

## Question ID 371cbf6b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

**ID: 371cbf6b**

$$(ax + 3)(5x^2 - bx + 4) = 20x^3 - 9x^2 - 2x + 12$$

3.1

The equation above is true for all  $x$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants. What is the value of  $ab$  ?

- A. 18
- B. 20
- C. 24
- D. 40

**ID: 371cbf6b Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is correct. If the equation is true for all  $x$ , then the expressions on both sides of the equation will be equivalent. Multiplying the polynomials on the left-hand side of the equation gives  $5ax^3 - abx^2 + 4ax + 15x^2 - 3bx + 12$ . On the right-hand side of the equation, the only  $x^2$ -term is  $-9x^2$ . Since the expressions on both sides of the equation are equivalent, it follows that  $-abx^2 + 15x^2 = -9x^2$ , which can be rewritten as  $(-ab + 15)x^2 = -9x^2$ . Therefore,  $-ab + 15 = -9$ , which gives  $ab = 24$ .

Choice A is incorrect. If  $ab = 18$ , then the coefficient of  $x^2$  on the left-hand side of the equation would be  $-18 + 15 = -3$ , which doesn't equal the coefficient of  $x^2$ ,  $-9$ , on the right-hand side. Choice B is incorrect. If  $ab = 20$ , then the coefficient of  $x^2$  on the left-hand side of the equation would be  $-20 + 15 = -5$ , which doesn't equal the coefficient of  $x^2$ ,  $-9$ , on the right-hand side. Choice D is incorrect. If  $ab = 40$ , then the coefficient of  $x^2$  on the left-hand side of the equation would be  $-40 + 15 = -25$ , which doesn't equal the coefficient of  $x^2$ ,  $-9$ , on the right-hand side.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 40c09d66

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 40c09d66

3.2

$\frac{\sqrt{x^5}}{\sqrt[3]{x^4}} = x^{\frac{a}{b}}$   
If for all positive values of  $x$ ,  
what is the value of  $\frac{a}{b}$ ?

ID: 40c09d66 Answer

Rationale

The correct answer is  $\frac{7}{6}$ . The value of  $\frac{a}{b}$  can be found by first rewriting the left-hand side of the given

equation as  $x^{\frac{\frac{5}{2}}{\frac{4}{3}}}$ . Using the properties of exponents, this expression can be rewritten as  $x^{\left(\frac{5}{2} - \frac{4}{3}\right)}$ . This

expression can be rewritten by subtracting the fractions in the exponent, which yields  $x^{\frac{7}{6}}$ . Thus,  $\frac{a}{b}$  is  $\frac{7}{6}$ .

Note that 7/6, 1.166, and 1.167 are examples of ways to enter a correct answer.

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID 34847f8a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 34847f8a

3.3

$$\frac{2}{x-2} + \frac{3}{x+5} = \frac{rx+t}{(x-2)(x+5)}$$

The equation above is true for all  $x > 2$ , where  $r$  and  $t$  are positive constants. What is the value of  $rt$ ?

- A.  $-20$
- B.  $15$
- C.  $20$
- D.  $60$

ID: 34847f8a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is correct. To express the sum of the two rational expressions on the left-hand side of the equation as the single rational expression on the right-hand side of the equation, the expressions on the left-hand side must have the same denominator. Multiplying the first expression by  $\frac{x+5}{x-2}$  results in  $\frac{2(x+5)}{(x-2)(x+5)}$ , and multiplying the second expression by  $\frac{x-2}{x+5}$  results in  $\frac{3(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+5)}$ , so the given equation can be rewritten as  $\frac{2(x+5)}{(x-2)(x+5)} + \frac{3(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+5)} = \frac{rx+t}{(x-2)(x+5)}$ , or  $\frac{2x+10}{(x-2)(x+5)} + \frac{3x-6}{(x-2)(x+5)} = \frac{rx+t}{(x-2)(x+5)}$ . Since the two rational expressions on the left-hand side of the equation have the same denominator as the rational expression on the right-hand side of the equation, it follows that  $(2x+10) + (3x-6) = rx+t$ . Combining like terms on the left-hand side yields  $5x+4 = rx+t$ , so it follows that  $r=5$  and  $t=4$ . Therefore, the value of  $rt$  is  $(5)(4) = 20$ .

