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VCE Mathematical Methods ½
Functions & Relations Exam Skills [2.3]
Homework

Homework Outline:

Compulsory Questions	Pg 2 - Pg 28
Supplementary Questions	Pg 29 - Pg 59



Section A: Compulsory Questions

Sub-Section [2.3.1]: Restrict Domain Such that the Inverse Function Exists



Question 1



For each of the following functions, a domain restriction is given with an endpoint a or b . Determine the minimum value of a or maximum value of b such that the inverse function, f^{-1} , exists.

a. $f: [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = (x - 3)^2 + 2$

b. $f: (-\infty, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = -x^2 + 6x - 5$

c. $f: [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 3$

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Question 2

All the functions in this question are trunci written in a non-standard form.

a. Consider the function:

$$f : (a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 4x + 5}{x^2 - 2x + 1}$$

Find the minimum value of a such that $f(x)$ has an inverse.

b. Consider the function:

$$g : (-\infty, a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g(x) = \frac{x^2 - 6x + 11}{x^2 - 6x + 9}$$

Find the maximum value of a such that $g(x)$ has an inverse.

c. Consider the function:

$$h : (a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad h(x) = \frac{2x^2 + 8x + 5}{x^2 + 4x + 4}$$

Find the minimum value of a such that $h(x)$ has an inverse.

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Question 3

For each of the following semicircle functions, a domain restriction is given with an endpoint a .

Determine the minimum or maximum value of a such that the inverse function exists.

- a. Consider the semicircle function:

$$f : [a, 3] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f(x) = \sqrt{9 - x^2}$$

Find the minimum value of a such that $f(x)$ has an inverse.

- b. Consider the semicircle function:

$$g : [-2, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g(x) = \sqrt{12 + 4x - x^2} + 1$$

Find the maximum value of a such that $g(x)$ has an inverse.

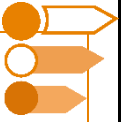
c. Consider the semicircle function:

$$h : [a, 4] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad h(x) = \sqrt{24 - 2x - x^2} + 3$$

Find the minimum value of a such that $h(x)$ has an inverse.

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Sub-Section [2.3.2]: Figure out Possible Rule of a Graph

