Teaching Proportional Reasoning Concepts and Procedures Using Repetition with Variation Topic Study Group 1: Quality Mathematics Curriculum and Materials

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Synopsis

We describe worksheets created for a study that aimed to provide empirical evidence on the causal relationships between conceptual and procedural knowledge in mathematics using an East Asian perspective.

The supplemental self-paced instructional materials are intended to help young adults improve their performance in tasks designed to assess their proportional reasoning understanding and skills.

The Worksheets

Students are to individually answer one written-response worksheet each day without using books or calculators.

They answer the worksheets at their own pace (taking around 15 to 30 minutes on the average to do so), prioritizing performance over speed.

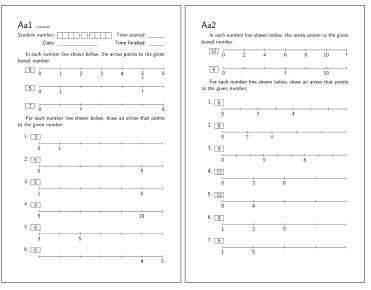
Each worksheet is a booklet eight half-letter-sized pages long and includes a short discussion of the concepts or procedures involved, with examples and tasks arranged in a slowly increasing level of difficulty.

The tasks are to be done in a strictly sequential order and are to be repeated until mastery is attained.

Each of the eleven worksheets has a conceptual version (with nonnumeric tasks) and a procedural version (with numeric tasks).

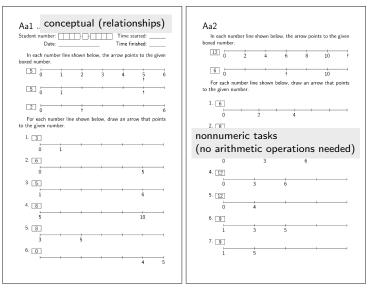
- A Locating numbers on a number line
- B Identifying points on a number line
- C Using a linear scale to represent ratios and proportions
- D Comparing ratios without context
- ${\sf E}\,$ Finding the mass of a liquid given its density and its volume
- F Conserving linear speed (the product of a gear's number of teeth and angular speed)
- G Dissolving grains in a liquid to get a solution with the same volume as the liquid
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{H}}$ Comparing the volumes of liquid in identical containers but with different orientations
 - I Decomposing and composing a solid with uniform density
- J Conserving volume (the product of a liquid's height and area in a container)
- ${\sf K}\,$ Review of worksheets D, E, F, G, H, I, and J

Locating numbers on a number line: Conceptual



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Locating numbers on a number line: Conceptual



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Into how many parts is it divided?	

mber s, end at the number An arrow that points to the nts to the number x, where

s = 4, c = 9, p = 5, and annumber x = 7 is to be drawn.

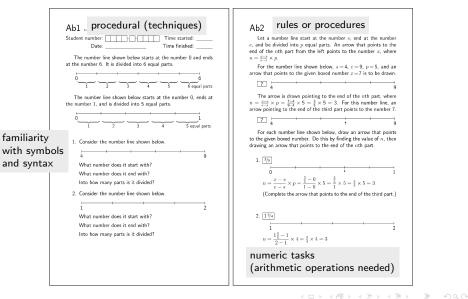
e end of the nth part, where 3. For this number line, an part points to the number 7.

w. draw an arrow that points y finding the value of n, then nd of the nth part.

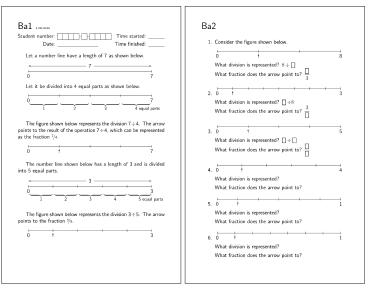


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Locating numbers on a number line: Procedural