Choice A is incorrect and may result from an error when determining the sign of either  $r$  or  $t$ . Choice B is incorrect and may result from not distributing the 2 and 3 to their respective terms in

$\frac{2(x+5)}{(x-2)(x+5)} + \frac{3(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+5)} = \frac{rx+t}{(x-2)(x+5)}$ . Choice D is incorrect and may result from a calculation error.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 137cc6fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 137cc6fd

3.4

$$\sqrt[5]{70n}\left(\sqrt[6]{70n}\right)^2$$

For what value of  $x$  is the given expression equivalent to  $(70n)^{30x}$ , where  $n > 1$ ?

ID: 137cc6fd Answer

Correct Answer: .0177, .0178, 4/225

Rationale

The correct answer is  $\frac{4}{225}$ . An expression of the form  $\sqrt[k]{a}$ , where  $k$  is an integer greater than 1 and  $a \geq 0$ , is equivalent to  $a^{\frac{1}{k}}$ . Therefore, the given expression, where  $n > 1$ , is equivalent to  $(70n)^{\frac{1}{5}}\left((70n)^{\frac{1}{6}}\right)^2$ . Applying properties of exponents, this expression can be rewritten as  $(70n)^{\frac{1}{5}}(70n)^{\frac{1}{6}\cdot 2}$ , or  $(70n)^{\frac{1}{5}}(70n)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ , which can be rewritten as  $(70n)^{\frac{1}{5}+\frac{1}{3}}$ , or  $(70n)^{\frac{8}{15}}$ . It's given that the expression  $\sqrt[5]{70n}\left(\sqrt[6]{70n}\right)^2$  is equivalent to  $(70n)^{30x}$ , where  $n > 1$ . It follows that  $(70n)^{\frac{8}{15}}$  is equivalent to  $(70n)^{30x}$ . Therefore,  $\frac{8}{15} = 30x$ . Dividing both sides of this equation by 30 yields  $\frac{8}{450} = x$ , or  $\frac{4}{225} = x$ . Thus, the value of  $x$  for which the given expression is equivalent to  $(70n)^{30x}$ , where  $n > 1$ , is  $\frac{4}{225}$ . Note that 4/225, .0177, .0178, 0.017, and 0.018 are examples of ways to enter a correct answer.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID ea6d05bb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: ea6d05bb

3.5

The expression  $(3x - 23)(19x + 6)$  is equivalent to the expression  $ax^2 + bx + c$ , where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are constants. What is the value of  $b$ ?

ID: ea6d05bb Answer

Correct Answer: -419

Rationale

The correct answer is  $-419$ . It's given that the expression  $(3x - 23)(19x + 6)$  is equivalent to the expression  $ax^2 + bx + c$ , where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are constants. Applying the distributive property to the given expression,  $(3x - 23)(19x + 6)$ , yields  $(3x)(19x) + (3x)(6) - (23)(19x) - (23)(6)$ , which can be rewritten as  $57x^2 + 18x - 437x - 138$ . Combining like terms yields  $57x^2 - 419x - 138$ . Since this expression is equivalent to  $ax^2 + bx + c$ , it follows that the value of  $b$  is  $-419$ .

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID d8789a4c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: d8789a4c

3.6

$$\frac{x^2 - c}{x - b}$$

In the expression above,  $b$  and  $c$  are positive integers. If the expression is equivalent to  $x + b$  and  $x \neq b$ , which of the following could be the value of  $c$ ?

