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Differentiation Technique - Exponentials

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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).

Scan the QR code(s) or click the link for instant detailed model solutions!

Question 1

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation, Applications of Integration, Integration

Subtopics: Mean Value Theorem, Interpreting Meaning in Applied Contexts, Rates of Change (Average), Riemann Sums – Trapezoidal Rule, Average Value of a Function, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2001 / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 2

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t (days)	$W(t)$ (°C)
0	20
3	31
6	28
9	24
12	22
15	21

2. The temperature, in degrees Celsius (°C), of the water in a pond is a differentiable function W of time t. The table above shows the water temperature as recorded every 3 days over a 15-day period.

(a) Use data from the table to find an approximation for $W'(12)$. Show the computations that lead to your answer. Indicate units of measure.

(b) Approximate the average temperature, in degrees Celsius, of the water over the time interval $0 \le t \le 15$ days by using a trapezoidal approximation with subintervals of length $\Delta t = 3$ days.

(c) A student proposes the function P, given by $P(t) = 20 + 10te^{(-t/3)}$, as a model for the temperature of the water in the pond at time t, where t is measured in days and $P(t)$ is measured in degrees Celsius. Find $P'(12)$. Using appropriate units, explain the meaning of your answer in terms of water temperature.

(d) Use the function P defined in part (c) to find the average value, in degrees Celsius, of $P(t)$ over the time interval $0 \le t \le 15$ days.

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Question 2

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Integration - Area Between Curves, Volume of Revolution – Washer Method, Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2002 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 1

1. Let f and g be the functions given by $f(x) = e^x$ and $g(x) = \ln x$.

   (a) Find the area of the region enclosed by the graphs of f and g between $x = \frac{1}{2}$ and $x = 1$.

   (b) Find the volume of the solid generated when the region enclosed by the graphs of f and g between $x = \frac{1}{2}$ and $x = 1$ is revolved about the line $y = 4$.

   (c) Let h be the function given by $h(x) = f(x) - g(x)$. Find the absolute minimum value of $h(x)$ on the closed interval $\frac{1}{2} \le x \le 1$, and find the absolute maximum value of $h(x)$ on the closed interval $\frac{1}{2} \le x \le 1$. Show the analysis that leads to your answers.

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Question 3

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Applications of Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Kinematics (Displacement, Velocity, and Acceleration), Total Amount, Increasing/Decreasing , Integration of Absolute Value Functions, Integration Technique – Exponentials, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2003-Form-B / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 4

4. A particle moves along the x-axis with velocity at time $t \geq 0$ given by $v(t) = -1 + e^{1-t}$.

   (a) Find the acceleration of the particle at time $t = 3$.

   (b) Is the speed of the particle increasing at time $t = 3$? Give a reason for your answer.

   (c) Find all values of t at which the particle changes direction. Justify your answer.

   (d) Find the total distance traveled by the particle over the time interval $0 \leq t \leq 3$.

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Question 4

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differentiation, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Tangents To Curves

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2006 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 6

6. The twice-differentiable function f is defined for all real numbers and satisfies the following conditions:

$$f(0) = 2, \quad f'(0) = -4, \text{ and } f''(0) = 3.$$

(a) The function g is given by $g(x) = e^{ax} + f(x)$ for all real numbers, where a is a constant. Find $g'(0)$ and $g''(0)$ in terms of a. Show the work that leads to your answers.

(b) The function h is given by $h(x) = \cos(kx)f(x)$ for all real numbers, where k is a constant. Find $h'(x)$ and write an equation for the line tangent to the graph of h at $x = 0$.

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Question 5

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differential Equations, Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Kinematics (Displacement, Velocity, and Acceleration), Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Verifying Solutions to Differential Equation

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2007 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 4

4. A particle moves along the x-axis with position at time t given by $x(t) = e^{-t}\sin t$ for $0 \le t \le 2\pi$.

   (a) Find the time t at which the particle is farthest to the left. Justify your answer.

   (b) Find the value of the constant A for which $x(t)$ satisfies the equation $Ax''(t) + x'(t) + x(t) = 0$ for $0 < t < 2\pi$.

