

Operations with Integers

Chapter 10: The Other Side of Zero · Topic 2

Key Concept

For example, $5 + (-3)$ is the same as $5 - 3 = 2$ (moving 3 steps left from 5); and $3 - (-2)$ is the same as $3 + 2 = 5$ (the two negatives effectively cancel to become a positive, moving right). Mastering these integer operation rules is essential preparation for algebra in later classes, where negative numbers and their operations appear constantly in solving equations and working with coordinates.

Quick Revision Notes

- Adding a positive number moves right on a number line; adding a negative moves left.
- Adding a negative number is equivalent to subtracting its positive value.
- Subtracting a negative number is equivalent to adding its positive value.
- Mastering integer operations prepares students for algebra in later classes.

Practice Questions

- 1 Calculate: $-4 + 7$ and $3 - (-2)$.
- 2 Calculate: $-6 - (-4)$.
- 3 Explain, using a number line, why subtracting a negative number is the same as adding a positive one.