- A. 4
- B. 6
- C. 8
- D. 10

ID: d8789a4c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is correct. If the given expression is equivalent to  $x + b$ , then  $\frac{x^2 - c}{x - b} = x + b$ , where  $x$  isn't equal to  $b$ . Multiplying both sides of this equation by  $x - b$  yields  $x^2 - c = (x + b)(x - b)$ . Since the right-hand side of this equation is in factored form for the difference of squares, the value of  $c$  must be a perfect square. Only choice A gives a perfect square for the value of  $c$ .

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect. None of these values of  $c$  produces a difference of squares. For example,

when 6 is substituted for  $c$  in the given expression, the result is  $\frac{x^2 - 6}{x - b}$ . The expression  $x^2 - 6$  can't be

factored with integer values, and therefore  $\frac{x^2 - 6}{x - b}$  isn't equivalent to  $x + b$ .

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5355c0ef

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■■■

ID: 5355c0ef

3.7

$$0.36x^2 + 0.63x + 1.17$$

The given expression can be rewritten as  $a(4x^2 + 7x + 13)$ , where  $a$  is a constant. What is the value of  $a$ ?

ID: 5355c0ef Answer

Correct Answer: .09, 9/100

Rationale

The correct answer is .09. It's given that the expression  $0.36x^2 + 0.63x + 1.17$  can be rewritten as  $a(4x^2 + 7x + 13)$ . Applying the distributive property to the expression  $a(4x^2 + 7x + 13)$  yields  $4ax^2 + 7ax + 13a$ . Therefore,  $0.36x^2 + 0.63x + 1.17$  can be rewritten as  $4ax^2 + 7ax + 13a$ . It follows that in the expressions  $0.36x^2 + 0.63x + 1.17$  and  $4ax^2 + 7ax + 13a$ , the coefficients of  $x^2$  are equivalent, the coefficients of  $x$  are equivalent, and the constant terms are equivalent. Therefore,  $0.36 = 4a$ ,  $0.63 = 7a$ , and  $1.17 = 13a$ . Solving any of these equations for  $a$  yields the value of  $a$ . Dividing both sides of the equation  $0.36 = 4a$  by 4 yields  $0.09 = a$ . Therefore, the value of  $a$  is 0.09. Note that .09 and 9/100 are examples of ways to enter a correct answer.

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID c81b6c57

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

**ID: c81b6c57**

3.8

In the expression  $3(2x^2 + px + 8) - 16x(p + 4)$ ,  $p$  is a constant. This expression is equivalent to the expression  $6x^2 - 155x + 24$ . What is the value of  $p$ ?

- A.  $-3$
- B.  $7$
- C.  $13$
- D.  $155$

**ID: c81b6c57 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is correct. Using the distributive property, the first given expression can be rewritten as  $6x^2 + 3px + 24 - 16px - 64x + 24$ , and then rewritten as  $6x^2 + (3p - 16p - 64)x + 24$ . Since the expression  $6x^2 + (3p - 16p - 64)x + 24$  is equivalent to  $6x^2 - 155x + 24$ , the coefficients of the  $x$  terms from each expression are equivalent to each other; thus  $3p - 16p - 64 = -155$ . Combining like terms gives  $-13p - 64 = -155$ . Adding 64 to both sides of the equation gives  $-13p = -91$ . Dividing both sides of the equation by  $-13$  yields  $p = 7$ .

Choice A is incorrect. If  $p = -3$ , then the first expression would be equivalent to  $6x^2 - 25x + 24$ . Choice C is incorrect. If  $p = 13$ , then the first expression would be equivalent to  $6x^2 - 233x + 24$ . Choice D is incorrect. If  $p = 155$ , then the first expression would be equivalent to  $6x^2 - 2,079x + 24$ .

Question Difficulty: Hard



Question ID 2c88af4d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 2c88af4d

3.9

$$\frac{x^{-2}y^{\frac{1}{2}}}{x^{\frac{1}{3}}y^{-1}}$$

The expression  $x^{\frac{1}{3}}y^{-1}$ , where  $x > 1$  and  $y > 1$ , is equivalent to which of the following?

