## MASTERING QUESTIONS ON WHOLE NUMBERS

Whole Numbers is one of the Math topics with a greater weightage of marks in the examination. Whole Numbers are often inter-related with other topics and the strategies learnt in Whole Numbers can often be applied across different topics. Let's take a closer look at one of the concepts that you can master under Whole Numbers:

## Concept: Constant Difference

## Example:

Aunt May is 36 years old and her son is 24 years younger. How many years ago was Aunt May five times as old as her son?

Method 1:


Aunt May
Son


Difference in age $\rightarrow 36-12=24$ (age difference remains unchanged)
$4 u \rightarrow 24$
$1 u \rightarrow 6$

Aunt May's age when her son was 6 years old $\rightarrow 6 \times 5=30$
Number of years ago $\rightarrow 36-12=\underline{6}$ years ago

Method 2:

|  | Aunt May | $:$ | Son | $:$ | Difference |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Now | 36 | $:$ | 12 | $:$ | 24 |
| Before | 3 | $:$ | 1 | $:$ | 2 |
|  | 5 | $:$ | 1 | $:$ | 4 |
|  | $5 \times 6$ | $:$ | $1 \times 6$ | $:$ | $4 \times 6$ |
|  | 30 | 6 | $:$ | 24 |  |

Number of years ago $\rightarrow 36-12=\underline{6}$ years ago


