- a.  $\sqrt{3}$
- b. 0
- c.  $2\sqrt{3}$
- d.  $3\sqrt{3}$

12. Simplify  $\left(147 + \frac{1}{42}\right)^2 - \left(147 - \frac{1}{42}\right)^2$

- a. 7
- b. 5
- c. 147
- d. 14

13. Simplify  $(\sqrt{2} + 1)^5 + (\sqrt{2} - 1)^5$

- a.  $52\sqrt{2}$
- b.  $50\sqrt{2}$
- c.  $56\sqrt{2}$
- d.  $58\sqrt{2}$

14. Simplify  $\sqrt[4]{81} + \sqrt[3]{216} + 5\sqrt{32} = ?$

- a. 10
- b. 11
- c. 9
- d. 4

15.  $39852 \div \sqrt{?} = 81 \times 12$

- a. 41
- b. 1681
- c. 1849
- d. 43

16. Simplify  $\frac{(9.8)^3 - (6.8)^3}{(9.8)^2 + 9.8 \times 6.8 + (6.8)^2}$

- a. 0
- b. 1
- c. 2
- d. 3

17. Which of the following is/are true?

- 1. (-2, -7) is a point in IV quadrant
  - 2. (0, 3) is a point on X-axis
  - 3. (-5, 2) lies to the left of y axis
  - 4. (5, 2) and (-7, 2) are the points on line parallel to y axis
- a. 2 and 3
  - b. 3 only
  - c. 2, 3, 4
  - d. 1 and 2

18. Find the value of  $\frac{\sqrt[3]{729} - \sqrt[3]{27}}{\sqrt[3]{512} + \sqrt[3]{343}}$

- a. 5/3
- b. 3/5
- c. 5/2
- d. 2/5

19. If  $a$  and  $b$  are two non-zero rational numbers and  $\frac{2+\sqrt{3}}{2-\sqrt{3}} = a + b\sqrt{3}$ , then the value of  $b$  is?

- a. 4
- b. 7
- c. 6
- d. 8

20. Which of the following shows the highest percentage?

- a.  $384/540$
- b.  $425/500$
- c.  $570/700$
- d.  $480/660$