- A.  $\frac{\sqrt{y}}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$
- B.  $\frac{y\sqrt{y}}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$
- C.  $\frac{y\sqrt{y}}{x\sqrt{x}}$
- D.  $\frac{y\sqrt{y}}{x^2\sqrt[3]{x}}$

ID: 2c88af4d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is correct. For  $x > 1$  and  $y > 1$ ,  $x^{\frac{1}{3}}$  and  $y^{\frac{1}{2}}$  are equivalent to  $\sqrt[3]{x}$  and  $\sqrt{y}$ , respectively. Also,  $x^{-2}$  and  $y^{-1}$  are equivalent to  $\frac{1}{x^2}$  and  $\frac{1}{y}$ , respectively. Therefore, the given expression can be rewritten as  $\frac{y\sqrt{y}}{x^2\sqrt[3]{x}}$ .

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because these choices are not equivalent to the given expression for  $x > 1$  and  $y > 1$ .

For example, for  $x = 2$  and  $y = 2$ , the value of the given expression is  $2^{-\frac{5}{6}}$ ; the values of the choices, however, are  $2^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ ,  $2^{\frac{5}{6}}$ , and 1, respectively.

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID 22fd3e1f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 22fd3e1f

3.10

$$f(x) = x^3 - 9x$$

$$g(x) = x^2 - 2x - 3$$

Which of the following expressions is

equivalent to  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ , for  $x > 3$ ?

A.  $\frac{1}{x+1}$

B.  $\frac{x+3}{x+1}$

C.  $\frac{x(x-3)}{x+1}$

D.  $\frac{x(x+3)}{x+1}$

ID: 22fd3e1f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is correct. Since  $x^3 - 9x = x(x+3)(x-3)$  and  $x^2 - 2x - 3 = (x+1)(x-3)$ , the fraction  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  can be written as  $\frac{x(x+3)(x-3)}{(x+1)(x-3)}$ . It is given that  $x > 3$ , so the common factor  $x - 3$  is not equal to 0. Therefore, the fraction can be further simplified to  $\frac{x(x+3)}{x+1}$ .

Choice A is incorrect. The expression  $\frac{1}{x+1}$  is not equivalent to  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  because at  $x = 0$ ,  $\frac{1}{x+1}$  has a value of 1 and  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  has a value of 0.

Choice B is incorrect and results from omitting the factor  $x$  in the factorization of  $f(x)$ . Choice C is incorrect and may result from incorrectly factoring  $g(x)$  as  $(x+1)(x+3)$  instead of  $(x+1)(x-3)$ .

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID a0b4103e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■■■

ID: a0b4103e

3.11

The expression  $\frac{1}{3}x^2 - 2$  can be rewritten as  $\frac{1}{3}(x - k)(x + k)$ , where  $k$  is a positive constant. What is the value of  $k$ ?

- A. 2
- B. 6
- C.  $\sqrt{2}$
- D.  $\sqrt{6}$

ID: a0b4103e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is correct. Factoring out the coefficient  $\frac{1}{3}$ , the given expression can be rewritten as  $\frac{1}{3}(x^2 - 6)$ . The expression  $x^2 - 6$  can be approached as a difference of squares and rewritten as  $(x - \sqrt{6})(x + \sqrt{6})$ . Therefore,  $k$  must be  $\sqrt{6}$ .

Choice A is incorrect. If  $k$  were 2, then the expression given would be rewritten as  $\frac{1}{3}(x - 2)(x + 2)$ , which is equivalent to  $\frac{1}{3}x^2 - \frac{4}{3}$ , not  $\frac{1}{3}x^2 - 2$ .