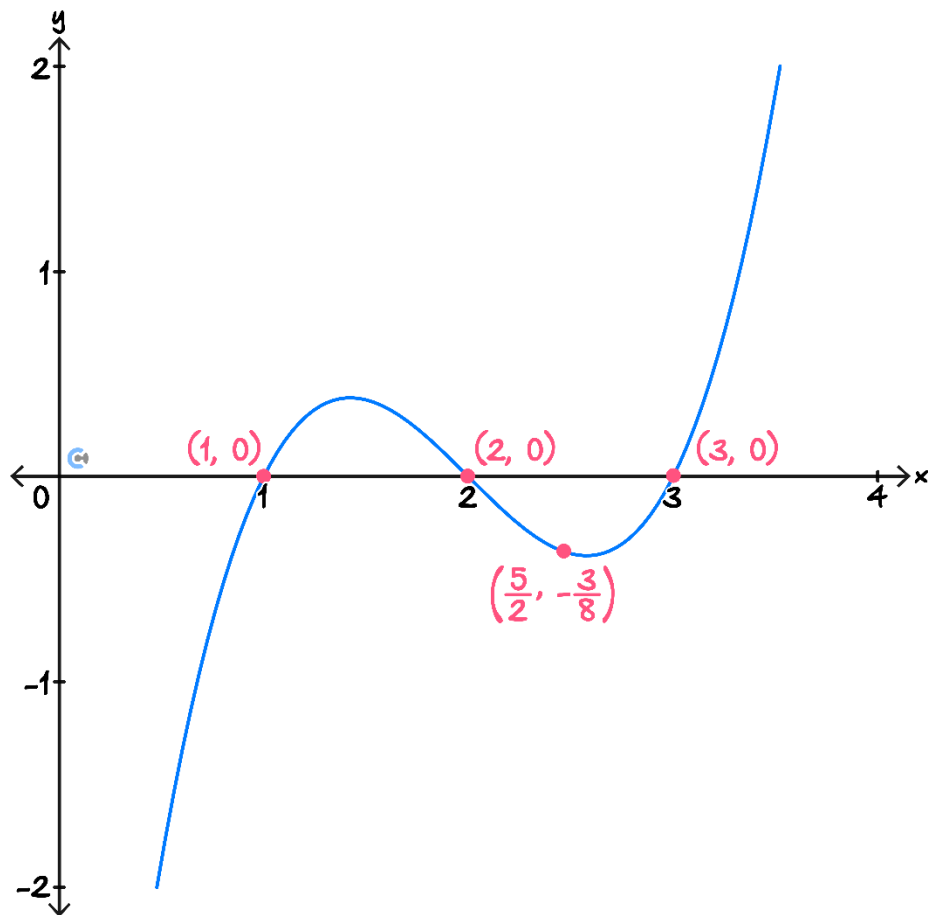


Question 4

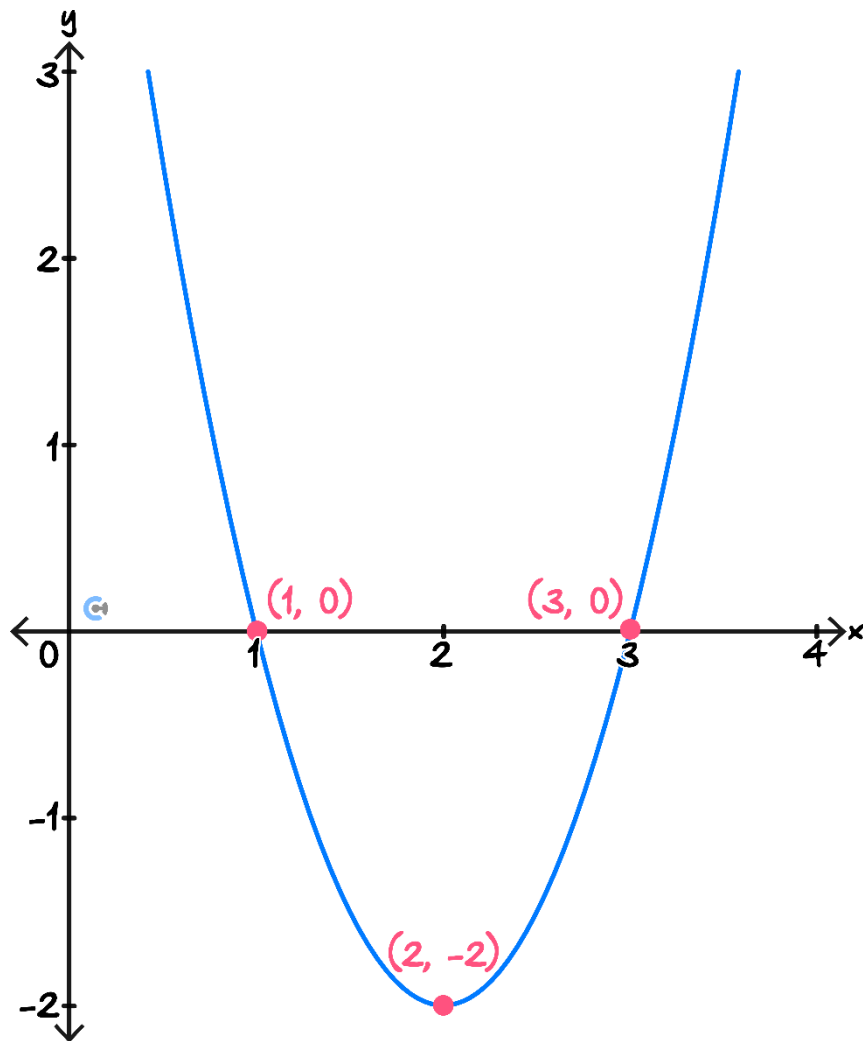


Determine a possible rule for the following graphs:

