

Aptitude - Number System

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Numbers

In Decimal number system, there are ten symbols namely 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 called digits. A number is denoted by group of these digits called as numerals.

Face Value

Face value of a digit in a numeral is value of the digit itself. For example in 321, face value of 1 is 1, face value of 2 is 2 and face value of 3 is 3.

Place Value

Place value of a digit in a numeral is value of the digit multiplied by 10^n where n starts from 0. For example in 321:

- Place value of 1 = $1 \times 10^0 = 1 \times 1 = 1$
- Place value of 2 = $2 \times 10^1 = 2 \times 10 = 20$
- Place value of 3 = $3 \times 10^2 = 3 \times 100 = 300$

0th position digit is called unit digit and is the most commonly used topic in aptitude tests.

Types of Numbers

1. **Natural Numbers** - $n > 0$ where n is counting number; [1,2,3...]

2. **Whole Numbers** - $n \geq 0$ where n is counting number; [0,1,2,3...].

0 is the only whole number which is not a natural number.

Every natural number is a whole number.

3. **Integers** - $n \geq 0$ or $n \leq 0$ where n is counting number; ..., -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3... are integers.

- **Positive Integers** - $n > 0$; [1,2,3...]
- **Negative Integers** - $n < 0$; [-1,-2,-3...]
- **Non-Positive Integers** - $n \leq 0$; [0,-1,-2,-3...]
- **Non-Negative Integers** - $n \geq 0$; [0,1,2,3...]

0 is neither positive nor negative integer.

4. **Even Numbers** - $n / 2 = 0$ where n is counting number; $[0, 2, 4, \dots]$

5. **Odd Numbers** - $n / 2 \neq 0$ where n is counting number; $[1, 3, 5, \dots]$

6. **Prime Numbers** - Numbers which is divisible by themselves only apart from 1.

1 is not a prime number.

To test a number p to be prime, find a whole number k such that $k > \sqrt{p}$. Get all prime numbers less than or equal to k and divide p with each of these prime numbers. If no number divides p exactly then p is a prime number otherwise it is not a prime number.

Example: 191 is prime number or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - $14 > \sqrt{191}$

Step 2 - Prime numbers less than 14 are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11 and 13.

Step 3 - 191 is not divisible by any above prime number.

Result - 191 is a prime number.

Example: 187 is prime number or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - $14 > \sqrt{187}$

Step 2 - Prime numbers less than 14 are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11 and 13.

Step 3 - 187 is divisible by 11.

Result - 187 is not a prime number.

7. **Composite Numbers** - Non-prime numbers > 1 . For example, 4, 6, 8, 9 etc.

1 is neither a prime number nor a composite number.

2 is the only even prime number.

8. **Co-Primes Numbers** - Two natural numbers are co-primes if their H.C.F. is 1. For example, 2, 3, 4, 5 are co-primes.

Divisibility

Following are tips to check divisibility of numbers.

1. **Divisibility by 2** - A number is divisible by 2 if its unit digit is 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8.

Example: 64578 is divisible by 2 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Unit digit is 8.

Result - 64578 is divisible by 2.

Example: 64575 is divisible by 2 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Unit digit is 5.

Result - 64575 is not divisible by 2.

2. **Divisibility by 3** - A number is divisible by 3 if sum of its digits is completely divisible by 3.

Example: 64578 is divisible by 3 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Sum of its digits is $6 + 4 + 5 + 7 + 8 = 30$
which is divisible by 3.

Result - 64578 is divisible by 3.

Example: 64576 is divisible by 3 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Sum of its digits is $6 + 4 + 5 + 7 + 6 = 28$
which is not divisible by 3.

Result - 64576 is not divisible by 3.

3. Divisibility by 4 - A number is divisible by 4 if number formed using its last two digits is completely divisible by 4.

Example: 64578 is divisible by 4 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - number formed using its last two digits is 78
which is not divisible by 4.

Result - 64578 is not divisible by 4.

Example: 64580 is divisible by 4 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - number formed using its last two digits is 80
which is divisible by 4.

Result - 64580 is divisible by 4.

4. Divisibility by 5 - A number is divisible by 5 if its unit digit is 0 or 5.

Example: 64578 is divisible by 5 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Unit digit is 8.

