

Decimals

Decimals are the part of the number which come after the decimal point. This part of a number shows a part of a whole or 1. You must be comfortable using them as they are used all the time. Examples:

0.1 is the same as $\frac{1}{10}$

0.01 is the same as $\frac{1}{100}$

0.001 is the same as $\frac{1}{1000}$

0.243 is the same as $\frac{243}{1000}$

0.002 is the same as $\frac{2}{1000}$

2.0 is the same as $\frac{2}{1}$

Terminating Decimals

These are decimals which end straight away (1.5, 0.1234, 1.2345).

Non-Terminating Decimals

These are numbers which have decimals which do not stop. These include numbers such as PI or recurring decimals like a third.

Decimal Places

Decimals may not be very short. Many answers may give a long string of decimal places which don't seem to end. Questions in an exam you may be asked to give answers to a specific degree of accuracy.

For example:

If $x = 12.3456789$

x to 4 significant figures is 12.34

x to 4 decimal places is 12.3456

About the Author

Revision Notes by Richard Tang

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