

Pre - Calculus  
Mathematics 40S



STANDARDS TEST PRACTICE EXAM - ANSWERS

# Logarithms

1. An investment earns interest at a rate of 4% compounded quarterly. How long, in years, will it take for the investment to double?

*Start with the compound interest formula:  $A = P \left( 1 + \frac{r}{n} \right)^{nt}$ .*

*The rate is 4%, which must be expressed as a decimal  $\rightarrow 0.04$*

*Use  $n = 4$  since the compounding is quarterly.*

*The principal is  $P$ , and the final amount is double  $\rightarrow 2P$*

$$2P = P \left( 1 + \frac{0.04}{4} \right)^{4t}$$

$$2 = (1.01)^{4t}$$

$$\log 2 = \log (1.01)^{4t}$$

$$\log 2 = 4t \log (1.01)$$

$$t = \frac{\log 2}{4 \log 1.01}$$

$$t = 17.4$$

*The investment will take **17.4** years to double.*

2. Solve the equation  $2^{x+1} = 3(4^x)$  algebraically

$$2^{x+1} = 3(4^x)$$

$$\log 2^{x+1} = \log [3(4^x)]$$

$$\log 2^{x+1} = \log 3 + \log 4^x$$

$$(x+1)\log 2 = \log 3 + x\log 4$$

$$x\log 2 + \log 2 = \log 3 + x\log 4$$

$$x\log 2 - x\log 4 = \log 3 - \log 2$$

$$x(\log 2 - \log 4) = \log 3 - \log 2$$

$$x = \frac{\log 3 - \log 2}{\log 2 - \log 4}$$

$$\mathbf{x = -0.585}$$

3. If  $\log_a 4 = p$  and  $\log_a 7 = q$ , determine an expression for  $\log_a 28$  in terms of  $p$  and  $q$

*Start by rewriting  $\log_a 28$  as  $\log_a (4 \times 7)$*

*Then expand using the log rule for multiplication:*

$$\log_a (4 \times 7) = \log_a 4 + \log_a 7$$

*Finally, rewrite  $\log_a 4 + \log_a 7$  as  **$p + q$** .*

4. Given  $f(x) = e^x$ , determine the function after a reflection across the line  $y = x$

*From the lessons, you must remember that  $y = e^x$  and  $y = \ln(x)$  are inverse functions.*

*The inverse is  $f^{-1}(x) = \ln(x)$*

5. Solve for  $x$ :  $\log_2(\log_{16} x) = -2$

$$\log_2(\log_{16} x) = -2$$

$$2^{-2} = \log_{16} x$$

$$\frac{1}{4} = \log_{16} x$$

$$16^{\frac{1}{4}} = x$$

$$\mathbf{x = 2}$$

6. Solve for  $x$ :  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2x-1} = 4^x$

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2x-1} = 4^x$$

$$(2^{-1})^{2x-1} = 4^x$$

$$2^{-2x+1} = 4^x$$

$$2^{-2x+1} = (2^2)^x$$

$$2^{-2x+1} = 2^{2x}$$

$$-2x + 1 = 2x$$

$$1 = 4x$$

$$\mathbf{x = \frac{1}{4}}$$

7. Solve algebraically:  $3^{2x-1} = 5^{x+4}$

$$\log 3^{2x-1} = \log 5^{x+4}$$

$$(2x - 1)\log 3 = (x + 4)\log 5$$

$$2x\log 3 - \log 3 = x\log 5 + 4\log 5$$

$$2x\log 3 - x\log 5 = 4\log 5 + \log 3$$

$$x(2\log 3 - \log 5) = 4\log 5 + \log 3$$

$$x = \frac{4\log 5 + \log 3}{2\log 3 - \log 5}$$

$$\mathbf{x = 12.82}$$

8. In April 1994, the population of a small town in Manitoba was estimated at 2500 people. The population can be represented by the equation  $A = Pe^{rt}$ , where  $r$  is the annual rate of increase, and  $t$  is the time in years. Determine the annual rate of increase if there were 3900 people in April 1999. State your answer to three decimal places.