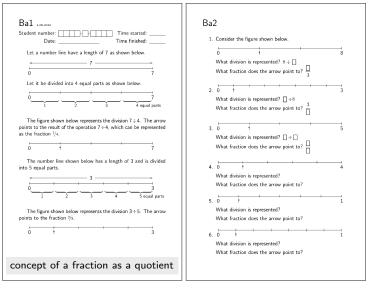


Identifying points on a number line: Conceptual



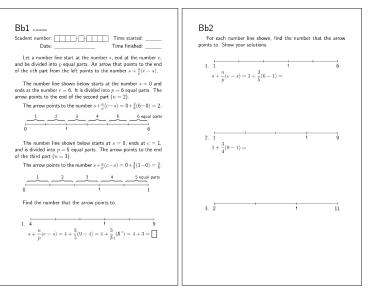
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Identifying points on a number line: Conceptual



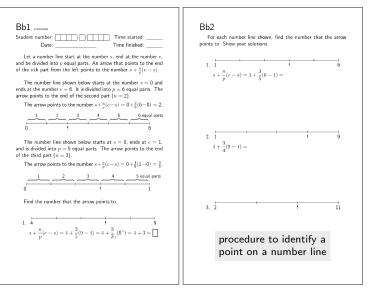
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Identifying points on a number line: Procedural

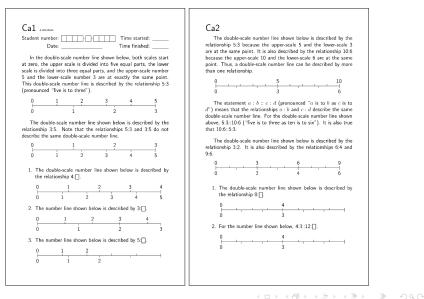


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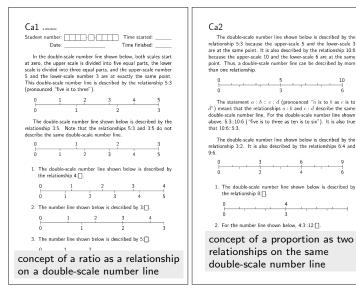
Identifying points on a number line: Procedural



Ratio and proportion using a linear scale: Conceptual

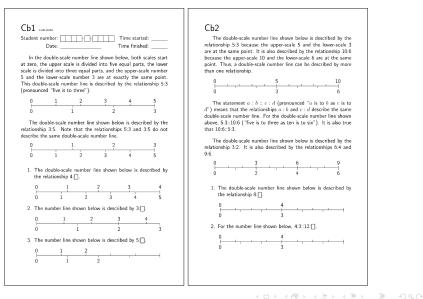


Ratio and proportion using a linear scale: Conceptual

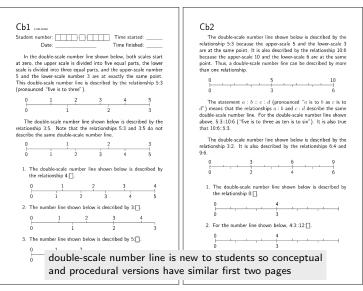


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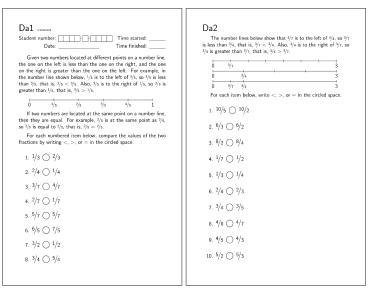
Ratio and proportion using a linear scale: Procedural



Ratio and proportion using a linear scale: Procedural

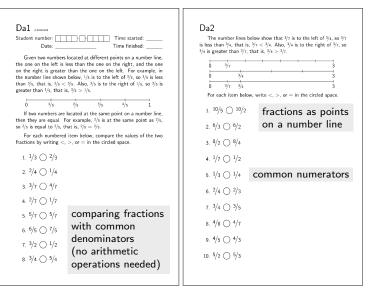


Ratio comparison problems: Conceptual



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Ratio comparison problems: Conceptual



