

Simplify completely, writing your final answer with only positive integer exponents.
Note: there are several correct ways to work these problems. I will present two ways for the first problem. Your solution is correct if each step is mathematically correct.

1) One way:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{4xy^{-2}z^3}{12x^{-1}y^5z} &= \frac{4}{12} \frac{x}{x^{-1}} \frac{y^{-2}}{y^5} \frac{z^3}{z} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x^{1-(-1)} y^{-2-5} z^{3-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x^2 y^{-7} z^2 \\ &= \frac{x^2 z^2}{3y^7}\end{aligned}$$

Another way:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{4xy^{-2}z^3}{12x^{-1}y^5z} &= \frac{4x \cdot xz^3}{12y^2y^5z} \\ &= \frac{x^2 z^3}{3y^7 z} \\ &= \frac{x^2 z^2}{3y^7}\end{aligned}$$

In the last step, I am thinking that the z in the denominator cancels one factor of z in the numerator. Remember that when the exponent is a positive integer (natural number), it tells you how many factors of the base there are.

2)

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{5x}{2y^3}\right)^{-3} &= \left(\frac{2y^3}{5x}\right)^3 \\ &= \frac{2^3 (y^3)^3}{5^3 x^3} \\ &= \frac{8y^9}{125x^3}\end{aligned}$$