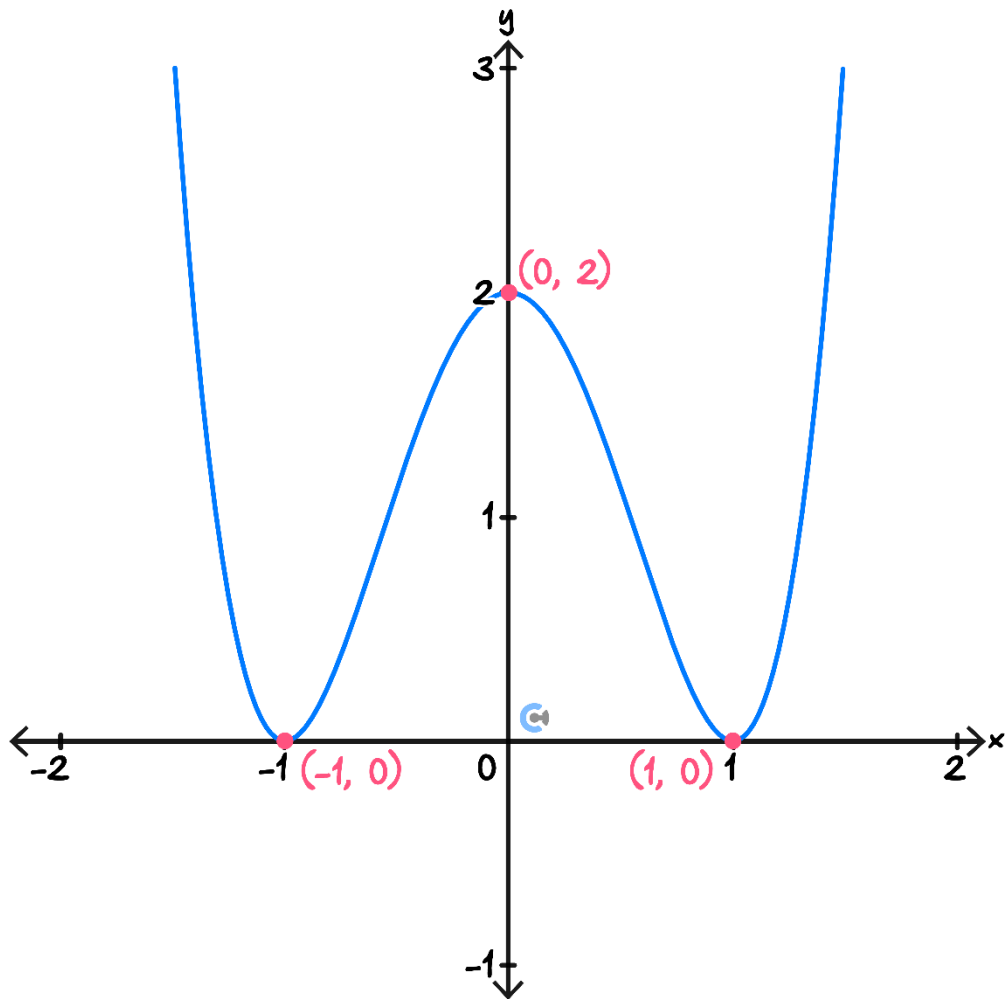
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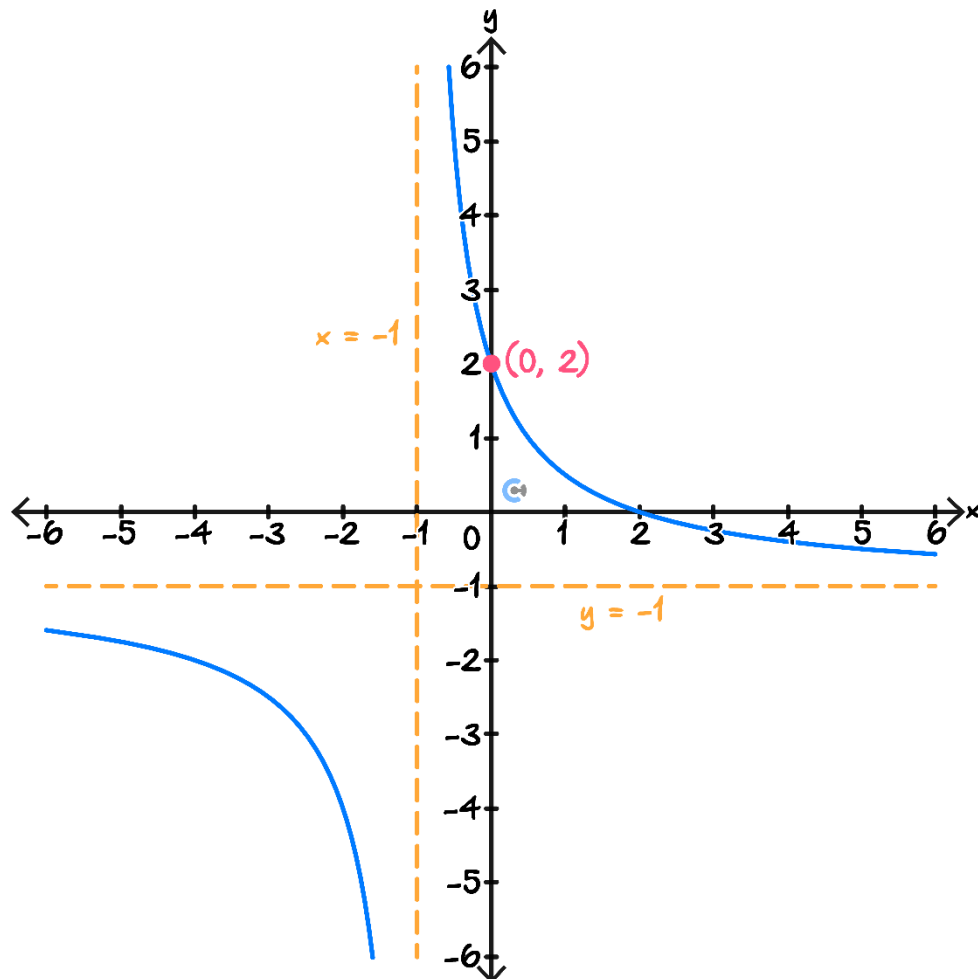