*Plug in 2500 for  $P$ , 3900 for  $A$ , and 5 for  $t$*

$$A = Pe^{rt}$$

$$3900 = (2500)e^{r(5)}$$

$$\frac{3900}{2500} = \frac{(2500)e^{r(5)}}{2500}$$

$$1.56 = e^{5r}$$

$$\ln 1.56 = \ln e^{5r}$$

$$\ln 1.56 = 5r \ln e$$

$$r = \frac{\ln 1.56}{5 \ln e}$$

$$r = 0.0889$$

*The annual rate of increase is **8.89%***

9. If  $\log_a x = 16$ , find the value of  $\log_a \sqrt{x}$

*Start by simplifying  $\log_a \sqrt{x}$*

$$\log_a \sqrt{x} = \log_a x^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2} \log_a x$$

*Now replace  $\log_a x$  with 16.*

$$\frac{1}{2} \log_a x = \frac{1}{2}(16) = \mathbf{8}$$

10. If  $f(x) = \log x$ , determine the equation of the inverse function

*From the notes, recall that  $y = \log x$  is the inverse graph of  $y = 10^x$*

*The inverse function is  **$f^{-1}(x) = 10^x$***

11. Solve for  $x$ :  $\log_4(\log_9 x) = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\log_4(\log_9 x) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$4^{\frac{1}{2}} = \log_9 x$$

$$2 = \log_9 x$$

$$9^2 = x$$

$$\mathbf{x = 81}$$

- 12.** Determine the  $x$ -intercepts in the following equation:  $y = \log(5 - 4x) - 2\log x$   
*Solve for  $x$ -intercepts by setting  $y = 0$ , then solving for  $x$ .*

$$0 = \log(5 - 4x) - 2\log x$$

$$2\log x = \log(5 - 4x)$$

$$\log x^2 = \log(5 - 4x)$$

$$x^2 = 5 - 4x$$

$$x^2 + 4x - 5 = 0$$

$$(x + 5)(x - 1) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{x = 1} \quad \text{Reject } -5, \text{ since it makes } \log x \text{ undefined}$$

- 13.** Solve for  $x$  algebraically:  $2^{x+4} = 3^{2x+1}$

$$2^{x+4} = 3^{2x+1}$$

$$\log 2^{x+4} = \log 3^{2x+1}$$

$$(x + 4)\log 2 = (2x + 1)\log 3$$

$$x\log 2 + 4\log 2 = 2x\log 3 + \log 3$$

$$x\log 2 - 2x\log 3 = \log 3 - 4\log 2$$

$$x(\log 2 - 2\log 3) = \log 3 - 4\log 2$$

$$x = \frac{\log 3 - 4\log 2}{\log 2 - 2\log 3}$$

$$\mathbf{x = 1.113}$$

- 14.** If  $\log_a 4 = 1.2619$  and  $\log_a 5 = 1.4650$ , show that  $\log_a 20 = 2.7269$

$$\text{Start by rewriting } \log_a 20 \text{ as } \log_a (4 \times 5)$$

*Then expand using the log rule for multiplication:*

$$\log_a (4 \times 5) = \log_a 4 + \log_a 5$$

*Plug in the numbers given in the question:*

$$\log_a 4 + \log_a 5 = 1.2619 + 1.4650 = \mathbf{2.7269}$$

**15.** A new automobile costs \$32,000. The value of the auto after  $t$  years is given by  
 $V = 32000(0.8)^t$

**a)** Determine the value after 9 years

$$V = 32000(0.8)^t$$

$$V = 32000(0.8)^9$$

$$\mathbf{V = 4294.97}$$

**b)** How many years will it take for the value to decrease to one-eighth the initial value?  
One-eighth \$32,000 is \$4000

$$4000 = 32000(0.8)^t$$

$$\frac{4000}{32000} = \frac{32000(0.8)^t}{32000}$$

$$0.125 = 0.8^t$$

$$\log 0.125 = \log 0.8^t$$

$$\log 0.125 = t \log 0.8$$

$$t = \frac{\log 0.125}{\log 0.8}$$

$$\mathbf{t = 9.32}$$

**16.** Solve for  $x$   $\log_2(x+4) + \log_2(x-3) = 3$

$$\log_2(x+4) + \log_2(x-3) = 3$$

$$\log_2(x+4)(x-3) = 3$$

$$2^3 = (x+4)(x-3)$$

$$8 = x^2 + x - 12$$

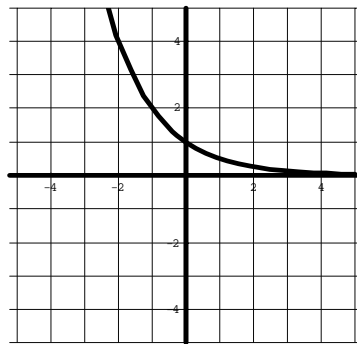
$$0 = x^2 + x - 20$$

$$0 = (x+5)(x-4)$$

$$\mathbf{x = 4} \quad \text{Reject } -5 \text{ since it makes } \log_2(x+4) \text{ undefined}$$

17. State the range of  $f(x) = 2^{-x}$

Graph the function in your calculator  
The range is  $y > 0$ .



