Continuities and Discontinuities

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Topic tags have been given for each question to enable you to know if you can do the question or whether you need to wait to cover the additional topic(s).**

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Question 1

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Integration, Applications of Differentiation, Limits and Continuity

Subtopics: Properties of Integrals, Fundamental Theorem of Calculus (First), Concavity, Tangents To Curves, Mean Value Theorem, Continuities and Discontinuities, Derivative Tables

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2002 / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 6

x	-1.5	-1.0	-0.5	0	0.5	1.0	1.5
$f(x)$	-1	-4	-6	-7	-6	-4	-1
$f'(x)$	-7	-5	-3	0	3	5	7

6. Let f be a function that is differentiable for all real numbers. The table above gives the values of f and its derivative f' for selected points x in the closed interval $-1.5 \le x \le 1.5$. The second derivative of f has the property that $f''(x) > 0$ for $-1.5 \le x \le 1.5$.

(a) Evaluate $\int_0^{1.5} (3f'(x) + 4)\, dx$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

(b) Write an equation of the line tangent to the graph of f at the point where $x = 1$. Use this line to approximate the value of $f(1.2)$. Is this approximation greater than or less than the actual value of $f(1.2)$? Give a reason for your answer.

(c) Find a positive real number r having the property that there must exist a value c with $0 < c < 0.5$ and $f''(c) = r$. Give a reason for your answer.

(d) Let g be the function given by $g(x) = \begin{cases} 2x^2 - x - 7 & \text{for } x < 0 \\ 2x^2 + x - 7 & \text{for } x \ge 0 \end{cases}$.

The graph of g passes through each of the points $(x, f(x))$ given in the table above. Is it possible that f and g are the same function? Give a reason for your answer.

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Question 2

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Limits and Continuity, Integration, Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Continuities and Discontinuities, Calculating Limits Algebraically, Average Value of a Function, Properties of Integrals, Integration Technique – Standard Functions, Differentiability

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2003 / Difficulty: Very Hard / Question Number: 6

6. Let f be the function defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x+1} & \text{for } 0 \le x \le 3 \\ 5 - x & \text{for } 3 < x \le 5. \end{cases}$$

(a) Is f continuous at $x = 3$? Explain why or why not.

(b) Find the average value of $f(x)$ on the closed interval $0 \le x \le 5$.

(c) Suppose the function g is defined by

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} k\sqrt{x+1} & \text{for } 0 \le x \le 3 \\ mx + 2 & \text{for } 3 < x \le 5, \end{cases}$$

where k and m are constants. If g is differentiable at $x = 3$, what are the values of k and m ?

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Question 3

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Limits and Continuity, Applications of Integration, Differentiation

Subtopics: Continuities and Discontinuities, Average Value of a Function, Integration Technique – Exponentials, Integration Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2011 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 6

6. Let f be a function defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - 2\sin x & \text{for } x \le 0 \\ e^{-4x} & \text{for } x > 0. \end{cases}$

(a) Show that f is continuous at $x = 0$.

(b) For $x \neq 0$, express $f'(x)$ as a piecewise-defined function. Find the value of x for which $f'(x) = -3$.

(c) Find the average value of f on the interval $[-1, 1]$.

Question 4

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Limits and Continuity, Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Continuities and Discontinuities, Average Value of a Function, Interpreting Meaning in Applied Contexts, Modelling Situations, Calculating Limits Algebraically, Accumulation of Change

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2011-Form-B / Difficulty: Easy / Question Number: 2

2. A 12,000-liter tank of water is filled to capacity. At time $t = 0$, water begins to drain out of the tank at a rate modeled by $r(t)$, measured in liters per hour, where r is given by the piecewise-defined function

$$r(t) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{600t}{t+3} & \text{for } 0 \le t \le 5 \\ 1000e^{-0.2t} & \text{for } t > 5 \end{cases}$$

(a) Is r continuous at $t = 5$? Show the work that leads to your answer.

(b) Find the average rate at which water is draining from the tank between time $t = 0$ and time $t = 8$ hours.

(c) Find $r'(3)$. Using correct units, explain the meaning of that value in the context of this problem.

(d) Write, but do not solve, an equation involving an integral to find the time A when the amount of water in the tank is 9000 liters.

Question 5

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Limits and Continuity, Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Differentiation Technique – Standard Functions, Tangents To Curves, Continuities and Discontinuities, Integration Technique – Substitution

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2012 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 4

4. The function f is defined by $f(x) = \sqrt{25 - x^2}$ for $-5 \le x \le 5$.

(a) Find $f'(x)$.

(b) Write an equation for the line tangent to the graph of f at $x = -3$.

(c) Let g be the function defined by $g(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{for } -5 \le x \le -3 \\ x + 7 & \text{for } -3 < x \le 5. \end{cases}$

Is g continuous at $x = -3$? Use the definition of continuity to explain your answer.

(d) Find the value of $\int_0^5 x\sqrt{25 - x^2}\, dx$.

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Question 6

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Limits and Continuity, Differentiation

Subtopics: Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, L'Hôpital's Rule, Calculating Limits Algebraically, Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Continuities and Discontinuities

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2019 / Difficulty: Very Hard / Question Number: 6

6. Functions f, g, and h are twice-differentiable functions with $g(2) = h(2) = 4$. The line $y = 4 + \frac{2}{3}(x - 2)$ is tangent to both the graph of g at $x = 2$ and the graph of h at $x = 2$.

(a) Find $h'(2)$.

(b) Let a be the function given by $a(x) = 3x^3h(x)$. Write an expression for $a'(x)$. Find $a'(2)$.

(c) The function h satisfies $h(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{1 - (f(x))^3}$ for $x \neq 2$. It is known that $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} h(x)$ can be evaluated using L'Hospital's Rule. Use $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} h(x)$ to find $f(2)$ and $f'(2)$. Show the work that leads to your answers.

(d) It is known that $g(x) \leq h(x)$ for $1 < x < 3$. Let k be a function satisfying $g(x) \leq k(x) \leq h(x)$ for $1 < x < 3$. Is k continuous at $x = 2$? Justify your answer.