Result - 64578 is not divisible by 5.

Example: 64575 is divisible by 5 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Unit digit is 5.

Result - 64575 is divisible by 5.

5. Divisibility by 6 - A number is divisible by 6 if the number is divisible by both 2 and 3.

Example: 64578 is divisible by 6 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Unit digit is 8. Number is divisible by 2.

Step 2 - Sum of its digits is $6 + 4 + 5 + 7 + 8 = 30$
which is divisible by 3.

Result - 64578 is divisible by 6.

Example: 64576 is divisible by 6 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - Unit digit is 8. Number is divisible by 2.

Step 2 - Sum of its digits is $6 + 4 + 5 + 7 + 6 = 28$
which is not divisible by 3.

Result - 64576 is not divisible by 6.

6. Divisibility by 8 - A number is divisible by 8 if number formed using its last three digits is completely divisible by 8.

Example: 64578 is divisible by 8 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - number formed using its last three digits is 578
which is not divisible by 8.

Result - 64578 is not divisible by 8.

Example: 64576 is divisible by 8 or not?

Solution:

Step 1 - number formed using its last three digits is 576

which is divisible by 8.
Result - 64576 is divisible by 8.

7. Divisibility by 9 - A number is divisible by 9 if sum of its digits is completely divisible by 9.

Example: 64579 is divisible by 9 or not?
Solution:
Step 1 - Sum of its digits is $6 + 4 + 5 + 7 + 9 = 31$
which is not divisible by 9.
Result - 64579 is not divisible by 9.

Example: 64575 is divisible by 9 or not?
Solution:
Step 1 - Sum of its digits is $6 + 4 + 5 + 7 + 5 = 27$
which is divisible by 9.
Result - 64575 is divisible by 9.

8. Divisibility by 10 - A number is divisible by 10 if its unit digit is 0.

Example: 64575 is divisible by 10 or not?
Solution:
Step 1 - Unit digit is 5.
Result - 64575 is not divisible by 10.

Example: 64570 is divisible by 10 or not?
Solution:
Step 1 - Unit digit is 0.
Result - 64570 is divisible by 10.

9. Divisibility by 11 - A number is divisible by 11 if difference between sum of digits at odd places and sum of digits at even places is either 0 or is divisible by 11.

Example: 64575 is divisible by 11 or not?
Solution:
Step 1 - difference between sum of digits at odd places and sum of digits at even places = $(6+5+5) - (4+7) = 5$
which is not divisible by 11.
Result - 64575 is not divisible by 11.

Example: 64075 is divisible by 11 or not?
Solution:
Step 1 - difference between sum of digits at odd places and sum of digits at even places = $(6+0+5) - (4+7) = 0$.
Result - 64075 is divisible by 11.

Tips on Division

1. If a number n is divisible by two co-primes numbers a, b then n is divisible by ab .
2. $a - b$ always divides $(a^n - b^n)$ if n is a natural number.
3. $a + b$ always divides $(a^n - b^n)$ if n is an even number.
4. $a + b$ always divides $(a^n + b^n)$ if n is an odd number.

Division Algorithm

When a number is divided by another number then

$$\text{Dividend} = \text{Divisor} \times \text{Quotient} + \text{Reminder}$$

Series

Following are formulae for basic number series:

$$1. 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{1}{2}n(n + 1)$$

$$2. (1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2) = \frac{1}{6}n(n + 1)(2n + 1)$$

$$3. (1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3) = \frac{1}{4}n^2(n + 1)^2$$

Basic Formulae

These are the basic formulae:

$$(a + b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

$$(a - b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab$$

$$(a + b)^2 - (a - b)^2 = 4ab$$

$$(a + b)^2 + (a - b)^2 = 2(a^2 + b^2)$$

$$(a^2 - b^2) = (a + b)(a - b)$$

$$(a + b + c)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + 2(ab + bc + ca)$$

$$(a^3 + b^3) = (a + b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$$

$$(a^3 - b^3) = (a - b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$$

$$(a^3 + b^3 + c^3 - 3abc) = (a + b + c)(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - ab - bc - ca)$$