

Formulas you need to know

The following are some of the fundamental formulas of algebra:

$$|-a| = |a|$$

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$$

$$a^m a^n = a^{m+n}$$

$$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}, a \neq 0$$

$$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$$

$$(ab)^n = a^n b^n$$

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}, b \neq 0$$

$$a^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a}$$

$$a^{m/n} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m = \sqrt[n]{a^m}$$

$$\sqrt[n]{ab} = \sqrt[n]{a} \sqrt[n]{b}$$

$$\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}, b \neq 0$$

$$u^2 = k \text{ is equivalent to } u = \pm\sqrt{k}$$

$$\text{The solutions to } ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \text{ are } x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

In addition, the following are not equalities:

$$(a + b)^2 \neq a^2 + b^2$$

$$\sqrt{a + b} \neq \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}$$

$$\frac{x + a}{x + b} \neq \frac{a}{b}$$

$$|a| \neq a$$

$$|-a| \neq a$$