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Question 6

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Points Of Inflection, Integration Technique – Geometric Areas, Derivative Graphs, Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Integration Technique – Exponentials

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2009 / Difficulty: / Question Number: 6

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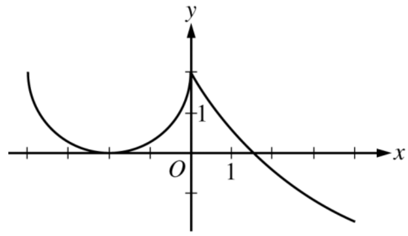

Graph of f'

6. The derivative of a function f is defined by $f'(x) = \begin{cases} g(x) & \text{for } -4 \le x \le 0 \\ 5e^{-x/3} - 3 & \text{for } \ 0 < x \le 4 \end{cases}$.

The graph of the continuous function f', shown in the figure above, has x-intercepts at $x = -2$ and $x = 3\ln\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)$. The graph of g on $-4 \le x \le 0$ is a semicircle, and $f(0) = 5$.

(a) For $-4 < x < 4$, find all values of x at which the graph of f has a point of inflection. Justify your answer.

(b) Find $f(-4)$ and $f(4)$.

(c) For $-4 \le x \le 4$, find the value of x at which f has an absolute maximum. Justify your answer.

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Question 7

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

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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 $[-1, 1]$.

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Question 8

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differentiation, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Derivative Tables, Tangents To Curves, Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Derivative Graphs, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Mean Value Theorem, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2017 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 6

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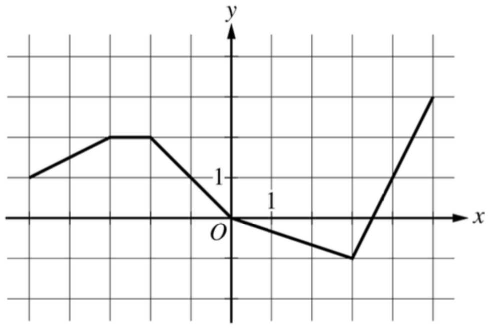
x	$g(x)$	$g'(x)$
–5	10	–3
–4	5	–1
–3	2	4
–2	3	1
–1	1	–2
0	0	–3



Graph of h

6. Let f be the function defined by $f(x) = \cos(2x) + e^{\sin x}$.

Let g be a differentiable function. The table above gives values of g and its derivative g' at selected values of x.

Let h be the function whose graph, consisting of five line segments, is shown in the figure above.

(a) Find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of f at $x = \pi$.

(b) Let k be the function defined by $k(x) = h(f(x))$. Find $k'(\pi)$.

(c) Let m be the function defined by $m(x) = g(-2x) \cdot h(x)$. Find $m'(2)$.

(d) Is there a number c in the closed interval $[-5, -3]$ such that $g'(c) = -4$? Justify your answer.

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Question 9

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation, Limits and Continuity

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Tangents To Curves, Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, L'Hôpital's Rule, Calculating Limits Algebraically, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2018 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 5

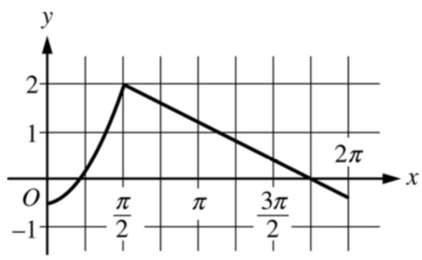
5. Let f be the function defined by $f(x) = e^x \cos x$.

(a) Find the average rate of change of f on the interval $0 \le x \le \pi$.

(b) What is the slope of the line tangent to the graph of f at $x = \frac{3\pi}{2}$?

(c) Find the absolute minimum value of f on the interval $0 \le x \le 2\pi$. Justify your answer.

(d) Let g be a differentiable function such that $g\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 0$. The graph of g', the derivative of g, is shown below. Find the value of $\lim_{x \to \pi/2} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ or state that it does not exist. Justify your answer.



Graph of g'

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