18. Solve for  $x$ :  $\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{2x} = 27^{x-5}$

$$(3^{-1})^{2x} = 27^{x-5}$$

$$3^{-2x} = (3^3)^{x-5}$$

$$3^{-2x} = 3^{3x-15}$$

$$-2x = 3x - 15$$

$$15 = 5x$$

$$\mathbf{x = 3}$$

19. Solve the equation:  $2^{3x+1} = 9^{x+3}$ . Express your answers to three decimal places

$$2^{3x+1} = 9^{x+3}$$

$$\log 2^{3x+1} = \log 9^{x+3}$$

$$(3x+1)\log 2 = (x+3)\log 9$$

$$3x\log 2 + \log 2 = x\log 9 + 3\log 9$$

$$3x\log 2 - x\log 9 = 3\log 9 - \log 2$$

$$x(3\log 2 - \log 9) = 3\log 9 - \log 2$$

$$x = \frac{3\log 9 - \log 2}{3\log 2 - \log 9}$$

$$\mathbf{x = -50.080}$$

20. Determine the domain of the function  $y = \ln(x-3)$

The number inside the natural logarithm must be positive, or else it's undefined. Therefore,  $x - 3$  must be bigger than 0

$$x - 3 > 0$$

The domain is  $\mathbf{x > 3}$

21. Solve for  $x$ :  $2^{4x-1} = 4^{x+1}$

$$\log 2^{4x-1} = \log 4^{x+1}$$

$$(4x - 1)\log 2 = (x + 1)\log 4$$

$$4x\log 2 - \log 2 = x\log 4 + \log 4$$

$$4x\log 2 - x\log 4 = \log 4 + \log 2$$

$$x(4\log 2 - \log 4) = \log 4 + \log 2$$

$$x = \frac{\log 4 + \log 2}{4\log 2 - \log 4}$$

$$\mathbf{x = 1.5}$$

22. Given  $f(x) = \log(x+100) + 5$ , evaluate  $f(0)$

$$f(0) = \log(0 + 100) + 5$$

$$f(0) = \log 100 + 5$$

$$f(0) = 2 + 5$$

$$\mathbf{f(0) = 7}$$

23. Evaluate  $(\log_3(\log_2 8))$

$$(\log_3(\log_2 8))$$

$$\log_3(3)$$

$$\mathbf{= 1}$$

24. The point  $(64, 3)$  lies on the graph of  $y = \log_b x$ . The exact value of  $b$  is

$$y = \log_b x$$

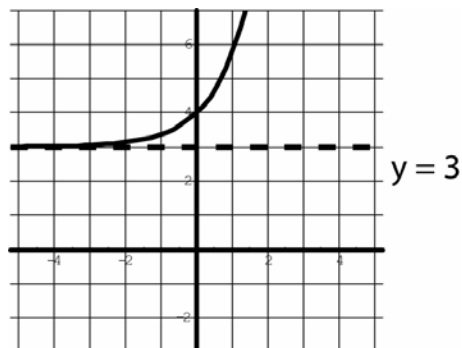
$$3 = \log_b 64$$

$$b^3 = 64$$

$$(b^3)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 64^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\mathbf{b = 4}$$

25. Sketch a clearly labeled graph of  $y = e^x + 3$





26. Given  $f(x) = \log_2(x-5)$ , find an equation for  $f^{-1}(x)$

$$\text{Rewrite as } y = \log_2(x-5)$$

$$\text{Interchange } x \text{ \& } y: x = \log_2(y-5)$$

$$2^x = y - 5$$

$$y = 2^x + 5$$

$$\mathbf{f^{-1}(x) = 2^x + 5}$$

27. Solve the equation:  $\log(x+2) + \log(x-1) = 1$

$$\log(x+2) + \log(x-1) = 1$$

$$\log(x+2)(x-1) = 1$$

$$10^1 = (x+2)(x-1)$$

$$10 = x^2 + x - 2$$

$$0 = x^2 + x - 12$$

$$0 = (x+4)(x-3)$$

$$\mathbf{x = 3} \quad \text{Reject } -4$$

28. Solve the following equation algebraically:  $4(10^x) = 6^{(2-x)}$

$$\log 4(10^x) = \log 6^{(2-x)}$$

$$\log 4 + \log 10^x = (2-x)\log 6$$

$$\log 4 + x\log 10 = 2\log 6 - x\log 6$$

$$x\log 10 + x\log 6 = 2\log 6 - \log 4$$

$$x(\log 10 + \log 6) = 2\log 6 - \log 4$$

$$x = \frac{2\log 6 - \log 4}{\log 10 + \log 6}$$

$$\mathbf{x = 0.5366}$$

**29.** The initial population of a city was 4000 and grew exponentially to 8000 in 7 years. The population growth can be modeled by the equation  $A = Pe^{rt}$ , where  $r$  is the annual rate of increase, and  $t$  is the time in years. Find the growth rate for this city to three decimal places.