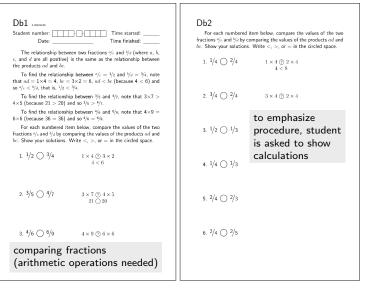
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Ratio comparison problems: Procedural

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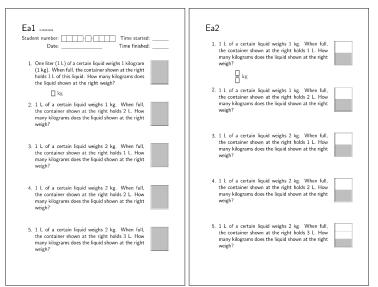
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Ratio comparison problems: Procedural



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Mass of a liquid: Conceptual



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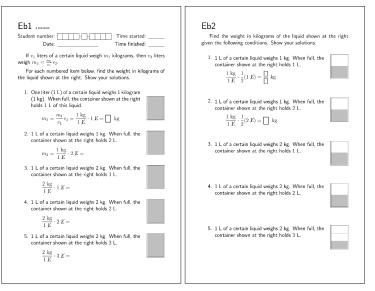
Mass of a liquid: Conceptual

no procedure given Student number: Time started: Date: Time started: lone filter (1 L) of a certain liquid weighs 1 kilogram (1 kg). When full, the container shown at the right high a low any kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh? kg 1. L of a certain liquid weighs 1 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 2 L. How many kilogram does the liquid show at the right weighs?	Ea2 1 L of a certain liquid weight 1 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 1 L How many holgrams does the liquid shown at the right weigh? kg hints on expected L L of a cert. the container many holgram (fraction, not decimal)	
weigh? 3. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 2 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 1 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh?	3. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 2 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 1 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh?	
4. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 2 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 2 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh?	4. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 2 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 2 L How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh?	
5. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 2 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 3 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh?	5. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 2 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 3 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh?	
ncepts taught through repetition with variation, highly sequential presentation		

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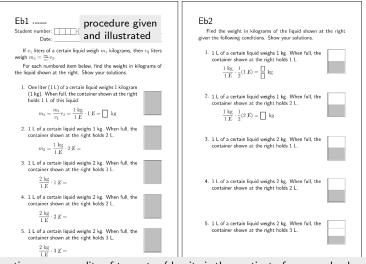
Mass of a liquid: Procedural



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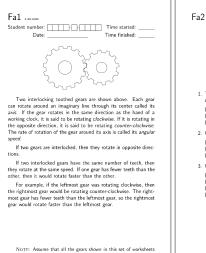
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Mass of a liquid: Procedural



proportion as an equality of two rates (density is the quotient of mass and volume)

Interlocking toothed gears: Conceptual





- 1. The leftmost gear is rotating clockwise, as shown by the curved arrow. What can be said about the rightmost gear?
 - (a) It is rotating clockwise.
 - (b) It is rotating counter-clockwise.
 - (c) Its direction of rotation cannot be determined.
- 2. Which of the following is true?
 - (a) The leftmost gear has more teeth.
 - (b) The rightmost gear has more teeth
 - (c) The two gears have the same number of teeth.
- 3. What can be said about the angular speeds of the two gears?
 - (a) The leftmost gear is rotating faster.
 - (b) The rightmost gear is rotating faster.
 - (c) Both gears are rotating at the same angular speed.
 - (d) It cannot be determined which gear is rotating faster.

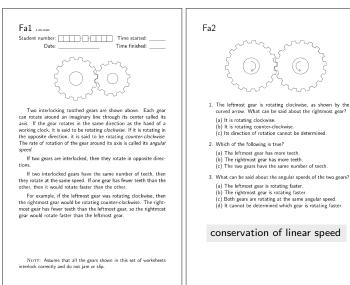
interlock correctly and do not iam or slip.

