

# 7 MUST KNOW QUESTIONS TO CONQUER

## SURDS

1	Without using a calculator, find the value of $a$ and of $b$ , for which $\frac{24}{\sqrt{3}(\sqrt{6}+\sqrt{12})}$ can be expressed as $a - \sqrt{b}$ .  Ans: $a = 8, b = 32$
2	Without using a calculator, find the exact value of $x$ if $\sqrt{3} - x = \frac{\sqrt{48+5x}}{\sqrt{12}}$ .  Ans: $\frac{54-32\sqrt{3}}{13}$
3	The area of triangle is $(1 + \frac{5\sqrt{5}}{2}) \text{ cm}^2$ . If the length of the base of the triangle is $(3 + 2\sqrt{5}) \text{ cm}$ , find without using a calculator, the height of the triangle in the form of $(a + b\sqrt{5}) \text{ cm}$ , where $a$ and $b$ are integers.  Ans: $4 - \sqrt{5}$
4	Given that $x = \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}$ , find without using the calculator, the value of $x^2 - \frac{1}{x^2}$ .  Ans: $-4\sqrt{6}$
5	Without using a calculator, find the value of $p$ and of $q$ such that $\sqrt{\frac{1}{p+q\sqrt{5}}} = \frac{2-\sqrt{5}}{3-2\sqrt{5}}$ .  Ans: $p = 21, q = 8$
6	Express $\frac{3}{2-\sqrt{3}} - (2 - \sqrt{3})^2$ in the form $m + n\sqrt{3}$ , where $m$ and $n$ are integers to be found.  Ans: $-1 + 7\sqrt{3}$
7	Find the values of the integers $a$ and $b$ such that $\frac{\sqrt{a+b}}{11}$ is the solution of the equation $x\sqrt{24} = x\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{6}$ .  Ans: $a = 3, b = 6$