Choice B is incorrect. This may result from incorrectly factoring the expression and finding  $(x - 6)(x + 6)$  as the factored form of the expression. Choice C is incorrect. This may result from incorrectly distributing the  $\frac{1}{3}$  and rewriting the expression as  $\frac{1}{3}(x^2 - 2)$ .

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID ad038c19

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

**ID: ad038c19**

3.12

Which of the following is

equivalent to  $\left(a + \frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  ?

A.  $a^2 + \frac{b^2}{2}$

B.  $a^2 + \frac{b^2}{4}$

C.  $a^2 + \frac{ab}{2} + \frac{b^2}{2}$

D.  $a^2 + ab + \frac{b^2}{4}$

**ID: ad038c19 Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is correct. The expression  $\left(a + \frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  can be rewritten as  $\left(a + \frac{b}{2}\right)\left(a + \frac{b}{2}\right)$ . Using the distributive property, the expression yields  $\left(a + \frac{b}{2}\right)\left(a + \frac{b}{2}\right) = a^2 + \frac{ab}{2} + \frac{ab}{2} + \frac{b^2}{4}$ . Combining like terms gives  $a^2 + ab + \frac{b^2}{4}$ .

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect and may result from errors using the distributive property on the given expression or combining like terms.

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID 12e7faf8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 12e7faf8

3.13

The equation  $\frac{x^2+6x-7}{x+7} = ax+d$  is true for all  $x \neq -7$ , where  $a$  and  $d$  are integers. What is the value of  $a+d$ ?

- A.  $-6$
- B.  $-1$
- C.  $0$
- D.  $1$

ID: 12e7faf8 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is correct. Since the expression  $x^2+6x-7$  can be factored as  $(x+7)(x-1)$ , the given equation can be rewritten as  $\frac{(x+7)(x-1)}{x+7} = ax+d$ . Since  $x \neq -7$ ,  $x+7$  is also not equal to 0, so both the numerator and denominator of  $\frac{(x+7)(x-1)}{x+7}$  can be divided by  $x+7$ . This gives  $x-1 = ax+d$ . Equating the coefficient of  $x$  on each side of the equation gives  $a = 1$ . Equating the constant terms gives  $d = -1$ . The sum is  $1 + (-1) = 0$ .

Choice A is incorrect and may result from incorrectly simplifying the equation. Choices B and D are incorrect. They are the values of  $d$  and  $a$ , respectively, not  $a+d$ .

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID 89fc23af

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 89fc23af

3.14

Which of the following expressions is

equivalent to  $\frac{x^2 - 2x - 5}{x - 3}$  ?

A.  $x - 5 - \frac{20}{x - 3}$

B.  $x - 5 - \frac{10}{x - 3}$

C.  $x + 1 - \frac{8}{x - 3}$

D.  $x + 1 - \frac{2}{x - 3}$

ID: 89fc23af Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is correct. The numerator of the given expression can be rewritten in terms of the denominator,  $x - 3$ , as follows:  $x^2 - 2x - 5 = x^2 - 3x + x - 3 - 2$ , which is equivalent to  $x(x - 3) + (x - 3) - 2$ . So the given

expression is equivalent to  $\frac{x(x - 3) + (x - 3) - 2}{x - 3} = \frac{x(x - 3)}{x - 3} + \frac{x - 3}{x - 3} - \frac{2}{x - 3}$ . Since the given expression is

defined for  $x \neq 3$ , the expression can be rewritten as  $x + 1 - \frac{2}{x - 3}$ .

Long division can also be used as an alternate approach. Choices A, B, and C are incorrect and may result from errors made when dividing the two polynomials or making use of structure.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 911c415b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: 911c415b

3.15

$(7532 + 100y^2) + 10(10y^2 - 110)$

The expression above can be written in the form  $ay^2 + b$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants. What is the value of  $a + b$ ?