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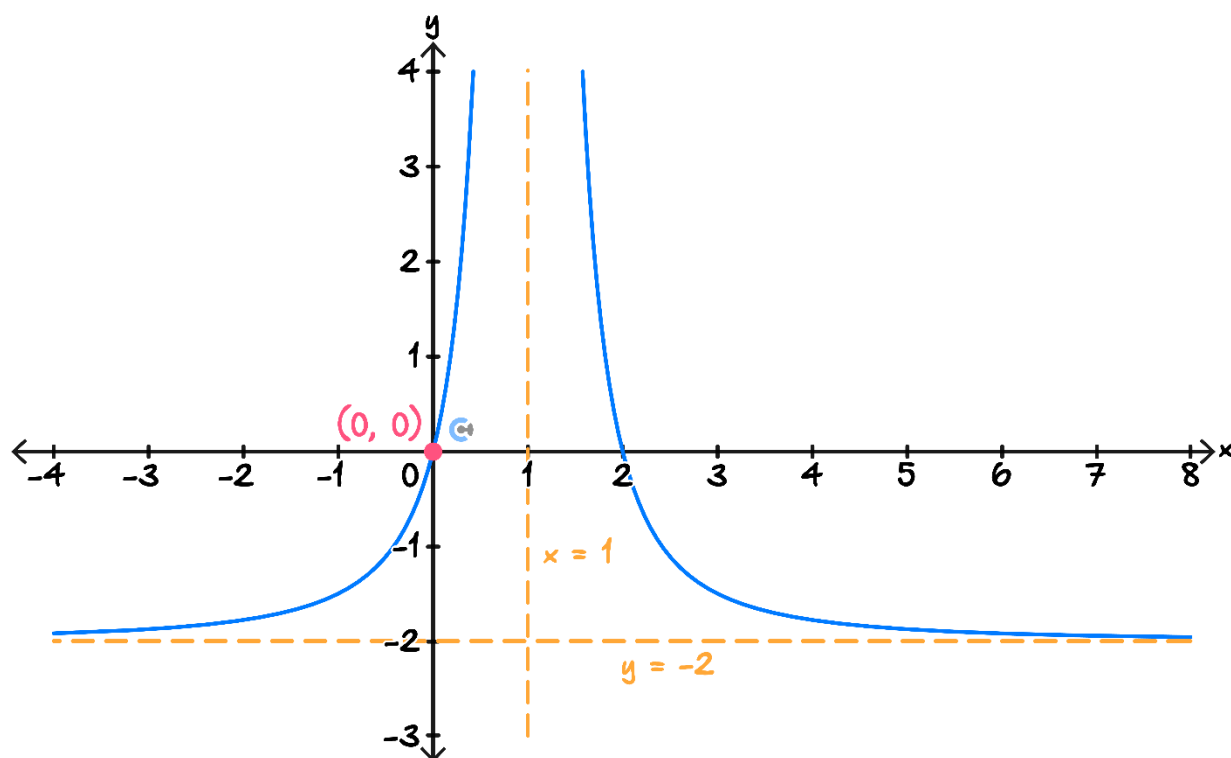
Question 5

