Instantaneous Rates Of Change

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Questions in past papers often come up combined with other topics.
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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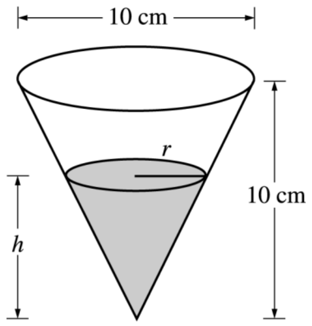
Question 1

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differential Equations, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Modelling Situations, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2002 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 5



5. A container has the shape of an open right circular cone, as shown in the figure above. The height of the container is 10 cm and the diameter of the opening is 10 cm. Water in the container is evaporating so that its depth h is changing at the constant rate of $\frac{-3}{10}$ cm/hr.

(Note: The volume of a cone of height h and radius r is given by $V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$.)

(a) Find the volume V of water in the container when $h = 5$ cm. Indicate units of measure.

(b) Find the rate of change of the volume of water in the container, with respect to time, when $h = 5$ cm. Indicate units of measure.

(c) Show that the rate of change of the volume of water in the container due to evaporation is directly proportional to the exposed surface area of the water. What is the constant of proportionality?

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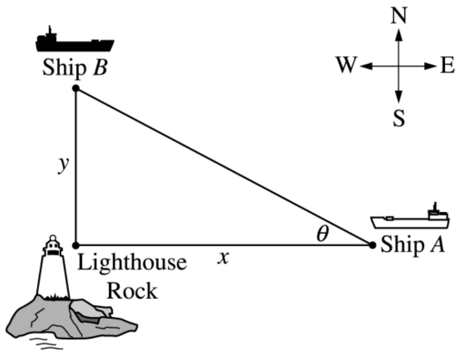
Question 2

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Related Rates, Implicit Differentiation, Modelling Situations, Differentiation Technique – Standard Functions, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique - Quotient Rule

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



6. Ship A is traveling due west toward Lighthouse Rock at a speed of 15 kilometers per hour (km/hr). Ship B is traveling due north away from Lighthouse Rock at a speed of 10 km/hr. Let x be the distance between Ship A and Lighthouse Rock at time t, and let y be the distance between Ship B and Lighthouse Rock at time t, as shown in the figure above.

(a) Find the distance, in kilometers, between Ship A and Ship B when $x = 4$ km and $y = 3$ km.

(b) Find the rate of change, in km/hr, of the distance between the two ships when $x = 4$ km and $y = 3$ km.

(c) Let θ be the angle shown in the figure. Find the rate of change of θ, in radians per hour, when $x = 4$ km and $y = 3$ km.

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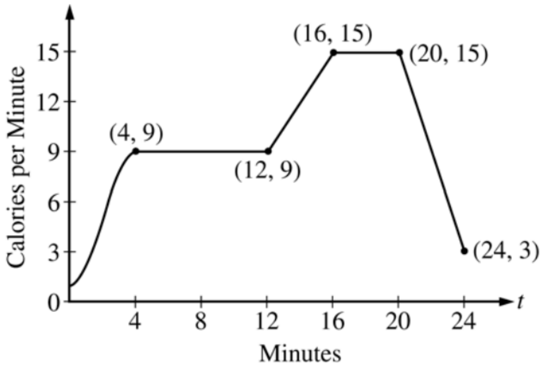
Question 3

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Increasing/Decreasing , Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, Total Amount, Accumulation of Change, Average Value of a Function

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2006-Form-B / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 4



4. The rate, in calories per minute, at which a person using an exercise machine burns calories is modeled by the function f. In the figure above, $f(t) = -\frac{1}{4}t^3 + \frac{3}{2}t^2 + 1$ for $0 \le t \le 4$ and f is piecewise linear for $4 \le t \le 24$.

(a) Find $f'(22)$. Indicate units of measure.

(b) For the time interval $0 \le t \le 24$, at what time t is f increasing at its greatest rate? Show the reasoning that supports your answer.

(c) Find the total number of calories burned over the time interval $6 \le t \le 18$ minutes.

(d) The setting on the machine is now changed so that the person burns $f(t) + c$ calories per minute. For this setting, find c so that an average of 15 calories per minute is burned during the time interval $6 \le t \le 18$.