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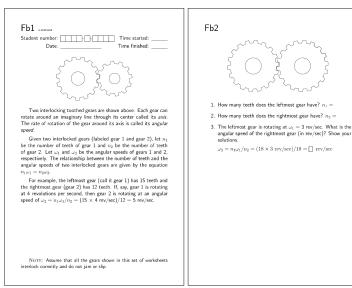
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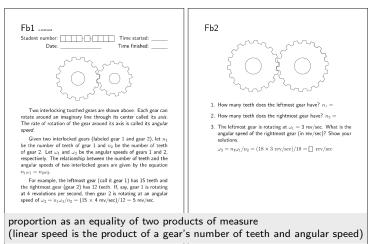
Interlocking toothed gears: Conceptual



Interlocking toothed gears: Procedural

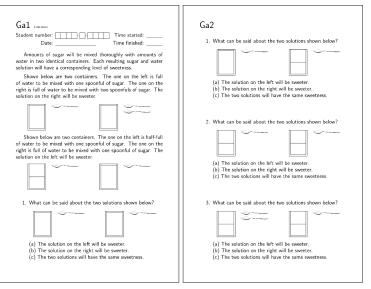


Interlocking toothed gears: Procedural



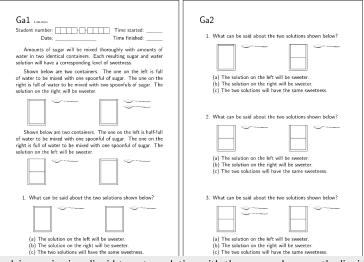
NOTE: Assume that all the gears shown in this set of worksheets interlock correctly and do not jam or slip.

Sugar and water: Conceptual



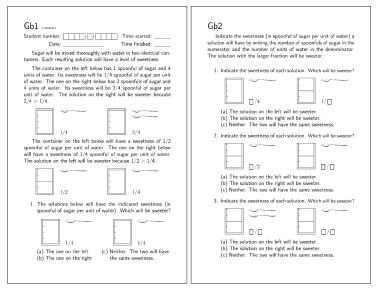
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Sugar and water: Conceptual



dissolving grains in a liquid to get a solution with the same volume as the liquid

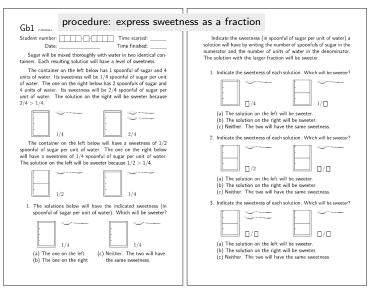
Sugar and water: Procedural



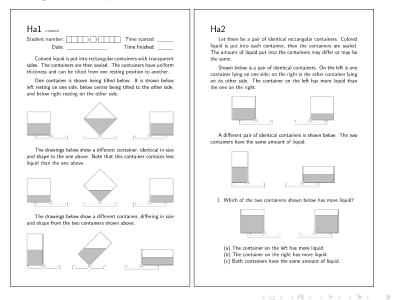
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Sugar and water: Procedural

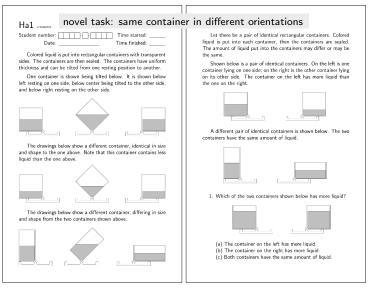


Water rectangle: Conceptual



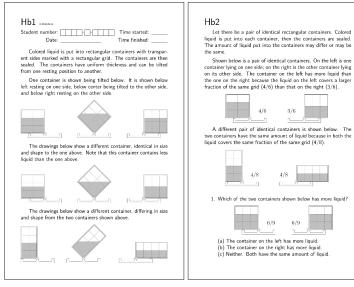
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Water rectangle: Conceptual



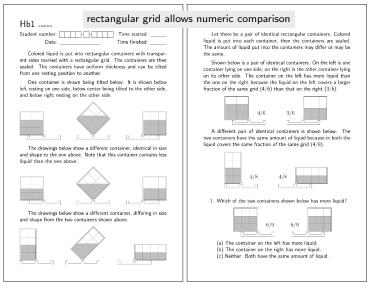
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Water rectangle: Procedural



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Water rectangle: Procedural



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Masses of chocolate bar pieces: Conceptual

Masses of chocolate bar pieces: Conceptual

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la1 ,muons decomposition and compo	sition of a solid with uniform density
	 Each smaller piece of the chocolate bar shown below right. Which chocolate bar has more mass?

