

Notes Section 6.4 – Common Logarithms

I can find logarithms using a calculator

I can solve exponential equations using logarithms

I can find logarithms “of any base” using the change of base formula

Common Logarithm:

Use a calculator to evaluate each expression to the nearest ten-thousandth.

1. $\log 15$

2. $\log 48$

3. $\log 130$

Change of Base Formula:

If a , b , and c are positive numbers with $b \neq 1$ and $c \neq 1$, then

$$\log_c a = \frac{\log a}{\log c}$$

$$\log_c a = \frac{\ln a}{\ln c}$$

Use the change-of-base formula:

Evaluate $\log_6 11$ using common logarithms :

$$\log_6 11 = \frac{\log 11}{\log 6} \approx \frac{1.0414}{0.7782} \approx 1.3382$$

You try ☺

Use the change-of-base formula to evaluate the logarithm:

$$\log_{16} 26 = \frac{\log 26}{\log 16} \approx \frac{1.4149}{1.2041} \approx 1.1750$$

$$\log_5 13 = \frac{\log 13}{\log 5} \approx \frac{1.1139}{0.6990} \approx 1.5939$$

$$\log_3 125 = \frac{\log 125}{\log 3} \approx \frac{2.0969}{0.4771} \approx 4.4161$$

I can solve exponential equations by taking a logarithm of each side:

Solve:

$$6^x = 27$$

$$4^{x-1} = 49$$

$$3^{2x+1} = 12$$

You try ☺

Solve:

$$4^x = 32$$

$$6^{x+3} = 124$$

Solve by equating exponents:

$$64^x = 16^{x+1}$$

Solve each inequality:

$$5^x \geq 42$$

$$3^{4x} \geq 72$$

$$27^{2p-4} \geq 9^p$$

You try ☺

Solve each inequality:

$$3^x \geq 53$$

$$2^{3x} \geq 56$$

$$8^{p-2} \geq 4^p$$