Question 4

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Tangents To Curves, Concavity, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Riemann Sums – Right, Interpreting Meaning in Applied Contexts

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2007 / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 5

t (minutes)	0	2	5	7	11	12
$r'(t)$ (feet per minute)	5.7	4.0	2.0	1.2	0.6	0.5

5. The volume of a spherical hot air balloon expands as the air inside the balloon is heated. The radius of the balloon, in feet, is modeled by a twice-differentiable function r of time t, where t is measured in minutes. For $0 < t < 12$, the graph of r is concave down. The table above gives selected values of the rate of change, $r'(t)$, of the radius of the balloon over the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$. The radius of the balloon is 30 feet when $t = 5$.

(Note: The volume of a sphere of radius r is given by $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$.)

(a) Estimate the radius of the balloon when $t = 5.4$ using the tangent line approximation at $t = 5$. Is your estimate greater than or less than the true value? Give a reason for your answer.

(b) Find the rate of change of the volume of the balloon with respect to time when $t = 5$. Indicate units of measure.

(c) Use a right Riemann sum with the five subintervals indicated by the data in the table to approximate $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$. Using correct units, explain the meaning of $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$ in terms of the radius of the balloon.

(d) Is your approximation in part (c) greater than or less than $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$? Give a reason for your answer.

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Question 5

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Rates of Change (Average), Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Interpreting Meaning in Applied Contexts, Modelling Situations

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2007-Form-B / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 3

3. The wind chill is the temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit $(°F)$, a human feels based on the air temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit, and the wind velocity v, in miles per hour (mph). If the air temperature is $32°F$, then the wind chill is given by $W(v) = 55.6 - 22.1v^{0.16}$ and is valid for $5 \le v \le 60$.

(a) Find $W'(20)$. Using correct units, explain the meaning of $W'(20)$ in terms of the wind chill.

(b) Find the average rate of change of W over the interval $5 \le v \le 60$. Find the value of v at which the instantaneous rate of change of W is equal to the average rate of change of W over the interval $5 \le v \le 60$.

(c) Over the time interval $0 \le t \le 4$ hours, the air temperature is a constant $32°F$. At time $t = 0$, the wind velocity is $v = 20$ mph. If the wind velocity increases at a constant rate of 5 mph per hour, what is the rate of change of the wind chill with respect to time at $t = 3$ hours? Indicate units of measure.

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Question 6

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Implicit Differentiation, Modelling Situations, Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, Related Rates

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2008 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 3

3. Oil is leaking from a pipeline on the surface of a lake and forms an oil slick whose volume increases at a constant rate of 2000 cubic centimeters per minute. The oil slick takes the form of a right circular cylinder with both its radius and height changing with time. (Note: The volume V of a right circular cylinder with radius r and height h is given by $V = \pi r^2 h$.)

   (a) At the instant when the radius of the oil slick is 100 centimeters and the height is 0.5 centimeter, the radius is increasing at the rate of 2.5 centimeters per minute. At this instant, what is the rate of change of the height of the oil slick with respect to time, in centimeters per minute?

   (b) A recovery device arrives on the scene and begins removing oil. The rate at which oil is removed is $R(t) = 400\sqrt{t}$ cubic centimeters per minute, where t is the time in minutes since the device began working. Oil continues to leak at the rate of 2000 cubic centimeters per minute. Find the time t when the oil slick reaches its maximum volume. Justify your answer.

   (c) By the time the recovery device began removing oil, 60,000 cubic centimeters of oil had already leaked. Write, but do not evaluate, an expression involving an integral that gives the volume of oil at the time found in part (b).

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Question 7

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Differentiation

Subtopics: Kinematics (Displacement, Velocity, and Acceleration), Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Total Amount

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2008-Form-B / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 2

2. For time $t \geq 0$ hours, let $r(t) = 120\left(1 - e^{-10t^2}\right)$ represent the speed, in kilometers per hour, at which a car travels along a straight road. The number of liters of gasoline used by the car to travel x kilometers is modeled by $g(x) = 0.05x\left(1 - e^{-x/2}\right)$.

(a) How many kilometers does the car travel during the first 2 hours?

(b) Find the rate of change with respect to time of the number of liters of gasoline used by the car when $t = 2$ hours. Indicate units of measure.

(c) How many liters of gasoline have been used by the car when it reaches a speed of 80 kilometers per hour?

