Stage 8: Numbers and the number system

It's not quite a quiz, it's not quite a test

Quest



2	Use prime factorisations to find the highest common factor of two numbers	
а	Find the highest common factor of 72 and 180.	
b	Tom is asked to find the highest common factor of 72 and 168. Here is his working.	
	$72 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 3$ and $168 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 7$	
	Prime factors of 72 Prime factors of 168	
	The highest common factor of 72 and 168 is 504	
	Tom is wrong. Explain why.	

3	Use prime factorisations to find the lowest common multiple of two numbers	
а	Find the lowest common multiple of 45 and 54.	
b	Carol is asked to find the lowest common multiple of 48 and 72. She writes	
	48 × 72 = 3 456	
	Do you agree with Carol? Explain why.	

4	Round numbers to one or two significant figures	
а	Round 43 492 to two significant figures.	



Justin rounds 0.0763 to one significant figure.

His answer is 0.1.

b

Do you agree? Explain why.

5	Round numbers to one and two decimal places	
а	Use your calculator to work out 3.2 + 23.6 ÷ 7.	
	Round your answer to two decimal places.	
b	Aylsa is asked to round 902.449 to one decimal place.	
	She writes 902.449 → 902.45 → 902.5	
	Aylsa is wrong. Explain why.	

6	Use standard form to write large numbers	
а	Write 3.27 × 10 ⁵ as an ordinary number.	
b	Lance writes $5.4 \times 10^7 = 540\ 000\ 000$.	
	Do you agree with Lance? Explain why.	

7	Use standard form to write small numbers	
а	Write 0.000 188 in standard form.	
b	Jane writes $0.000\ 041 = 4.1 \times 10^{-4}$	
	Jane is wrong. Explain her mistake.	



Stage 8: Numbers and the number system

	Key learning point	\odot	::	٢	\odot
1	Write a number as a product of its prime factors				
2	Use prime factorisations to find the highest common factor of two numbers				
3	Use prime factorisations to find the lowest common multiple of two numbers				
4	Round numbers to one or two significant figures				
5	Round numbers to one and two decimal places				
6	Use standard form to write large numbers				
7	Use standard form to write small numbers				

Top three improvements for me to make



Stage 8: Numbers and the number system

1a	2×2×2×3×5	
1b	15 is not a prime number – you don't just divide by 2 until you run out of possibilities	
2a	36	
2b	504 is the LCM. The HCF is the product of the numbers in the intersection; i.e. 24.	
3a	270	
3b	The lowest common multiple of only sometimes the product of the two numbers. The LCM is actually 144 in this case. [Note: It is always true that LCM(a, b) = $a \times b \div HCF(a, b)$]	
4a	43 000	
4b	e.g. It should be 0.08	
5a	6.57	
5b	e.g. It should be 902.4. You only check the next column along.	
6a	327 000	
6b	$5.4 \times 10^7 = 54\ 000\ 000$	
7a	1.88×10^{-4}	
7b	$0.000\ 041 = 4.1 \times 10^{-5}$	