Question

Three persons enter into a partnership by investing in the ratio of 4:5:8. After one year A invest more 4300 and B withdraws 3200. Now, the ratio of investment changes to 5:4:7. Approximately how much A invested initially.

Solution

Initial total investment(sum of shares):

 $S_0 = A + B + C$; A = 4x, B = 5x, C = 8x.

Total sum of shares in a year:

 $S_1 = S_0$,

After redistribution:

$$\begin{split} S_1' &= A' + B' + C' ; \\ A' &= 5y = A + 4300 , \\ B' &= 4y = B - 3200 , \\ C' &= 7y = C . \end{split}$$

So, we have a system of 4 linear equations for 4 variables:

C = A * 8 / 4,
C' = A' * 7 / 5,
C' = C,
A' = A + 4300.

From the third equation:

A * 8 / 4 = A' * 7 / 5 => A' = A * 10 / 7

Finally, from the fourth equation:

A * 10 / 7 = A + 4300 => A = 10033.33

Answer: A = 10033.