Determine a possible rule for the graphs.

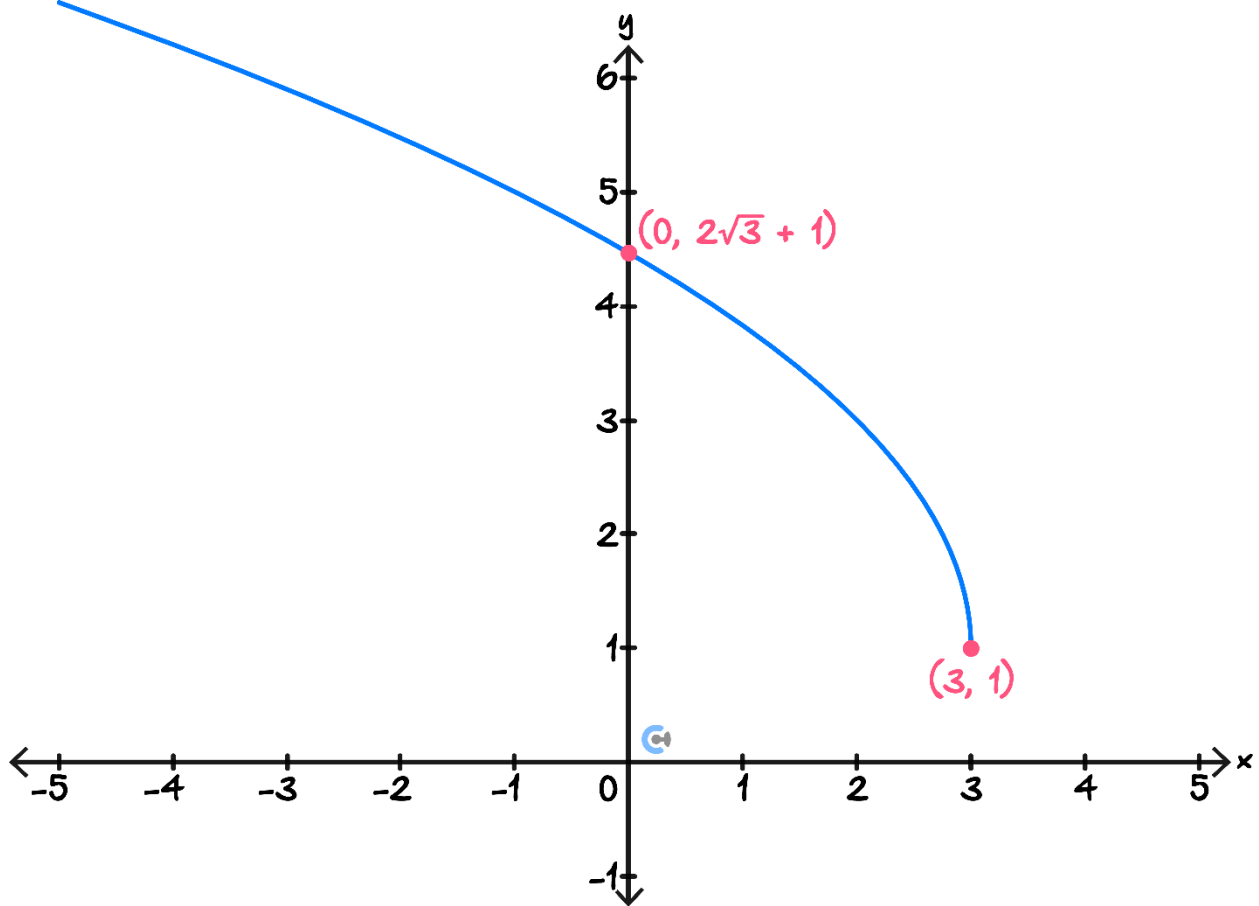
