

**Assessment Title: Check Their Work on Expressions with Rational Exponents**  
**Unit 1: Extending the Number System**

**Learning Targets:**

- I can use properties of integer exponents and apply those to rational exponents
- I can convert between exponential and radical form

**Directions:** Below are examples of different student's work in simplifying the following expressions involving rational exponents. Decide whether or not each example is simplified correctly. If it is not, then identify all errors that were made and state the mathematical property that was used incorrectly.

1. Gregory and Kailiyah are simplifying  $\frac{x^{\frac{3}{4}}}{x^{-\frac{1}{2}}}$ .

Gregory's work:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{x^{3/4}}{x^{-1/2}} &= x^{\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{2}} \\ &= x^{\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{4}} \\ &= x^{1/4}\end{aligned}$$

Kailiyah's work:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{x^{3/4}}{x^{-1/2}} &= x^{3/4 \div (-\frac{1}{2})} \\ &= x^{3/4 \cdot (-\frac{2}{1})} \\ &= x^{-\frac{3}{2}}\end{aligned}$$

Explanation:

2. Armando and Xavier are simplifying  $(2x^3)^{\frac{3}{2}}$ .

Armando's work:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x^3)^{3/2} &= \sqrt{(2x^3)^3} \\ &= \sqrt{8x^9} \\ &= 2x^4\sqrt{2}\end{aligned}$$

Xavier's work:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x^3)^{3/2} &= \sqrt[3]{(2x^3)^2} \\ &= \sqrt[3]{4x^6} \\ &= x^2\sqrt[3]{4}\end{aligned}$$

Explanation:

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3. Cecilia and Hailey are simplifying  $\sqrt{25x^4 - 9x^4}$ .

Cecilia's work:

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{25x^4 - 9x^4} &= \sqrt{25x^4} - \sqrt{9x^4} \\ &= 5x^2 - 3x^2 \\ &= 2x^2\end{aligned}$$

Hailey's work:

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{25x^4 - 9x^4} &= \sqrt{16} \\ &= 4\end{aligned}$$

Explanation:

4. Jaques and Brighton are simplifying  $b^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot b^{\frac{8}{3}}$ .

Jaques's work:

$$\begin{aligned}b^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot b^{\frac{8}{3}} &= b^{\frac{10}{6}} \\ &= b^{\frac{5}{3}}\end{aligned}$$

Brighton's work:

$$b^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot b^{\frac{8}{3}} = b^{\frac{16}{9}}$$

Explanation:

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5. Manuel and Tristan are simplifying  $2^{\frac{2}{5}} \cdot 2^{\frac{2}{5}}$ .

Manuel's work:

$$2^{\frac{2}{5}} \cdot 2^{\frac{2}{5}} = 4^{\frac{4}{5}}$$

Tristan's work:

$$2^{\frac{2}{5}} \cdot 2^{\frac{2}{5}} = 4^{\frac{2}{5}}$$

Explanation: