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CHAPTER 3

ALGEBRA

IMPORTANT POINTS

VARIABLE AND CONSTANT :

- A variable takes different values which is represented by $x, y, z, \ldots$
- Constant has numerical values such as 31, –7, $\frac{3}{10}$ etc.
- Algebraic statements are also known as algebraic expressions.

TERMS AND COEFFICIENTS

- Variables and constants are combined by the operations addition and subtraction to construct an algebraic expression.

  Eg: In the algebraic expression $6x + 1$
  $6x$ and 1 are **terms**
  The term $6x$ is **variable term** and the term 1 is the **constant term.**
  In the term $6x$, 6 and x are **factors**

- A term may be
  (i) a constant such as 8, –11, 7, ...
  (ii) a variable such as $p, y, x, \ldots$
  (iii) a product of two or more variables such as $xy, pq, abc, \ldots$
  (iv) a product of constant and a variable/variables such as $5x, -7pq, 3abc, \ldots$

POLYNOMIALS

- An algebraic expression with one term is called a monomial.

  Eg: $2x$
- An expression with two terms is called a **binomial** Eg: $2x + 3y$.
- An expression with three terms is a **trinomial.**

  Eg: $2x + 3y + 4z$.
- An expression with one or more terms is called a **Polynomial** i.e. All the above expressions are polynomials.
- A **term** of an algebraic expression is a product of factors.
- Each factor or product of factors is called the **co-efficient** of the remaining product of factors.

  Eg: In the term $5xy$, 5 is the co-efficient of the remaining factor product xy. Similarly x is the co-efficient of $5y$.
- The constant 5 is called the **numerical co-efficient.**
- A co-efficient can either be a numerical factor or an algebraic factor or product of both.
- If no numerical co-efficient appears in the term, then the co-efficient is understood to be 1.

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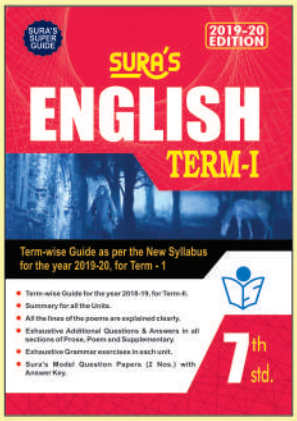

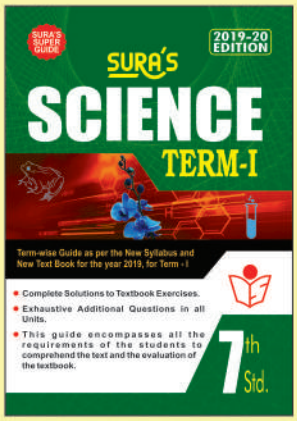

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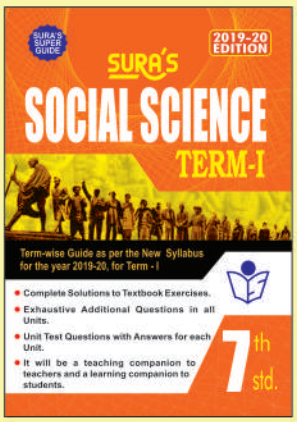

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