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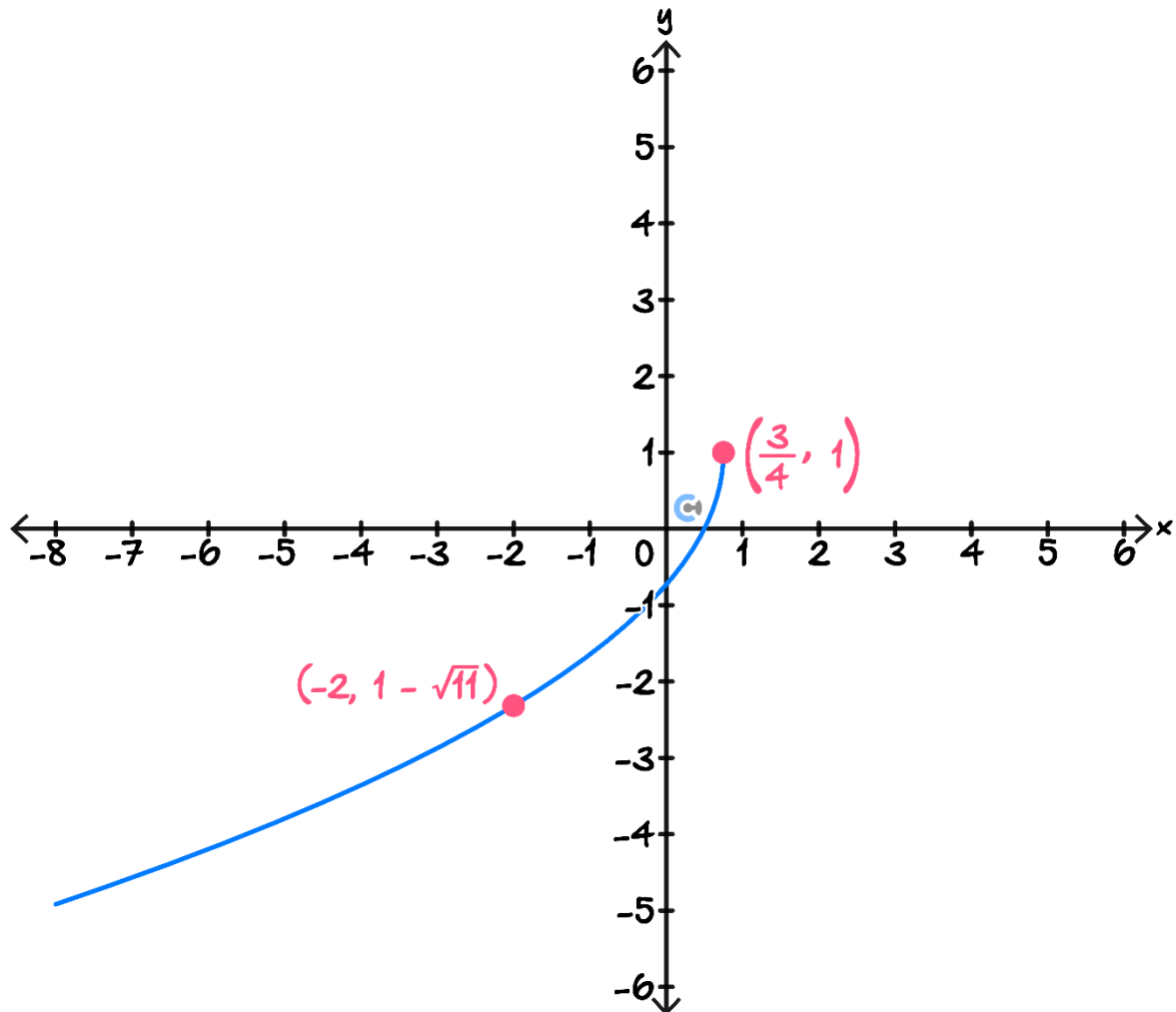
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