TOPIC 2: RATIO & PROPORTION

RATIOS

- Ratios are expressed as $\frac{a}{b}$ or $\alpha : \beta$
- Ratios must be expressed in the **same units**
  - Eg. to find the ratio between 40cm and 4m, we must convert 4m = 400cm
- A ratio expressed in its simplest form, means that **it cannot be further simplified**
  - $\frac{40}{20} = \frac{20}{10} = \frac{10}{5} = \frac{2}{1}$ (simplest form)
- To find a ratio in its simplest form, divide both sides by common factors until no more common factors are obtained
- Unless the question states otherwise, **all answers should be expressed in simplest form**

PROBLEMS INVOLVING RATIOS

Comparing Ratios

When asked to compare different ratios (eg. 2:3 and 4:5), follow these steps:

- Step 1: Convert the ratios into fraction form (eg. $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{4}{5}$)

- Step 2: Find the LCM between the denominators, and convert the fractions accordingly (eg. $\frac{10}{15}$ and $\frac{12}{15}$)

- Step 3: Compare the 2 fractions (eg. $\frac{10}{15}$ is smaller than $\frac{12}{15}$; therefore, 2:3 is smaller than 4:5)

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