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Question 8

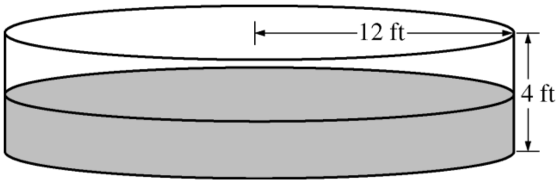
Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Integration

Subtopics: Riemann Sums – Midpoint, Total Amount, Modelling Situations, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Related Rates, Accumulation of Change

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2010-Form-B / Difficulty: Easy / Question Number: 3

t	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
$P(t)$	0	46	53	57	60	62	63



3. The figure above shows an aboveground swimming pool in the shape of a cylinder with a radius of 12 feet and a height of 4 feet. The pool contains 1000 cubic feet of water at time $t = 0$. During the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ hours, water is pumped into the pool at the rate $P(t)$ cubic feet per hour. The table above gives values of $P(t)$ for selected values of t. During the same time interval, water is leaking from the pool at the rate $R(t)$ cubic feet per hour, where $R(t) = 25e^{-0.05t}$. (Note: The volume V of a cylinder with radius r and height h is given by $V = \pi r^2 h$.)

(a) Use a midpoint Riemann sum with three subintervals of equal length to approximate the total amount of water that was pumped into the pool during the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ hours. Show the computations that lead to your answer.

(b) Calculate the total amount of water that leaked out of the pool during the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ hours.

(c) Use the results from parts (a) and (b) to approximate the volume of water in the pool at time $t = 12$ hours. Round your answer to the nearest cubic foot.

(d) Find the rate at which the volume of water in the pool is increasing at time $t = 8$ hours. How fast is the water level in the pool rising at $t = 8$ hours? Indicate units of measure in both answers.

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Question 9

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Mean Value Theorem, Riemann Sums – Midpoint, Interpreting Meaning in Applied Contexts, Rates of Change (Instantaneous)

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2013 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 3

t (minutes)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
$C(t)$ (ounces)	0	5.3	8.8	11.2	12.8	13.8	14.5

3. Hot water is dripping through a coffeemaker, filling a large cup with coffee. The amount of coffee in the cup at time t, $0 \le t \le 6$, is given by a differentiable function C, where t is measured in minutes. Selected values of $C(t)$, measured in ounces, are given in the table above.

(a) Use the data in the table to approximate $C'(3.5)$. Show the computations that lead to your answer, and indicate units of measure.

(b) Is there a time t, $2 \le t \le 4$, at which $C'(t) = 2$? Justify your answer.

(c) Use a midpoint sum with three subintervals of equal length indicated by the data in the table to approximate the value of $\frac{1}{6}\int_0^6 C(t)\,dt$. Using correct units, explain the meaning of $\frac{1}{6}\int_0^6 C(t)\,dt$ in the context of the problem.

(d) The amount of coffee in the cup, in ounces, is modeled by $B(t) = 16 - 16e^{-0.4t}$. Using this model, find the rate at which the amount of coffee in the cup is changing when $t = 5$.

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Question 10

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Intermediate Value Theorem, Riemann Sums – Trapezoidal Rule, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Modelling Situations, Implicit Differentiation

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / **Series:** 2014 / **Difficulty:** Somewhat Challenging / **Question Number:** 4

t (minutes)	0	2	5	8	12
$v_A(t)$ (meters/minute)	0	100	40	−120	−150

4. Train A runs back and forth on an east-west section of railroad track. Train A's velocity, measured in meters per minute, is given by a differentiable function $v_A(t)$, where time t is measured in minutes. Selected values for $v_A(t)$ are given in the table above.

(a) Find the average acceleration of train A over the interval $2 \le t \le 8$.

(b) Do the data in the table support the conclusion that train A's velocity is -100 meters per minute at some time t with $5 < t < 8$? Give a reason for your answer.

(c) At time $t = 2$, train A's position is 300 meters east of the Origin Station, and the train is moving to the east. Write an expression involving an integral that gives the position of train A, in meters from the Origin Station, at time $t = 12$. Use a trapezoidal sum with three subintervals indicated by the table to approximate the position of the train at time $t = 12$.

(d) A second train, train B, travels north from the Origin Station. At time t the velocity of train B is given by $v_B(t) = -5t^2 + 60t + 25$, and at time $t = 2$ the train is 400 meters north of the station. Find the rate, in meters per minute, at which the distance between train A and train B is changing at time $t = 2$.