Masses of chocolate bar pieces: Procedural

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Student number: Time started: Date: Time finished:	For each chocolate bar shown, find the mass of each smaller piece. Show your solutions.
	piece. show your solutions.
Let chocolate bars be composed of identical smaller pieces. The smaller pieces of a given chocolate bar have the same size, shape, and mass. Pieces from different chocolate bars may differ in size, shape, and mass.	1. $m = 120 \text{ g}$ $m = \frac{120 \text{ g}}{n} = \frac{120 \text{ g}}{n}$
The chocolate bar shown below has a mass of 60 grams. It is composed of 6 smaller pieces. Each piece has a mass of 60 g \div 6 = 10 g.	
	2 m = 120 g
The chocolate bar shown below has a mass of 100 g. It is composed of 5 smaller pieces. Each piece has a mass of 100 g \div 5	
	3 m = 30 g
In general, if a chocolate bar has a mass of m and is composed of n smaller pieces, then each piece has a mass of m/n .	
For each chocolate bar shown, find the mass of each smaller piece. Show your solutions.	4 m = 70 g
1. $\begin{array}{ c c c } \hline \hline$	5. [m = 80 g
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	

Masses of chocolate bar pieces: Procedural

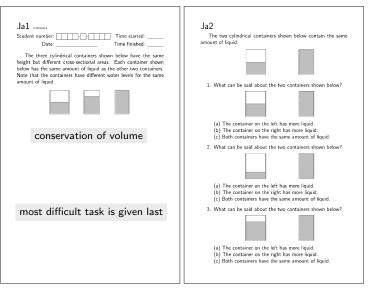
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lb1 (201001) calculation of mass al	llows numeric comparison
Student number: Time started: Date: Time finished:	For each chocolate bar shown, find the mass of each smaller piece. Show your solutions.
Let chocolate bars be composed of identical smaller pieces. The smaller pieces of a given chocolate bar have the same size, shape, and mass. Pieces from different chocolate bars may differ in size, shape, and mass.	1. $m = 120 \text{ g}$ $m = \frac{120 \text{ g}}{n}$
The chocolate bar shown below has a mass of 60 grams. It is composed of 6 smaller pieces. Each piece has a mass of 60 g \div 6 = 10 g. The chocolate bar shown below has a mass of 100 g. It is composed of 5 smaller pieces. Each piece has a mass of 100 g \pm 15 is	2 m = 120 g
	3 m = 30 g
In general, if a chocolate bar has a mass of m and is composed of n smaller pieces, then each piece has a mass of m/n . For each chocolate bar shown, find the mass of each smaller piece. Show your solutions.	4 m = 70 g
1. $m = 20 g$ $\frac{m}{n} = \frac{20 g}{5} = 1 g$ 2. $m = 40 g$ $\frac{m}{m} = \frac{40 g}{5} = 1 g$	5

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Volumes of liquids in different containers: Conceptual

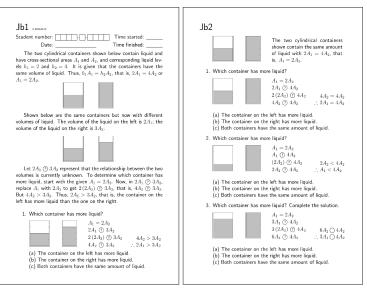
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Student number: Time started: Date: Time finished:	The two cylindrical containers shown below contain the same amount of liquid.
The three cylindrical containers shown below have the same height but different cross-sectional areas. Each container shown below has the same amount of liquid as the other two containers. Note that the containers have different water levels for the same	
amount of liquid.	1. What can be said about the two containers shown below?
	(a) The container on the left has more liquid.
	(b) The container on the right has more liquid.
	(c) Both containers have the same amount of liquid.
	2. What can be said about the two containers shown below?
	(a) The container on the left has more liquid.
	(a) The container on the right has more liquid.
	(c) Both containers have the same amount of liquid.
	3. What can be said about the two containers shown below?
	(a) The container on the left has more liquid.
	(b) The container on the right has more liquid.
	(c) Both containers have the same amount of liquid.

