

Answers to Practice Exercises for Chapter 11 – The Four Rules for Rational Numbers

Set A - Question 6

Working

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{3}{4} - \frac{5}{12} \\ = & \frac{9}{12} - \frac{5}{12} \\ = & \frac{4}{12} \\ = & \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Comment

The lowest common multiple of 4 and 12 is 12, so that will be the common denominator

Multiply the numerator and denominator of $\frac{3}{4}$ by 3 to make $\frac{9}{12}$. The other fraction, $\frac{5}{12}$, stays unchanged.

Subtract the numerators. The result is not in its lowest terms.

Divide numerator and denominator by a common factor of 4 to get the answer.