

COMPLEX LOGARITHM WITH DIFFERENT BASES

$$\log_2(x-1) = \log_4(x+5)$$

First change the second log to \log_2

$$= \log_2(x-1) = \frac{\log_2(x+5)}{\log_2 4}$$

$$= \log_2(x-1) = \frac{\log_2(x+5)}{2}$$

$$= \log_2(x-1) = \frac{1}{2} \log_2(x+5) \quad \text{To simplify, multiply both by } \textcircled{2}$$

$$= 2 \log_2(x-1) = \log_2(x+5)$$

$$= \log_2(x-1)^2 = \log_2(x+5)$$

Now since we have the same base, we can simplify

$$= (x-1)^2 = x+5$$

$$= (x-1)(x-1) = x+5$$

$$= x^2 - x - x + 1 = x+5$$

$$= x^2 - 2x + 1 - x = 5$$

$$= x^2 - 3x + 1 - 5 = 0$$

$$= x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0$$

(Now factorise)
-4, 1

$$\text{or } \begin{aligned} &= x-4=0 \\ &x+1=0 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{aligned} x &= \textcircled{4} \\ x &= \textcircled{-1} \end{aligned}$$