

Find the coefficient of  $x^r$  in  $(1-x)^{-n}$

Solution: -

We know that,

$$(1-x)^{-n} = 1 + (-n)(x) + \dots$$

$$(1-x)^{-n} = 1 + (-n)(x) + \frac{(-n)(-n-1)}{2!} x^2 + \frac{(-n)(-n-1)(-n-2)}{3!} x^3 + \dots$$

$$+ \dots + \frac{(-n)(-n-1)(-n-2)\dots(-n-(r-1))}{r!} x^r + \dots$$

$$= 1 + nx + \frac{x^2}{2!} (n)(n+1) + \frac{x^3}{3!} (n)(n+1)(n+2) + \dots$$

$$+ \frac{x^r}{r!} (n)(n+1)(n+2)\dots(n+r-1) + \dots$$

$$= 1 + nx + \frac{x^2}{2!} n(n+1) + \frac{x^3}{3!} n(n+1)(n+2) + \dots + \frac{x^r}{r!} n(n+1)(n+2)\dots(n+r-1) + \dots$$

If you observe the terms,

i.e.,  $\frac{(n)(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)\dots(n+r-1)}{r!}$

multiply and divide  $(n-1)!$

$$\frac{(n)(n+1)(n+2)\dots(n+r-1) \times (n-1)!}{r! (n-1)!}$$

$$= \frac{[1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times (n-1)] (n)(n+1)(n+2)\dots(n+r-1)}{r! (n-1)!}$$

$$= \frac{(n+r-1)!}{r! (n-1)!} = \binom{n+r-1}{r}$$

hence proved

$\therefore$  coefficient of  $x^r$  is  $\binom{n+r-1}{r}$ ,  $n > 0, r > 0$