

Multiplying and Dividing Decimals

Chapter 12: Another Peek Beyond the Point · Topic 1

Key Concept

For example, 2.5×1.2 : multiply $25 \times 12 = 300$, then since there are 2 total decimal places (1 in 2.5, 1 in 1.2), place the decimal point 2 places from the right: 3.00, or simply 3.0. For division, dividing 6.4 by 2 is straightforward since 2 is already a whole number, giving 3.2 directly, while dividing by a decimal divisor requires first converting it to a whole number by moving both decimal points equally.

Quick Revision Notes

- Multiply decimals as whole numbers first, then place the decimal point based on total decimal places.
- Example: $2.5 \times 1.2 = 3.0$ (2 total decimal places from the original numbers).
- To divide by a decimal, convert the divisor to a whole number by shifting both decimal points equally.
- Dividing by an already-whole divisor (like 2) is straightforward.

Practice Questions

- 1 Divide 6.4 by 2.
- 2 Multiply 3.2 by 1.5.
- 3 Explain the steps to multiply 2.5 by 1.2.