$$A = Pe^{rt}$$

$$8000 = 4000e^{r(7)}$$

$$\frac{8000}{4000} = \frac{4000e^{r(7)}}{4000}$$

$$2 = e^{7r}$$

$$\ln 2 = \ln(e)^{7r}$$

$$\ln 2 = 7r \ln(e)$$

$$r = \frac{\ln 2}{7 \ln(e)}$$

$$\mathbf{r = 0.099}$$

**30.** Evaluate  $\ln e^5$

$$\ln e^5 = 5 \ln e = 5(1) = \mathbf{5}$$

**31.** Solve for  $x$  in the equation  $4^x = \frac{1}{64}$

$$4^x = \frac{1}{64}$$

$$4^x = \frac{1}{4^3}$$

$$4^x = 4^{-3}$$

$$\mathbf{x = -3}$$

**32.** Express  $\frac{1}{3} \log M - 5 \log N$  as a single logarithm

$$\frac{1}{3} \log M - 5 \log N$$

$$= \log M^{\frac{1}{3}} - \log N^5$$

$$= \log \left( \frac{M^{\frac{1}{3}}}{N^5} \right)$$

33. The population of bacteria grows exponentially according to the equation  $A = 4e^{rt}$ , where  $P$  is the population at time  $t$ ,  $r$  is the hourly rate of increase, and  $t$  is the time in hours. If there are 100 bacteria after 2 hours, what is the population after 8 hours?

$$A = 4e^{rt}$$

$$100 = 4e^{2r}$$

$$\frac{100}{4} = \frac{4e^{2r}}{4}$$

$$25 = e^{2r}$$

$$\ln 25 = \ln(e)^{2r}$$

$$\ln 25 = 2r \ln(e)$$

$$r = \frac{\ln 25}{2 \ln(e)}$$

$$r = 1.6094$$

$$A = 4e^{rt}$$

$$A = 4e^{(1.6094)(8)}$$

$$\mathbf{A = 1562026}$$

34. Solve for  $x$ :

$$3(2^x) = 7^{1-x}$$

$$\log 3(2^x) = \log 7^{1-x}$$

$$\log 3 + \log 2^x = (1-x) \log 7$$

$$\log 3 + x \log 2 = \log 7 - x \log 7$$

$$x \log 2 + x \log 7 = \log 7 - \log 3$$

$$x(\log 2 + \log 7) = \log 7 - \log 3$$

$$x = \frac{\log 7 - \log 3}{\log 2 + \log 7}$$

$$\mathbf{x = 0.3211}$$

35. Simplify  $\log_a(4x) - \log_a(2x)$

$$\log_a(4x) - \log_a(2x)$$

$$\log_a\left(\frac{4x}{2x}\right)$$

$$\mathbf{\log_a 2}$$

36. The graph of  $y = \ln x$  is obtained by reflecting the graph of  $y = e^x$  over the line \_\_\_\_.

$$\mathbf{y = x}$$

37. Evaluate  $\log_7 \left( \frac{1}{7} \right)$

$$\begin{aligned} \log_7 (7^{-1}) \\ = -\log_7 7 \\ = \mathbf{-1} \end{aligned}$$

38. Determine the numerical value of  $\log_3 81 - \log_3 3$

$$\begin{aligned} \log_3 81 - \log_3 3 \\ = \log_3 \left( \frac{81}{3} \right) \\ = \log_3 27 \\ \mathbf{3} \end{aligned}$$

39. Solve for  $x$ :  $\log_3(2x+1) - \log_3(x-1) - 1 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \log_3(2x+1) - \log_3(x-1) &= 1 \\ \log_3 \frac{2x+1}{x-1} &= 1 \\ 3^1 &= \frac{2x+1}{x-1} \\ 3(x-1) &= 2x+1 \\ 3x-3 &= 2x+1 \\ \mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{4} \end{aligned}$$

40. Evaluate  $\ln e^4 - 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \ln e^4 - 1 \\ = 4 \ln e - 1 \\ = 4(1) - 1 \\ = \mathbf{3} \end{aligned}$$