ID: 911c415b Answer

Rationale

The correct answer is 6632. Applying the distributive property to the expression yields  $(7532 + 100y^2) + (100y^2 - 1100)$ . Then adding together  $7532 + 100y^2$  and  $100y^2 - 1100$  and collecting like terms results in  $200y^2 + 6432$ . This is written in the form  $ay^2 + b$ , where  $a = 200$  and  $b = 6432$ . Therefore  $a + b = 200 + 6432 = 6632$ .

Question Difficulty: Hard



Question ID f89e1d6f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: f89e1d6f

3.16

If  $a = c + d$ , which of the following is equivalent to the expression  $x^2 - c^2 - 2cd - d^2$ ?

- A.  $(x + a)^2$
- B.  $(x - a)^2$
- C.  $(x + a)(x - a)$
- D.  $x^2 - ax - a^2$

ID: f89e1d6f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is correct. Factoring  $-1$  from the second, third, and fourth terms gives  $x^2 - c^2 - 2cd - d^2 = x^2 - (c^2 + 2cd + d^2)$ . The expression  $c^2 + 2cd + d^2$  is the expanded form of a perfect square:  $c^2 + 2cd + d^2 = (c + d)^2$ . Therefore,  $x^2 - (c^2 + 2cd + d^2) = x^2 - (c + d)^2$ . Since  $a = c + d$ ,  $x^2 - (c + d)^2 = x^2 - a^2$ . Finally, because  $x^2 - a^2$  is the difference of squares, it can be expanded as  $x^2 - a^2 = (x + a)(x - a)$ .

Choices A and B are incorrect and may be the result of making an error in factoring the difference of squares  $x^2 - a^2$ . Choice D is incorrect and may be the result of incorrectly combining terms.

Question Difficulty: Hard

## Question ID e117d3b8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	■ ■ ■

ID: e117d3b8

3.17

If  $a$  and  $c$  are positive numbers, which of the following is equivalent to  $\sqrt{(a+c)^3} \cdot \sqrt{a+c}$ ?

- A.  $a+c$
- B.  $a^2+c^2$
- C.  $a^2+2ac+c^2$
- D.  $a^2c^2$

ID: e117d3b8 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is correct. Using the property that  $\sqrt{x}\sqrt{y} = \sqrt{xy}$  for positive numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , with  $x = (a+c)^3$  and  $y = a+c$ , it follows that  $\sqrt{(a+c)^3} \cdot \sqrt{a+c} = \sqrt{(a+c)^4}$ . By rewriting  $(a+c)^4$  as  $((a+c)^2)^2$ , it is possible to simplify the square root expression as follows:  $\sqrt{((a+c)^2)^2} = (a+c)^2 = a^2+2ac+c^2$ .

Choice A is incorrect and may be the result of  $\sqrt{(a+c)^3} \div \sqrt{(a+c)}$ . Choice B is incorrect and may be the result of incorrectly rewriting  $(a+c)^2$  as  $a^2+c^2$ . Choice D is incorrect and may be the result of incorrectly applying properties of exponents.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID c6e85cd7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Math	Advanced Math	Equivalent expressions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c6e85cd7

3.18

If  $4^{8c} = \sqrt[3]{4^7}$ , what is the value of  $c$ ?

ID: c6e85cd7 Answer

Correct Answer: .2916, .2917, 7/24

### Rationale

The correct answer is  $\frac{7}{24}$ . An expression of the form  $\sqrt[n]{a^m}$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  are integers greater than 1 and  $a \geq 0$ , is equivalent to  $a^{\frac{m}{n}}$ . Therefore, the expression on the right-hand side of the given equation,  $\sqrt[3]{4^7}$ , is equivalent to  $4^{\frac{7}{3}}$ . Thus,  $4^{8c} = 4^{\frac{7}{3}}$ . It follows that  $8c = \frac{7}{3}$ . Dividing both sides of this equation by 8 yields  $c = \frac{7}{24}$ . Note that 7/24, .2916, .2917, 0.219, and 0.292 are examples of ways to enter a correct answer.

Question Difficulty: Hard