Answer on Question #77136 - Math - Algebra

Question

Which term of the sequence; 256, -64, 16, -4.....is equal to 1/4096?

Solution

Each term could be calculated as

 B_{n} = $B_{1}q^{n\text{-}1}$, where B – initial term, and q – common ratio;

$$q^{n-1} = \frac{B_n}{B_1} = \frac{1}{4096 \times 256} = \frac{1}{1048576}$$

$$q^1 = \frac{B_2}{B_1} = \frac{-64}{256} = -\frac{1}{4}$$

n-1 =
$$log_{-\frac{1}{4}} \frac{1}{1048576}$$

$$n-1 = 10$$

$$n = 11$$

Answer:

1/4096 is the 11th term of the sequence.