

**GCSE - Numeracy and Mathematics**

**Topic:** Product of prime factors including HCF and LCM

**Tier:** Intermediate

**Grade:**

C/D/E



**Starter:**

- 1) Which of these are prime numbers?  
  
12, 5, 4, 2, 18, 7, 9, 3
- 2) Find all the factors of 24.
- 3) Find the first **five** multiples of 7.

**Skills:**

- 1) What is the highest common factor of 18 and 45?
- 2) What is the lowest common multiple of 5 and 6?
- 3) What is the product of prime factors of 240?
- 4) What is the product of prime factors of 140?
- 5) Use your answers to question 4 and 5 to find the highest common factor of 240 and 140.

**Top Tips!**

Factor: Goes into a number  
Multiple: In a number's times table

Learn the 'tree method' for finding the **Product of Prime Factors**

$$\begin{array}{r} 40 \\ / \ \backslash \\ \underline{5} \ 8 \\ / \ \backslash \\ 4 \ \underline{2} \\ / \ \backslash \\ 2 \ \underline{2} \end{array}$$

Split the original number into two factors that when multiplied make the number.

e.g. 40 split into 5 x 8 (or 4 x 10 etc.)

Circle any prime number factors you have used (in **bold and underlined** here)

Repeat this method on any non-prime factors you have used and keep repeating until there are no more factors to split.

The circled factor are the **prime factors** of the original number.

$$\begin{aligned} 40 &= 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 5 \\ &= 2^3 \times 5 \end{aligned}$$

Write these prime factors as a **product** (a multiplication).

To improve your answer use indices.

Note: It is possible to use product of prime factors and a Venn diagram to find the HCF and LCM.

**Examination Question:**

**2015 January Link Applications U1 Higher Q1a**

Berlin's main railway station is known as the Hauptbahnhof. Bellevue and Wildau are two railway stations in opposite directions from the Hauptbahnhof.

On a particular day,

- trains leave the Hauptbahnhof to Bellevue every 14 minutes
- trains leave the Hauptbahnhof to Wildau every 12 minutes.

A train to Bellevue and a train to Wildau both leave the Hauptbahnhof at 10:00. When will a train to Bellevue and a train to Wildau next leave the Hauptbahnhof at the same time?

**Assessment for Learning**

**Video / QR code**

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**Starter:**

- 1) Which of these are prime numbers?

12, **5**, 4, **2**, 18, **7**, 9, **3**

- 2) Find all the factors of 24.

**1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24**

- 3) Find the first **five** multiples of 7.

**7, 14, 21, 28, 35****Skills:**

- 1) What is the highest common factor of 18 and 45?

**9**

- 2) What is the lowest common multiple of 5 and 6?

**30**

- 3) What is the product of prime factors of 240?

$$= 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5$$

$$= 2^4 \times 3 \times 5$$

- 4) What is the product of prime factors of 140?

$$= 2 \times 2 \times 5 \times 7$$

$$= 2^2 \times 5 \times 7$$

- 5) Use your answers to question 4 and 5 to find the highest common factor of 240 and 140.

**20****Top Tips!**

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Split the original number into two factors that when multiplied make the number.

e.g. 40 split into 5 x 8 (or 4 x 10 etc.)

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 40 \\
 / \quad \backslash \\
 \underline{5} \quad 8 \\
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 \end{array}$$
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$$40 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 5$$

To improve your answer use indices.

$$= 2^3 \times 5$$

Note: It is possible to use product of prime factors and a Venn diagram to find the HCF and LCM.

**Examination Question:****2015 January Link Applications U1 Higher Q1a**

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**LCM of 12 and 14 is 94**

**Every 94 minutes a train leaves for Bellevue and for Hauptbahnhof**

**94 minutes after 10:00 is 11:34**

**Assessment for Learning****Video / QR code**