Volumes of liquids in different containers: Conceptual



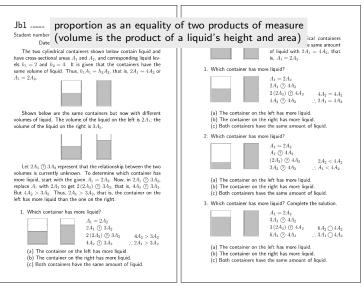
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Volumes of liquids in different containers: Procedural



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Volumes of liquids in different containers: Procedural



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Review of worksheets D, E, F, G, H, I, and J: Conceptual

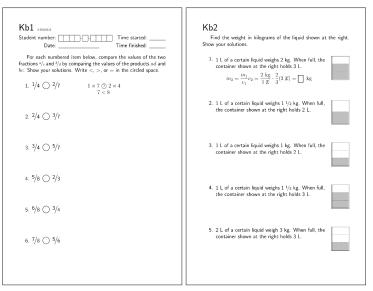
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n at the right
g. When full,
n at the right
: When full, Ids 2 L. How In at the right
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ids 3 L. How m at the right g. When full, ids 2 L. How m at the right : When full, ids 2 L. How m at the right g. When full, ids 3 L. How m at the right

Review of worksheets D, E, F, G, H, I, and J: Conceptual

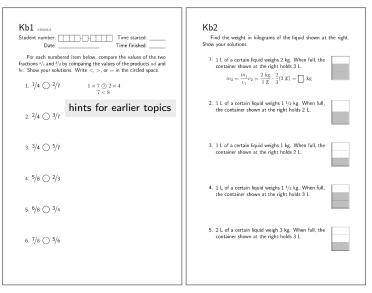
Ka1 2 seconds Student number: Time started: Date: Time finished: For each item below, write <, >, or = in the circled space. 1. $2/5 \bigcirc 3/5$ 2. $3/5 \bigcirc 3/4$ 3. $2/5 \bigcirc 3/4$ ($\frac{2}{5} < \frac{3}{5}, \frac{3}{5} < \frac{3}{4}, \frac{2}{5} < \frac{3}{4}$)	Ka2 1. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 2 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 3 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weight? ds upon in liquid weighs 1 ½ kg. When full, r shown at the right holds 2 L. How ms does the liquid shown at the right
For each item below, fill in the blank with a number that makes the given relationship true. 1. $3/5 < []/5$ 2. $3/5 > []/5$ 3. $3/5 < 3/$ [] 4. $3/5 > 3/$ [] 5. $5/9 < 5/$ [] $< 5/7$ 6. $5/9 > []/9 > 3/9$ 7. $4/7 < []/[] < 5/6$ 8. $4/7 > []/[] > 3/8$	 3. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 1 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 2 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh? 4. 1 L of a certain liquid weighs 1 ½ kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 3 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh? 5. 2 L of a certain liquid weigh 3 kg. When full, the container shown at the right holds 3 L. How many kilograms does the liquid shown at the right weigh?

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Review of worksheets D, E, F, G, H, I, and J: Procedural



Review of worksheets D, E, F, G, H, I, and J: Procedural



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Results and Recommendations

Undergraduates assigned the procedural version of the worksheets had significantly longer completion times than those assigned the conceptual version of the worksheets.

These worksheets were used to find empirical evidence on the causal relationships between conceptual and procedural knowledge, so the two sets of worsheets should differ only in the type of instruction and not in the duration of instruction.

The worksheets need to be further revised and tested to finally determine whether or not there is a significant difference in completion times between the two versions.

Additional worksheets are also being planned.

End