

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \text{ a) } & -4 - [-8 - (-7 + 3)] \\ & = -4 - [-8 - (-4)] = -4 - (-8 + 4) = \\ & = -4 - (-4) = -4 + 4 = \underline{\underline{0}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & a - (b - (c - (d - e))) \\ & = a - (b - (c - d + e)) \\ & = a - (b - c + d - e) \\ & = \underline{\underline{a - b + c - d + e}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{2} \text{ a) } & (-x^3) (-x)^3 = -x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot (-x) (-x) (-x) \\ & = \underline{\underline{+x^6}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & -a \cdot (-a^2)^3 = -a \cdot (-a^2) (-a^2) (-a^2) \\ & = \underline{\underline{+a^7}} \end{aligned}$$

3

$$a) \frac{a^2 - ab}{b^2 - ab} = \frac{a(a-b)}{b(b-a)} = \frac{a(a-b)}{-b(a-b)} = \underline{\underline{-\frac{a}{b}}}$$

$$b) \frac{x^2 - x - 2}{x^2 - 2x} = \frac{(x+1)(x-2)}{x(x-2)} = \underline{\underline{\frac{x+1}{x}}}$$

$$c) \frac{2x-2}{x^2-1} = \frac{2(x-1)}{(x+1)(x-1)} = \underline{\underline{\frac{2}{x+1}}}$$

$$d) \frac{20cx - 15dx + 8cy - 6dy}{24cx + 6cy - 18dx - 45dy}$$
$$= \frac{5x(4c - 3d) + 2y(4c - 3d)}{12c(2x + 5y) - 9d(2x + 5y)}$$
$$= \frac{(5x + 2y)(4c - 3d)}{(12c - 9d)(2x + 5y)} = \frac{(5x + 2y)(\cancel{4c - 3d})}{3(\cancel{4c - 3d})(2x + 5y)}$$
$$= \underline{\underline{\frac{5x + 2y}{3(2x + 5y)}}}$$

$$e) \frac{x^4 - 16}{x^3 - 2x^2 + 4x - 8} = \frac{(x^2 - 4)(x^2 + 4)}{x^2(x-2) + 4(x-2)}$$
$$= \frac{(x+2)(\cancel{x-2})(\cancel{x^2+4})}{(\cancel{x^2+4})(\cancel{x-2})} = \underline{\underline{x+2}}$$

$$f) \frac{6a^2 - 6a - 36}{3a^2 - 27} = \frac{6(a^2 - a - 6)}{3(a^2 - 9)} =$$

$$\frac{6(a+2)(\cancel{a-3})}{3(a+3)(\cancel{a-3})} = \underline{\underline{\frac{2(a+2)}{a+3}}}$$