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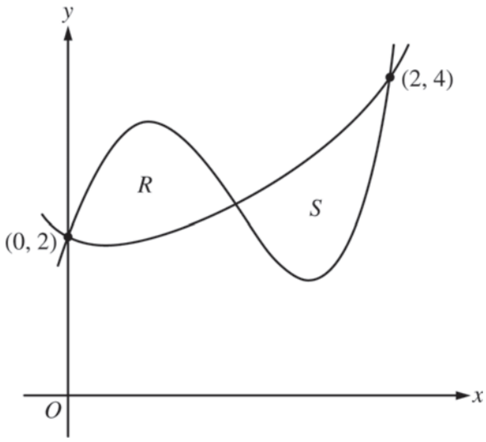
Question 11

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Differentiation

Subtopics: Integration - Area Between Curves, Volume using Cross Sections, Rates of Change (Instantaneous)

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2015 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 2



2. Let f and g be the functions defined by $f(x) = 1 + x + e^{x^2 - 2x}$ and $g(x) = x^4 - 6.5x^2 + 6x + 2$. Let R and S be the two regions enclosed by the graphs of f and g shown in the figure above.

   (a) Find the sum of the areas of regions R and S.

   (b) Region S is the base of a solid whose cross sections perpendicular to the x-axis are squares. Find the volume of the solid.

   (c) Let h be the vertical distance between the graphs of f and g in region S. Find the rate at which h changes with respect to x when $x = 1.8$.

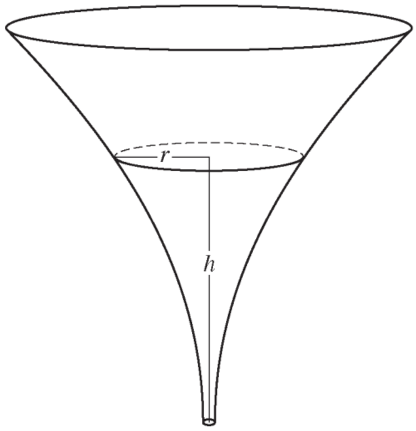
Question 12

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Average Value of a Function, Volume of Revolution – Disc Method, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Integration Technique – Standard Functions, Modelling Situations, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2016 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 5



5. The inside of a funnel of height 10 inches has circular cross sections, as shown in the figure above. At height h, the radius of the funnel is given by $r = \frac{1}{20}\left(3 + h^2\right)$, where $0 \le h \le 10$. The units of r and h are inches.

(a) Find the average value of the radius of the funnel.

(b) Find the volume of the funnel.

(c) The funnel contains liquid that is draining from the bottom. At the instant when the height of the liquid is $h = 3$ inches, the radius of the surface of the liquid is decreasing at a rate of $\frac{1}{5}$ inch per second. At this instant, what is the rate of change of the height of the liquid with respect to time?

Question 13

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Mean Value Theorem, Average Value of a Function, Riemann Sums – Trapezoidal Rule, Modelling Situations, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2018 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 4

t (years)	2	3	5	7	10
$H(t)$ (meters)	1.5	2	6	11	15

4. The height of a tree at time t is given by a twice-differentiable function H, where $H(t)$ is measured in meters and t is measured in years. Selected values of $H(t)$ are given in the table above.

(a) Use the data in the table to estimate $H'(6)$. Using correct units, interpret the meaning of $H'(6)$ in the context of the problem.

(b) Explain why there must be at least one time t, for $2 < t < 10$, such that $H'(t) = 2$.

(c) Use a trapezoidal sum with the four subintervals indicated by the data in the table to approximate the average height of the tree over the time interval $2 \le t \le 10$.

(d) The height of the tree, in meters, can also be modeled by the function G, given by $G(x) = \dfrac{100x}{1 + x}$, where x is the diameter of the base of the tree, in meters. When the tree is 50 meters tall, the diameter of the base of the tree is increasing at a rate of 0.03 meter per year. According to this model, what is the rate of change of the height of the tree with respect to time, in meters per year, at the time when the tree is 50 meters tall?

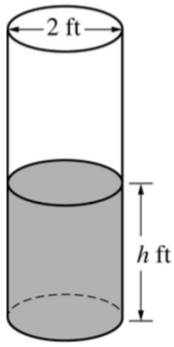
Question 14

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differential Equations, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Increasing/Decreasing , Separation of Variables in Differential Equation, Initial Conditions in Differential Equation, Particular Solution of Differential Equation, Integration Technique - Harder Powers, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2019 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 4



4. A cylindrical barrel with a diameter of 2 feet contains collected rainwater, as shown in the figure above. The water drains out through a valve (not shown) at the bottom of the barrel. The rate of change of the height h of the water in the barrel with respect to time t is modeled by $\frac{dh}{dt} = -\frac{1}{10}\sqrt{h}$, where h is measured in feet and t is measured in seconds. (The volume V of a cylinder with radius r and height h is $V = \pi r^2 h$.)

