

Fractions and Operations

Chapter 4: Fractions and Operations · Topic 1

Key Concept

To add or subtract fractions with different denominators, we first find a common denominator, a number both denominators can divide into.

For example, to add $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}$, we find a common denominator (6), convert to $\frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6}$, then add to get $\frac{5}{6}$.

We compare fractions with different denominators the same way - converting to a common denominator first, then comparing numerators.

Understanding fraction operations helps us solve more complex problems involving parts of a whole in real life.

Quick Revision Notes

- Different-denominator fractions need a common denominator first.
- $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}$: common denominator is 6.
- $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$.
- $\frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$.
- We compare fractions the same way.
- Convert to common denominator, then compare numerators.
- This helps solve complex fraction problems.
- Fractions describe parts of a whole in real life.

Practice Questions

- 1 Add $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$.
- 2 Subtract $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$.
- 3 Compare $\frac{2}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$, saying which is bigger.
- 4 Find a common denominator for $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$.
- 5 Solve two mixed fraction addition problems.
- 6 Discuss a real-life example using fractions.