(a) Find the rate of change of the volume of water in the barrel with respect to time when the height of the water is 4 feet. Indicate units of measure.

(b) When the height of the water is 3 feet, is the rate of change of the height of the water with respect to time increasing or decreasing? Explain your reasoning.

(c) At time $t = 0$ seconds, the height of the water is 5 feet. Use separation of variables to find an expression for h in terms of t.

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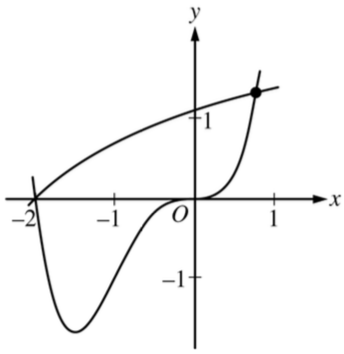
Question 15

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Integration - Area Between Curves, Increasing/Decreasing , Volume using Cross Sections, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2022 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 2



2. Let f and g be the functions defined by $f(x) = \ln(x+3)$ and $g(x) = x^4 + 2x^3$. The graphs of f and g, shown in the figure above, intersect at $x = -2$ and $x = B$, where $B > 0$.

(a) Find the area of the region enclosed by the graphs of f and g.

(b) For $-2 \le x \le B$, let $h(x)$ be the vertical distance between the graphs of f and g. Is h increasing or decreasing at $x = -0.5$? Give a reason for your answer.

(c) The region enclosed by the graphs of f and g is the base of a solid. Cross sections of the solid taken perpendicular to the x-axis are squares. Find the volume of the solid.

(d) A vertical line in the xy-plane travels from left to right along the base of the solid described in part (c). The vertical line is moving at a constant rate of 7 units per second. Find the rate of change of the area of the cross section above the vertical line with respect to time when the vertical line is at position $x = -0.5$.

Question 16

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Intermediate Value Theorem, Riemann Sums – Right, Implicit Differentiation, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2022 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 4

t (days)	0	3	7	10	12
$r'(t)$ (centimeters per day)	-6.1	-5.0	-4.4	-3.8	-3.5

4. An ice sculpture melts in such a way that it can be modeled as a cone that maintains a conical shape as it decreases in size. The radius of the base of the cone is given by a twice-differentiable function r, where $r(t)$ is measured in centimeters and t is measured in days. The table above gives selected values of $r'(t)$, the rate of change of the radius, over the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$.

(a) Approximate $r''(8.5)$ using the average rate of change of r' over the interval $7 \le t \le 10$. Show the computations that lead to your answer, and indicate units of measure.

(b) Is there a time t, $0 \le t \le 3$, for which $r'(t) = -6$? Justify your answer.

(c) Use a right Riemann sum with the four subintervals indicated in the table to approximate the value of $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$.

(d) The height of the cone decreases at a rate of 2 centimeters per day. At time $t = 3$ days, the radius is 100 centimeters and the height is 50 centimeters. Find the rate of change of the volume of the cone with respect to time, in cubic centimeters per day, at time $t = 3$ days. (The volume V of a cone with radius r and height h is $V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$.)

Question 17

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Tangents To Curves, Vertical Tangents, Implicit Differentiation, Rates of Change (Instantaneous)

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / **Series:** 2024 / **Difficulty:** Somewhat Challenging / **Question Number:** 5

5. Consider the curve defined by the equation $x^2 + 3y + 2y^2 = 48$. It can be shown that $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x}{3 + 4y}$.

(a) There is a point on the curve near $(2, 4)$ with x-coordinate 3. Use the line tangent to the curve at $(2, 4)$ to approximate the y-coordinate of this point.

(b) Is the horizontal line $y = 1$ tangent to the curve? Give a reason for your answer.

(c) The curve intersects the positive x-axis at the point $(\sqrt{48}, 0)$. Is the line tangent to the curve at this point vertical? Give a reason for your answer.

(d) For time $t \geq 0$, a particle is moving along another curve defined by the equation $y^3 + 2xy = 24$. At the instant the particle is at the point $(4, 2)$, the y-coordinate of the particle's position is decreasing at a rate of 2 units per second. At that instant, what is the rate of change of the x-coordinate of the particle's position with respect to time?