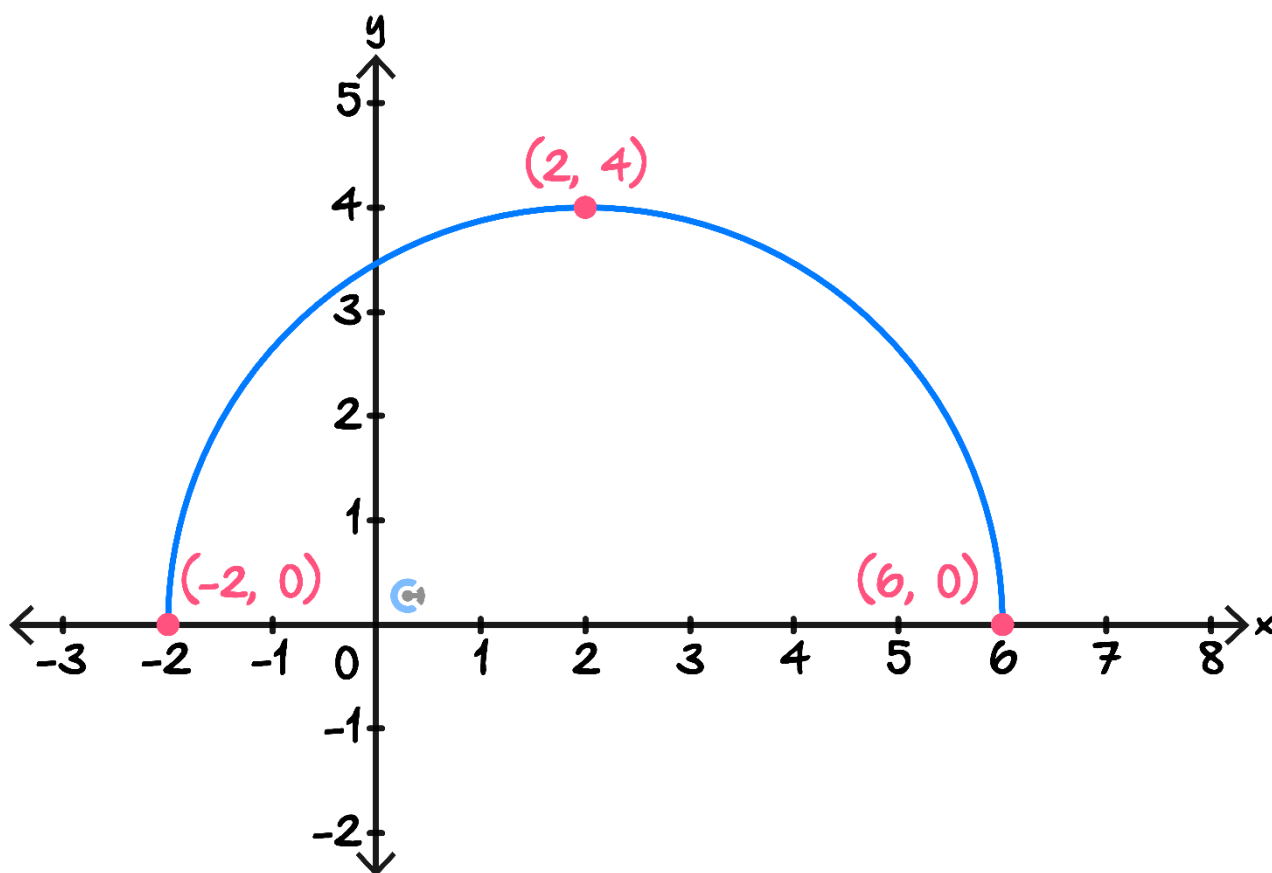
Question 6

Determine a possible rule for the graphs.

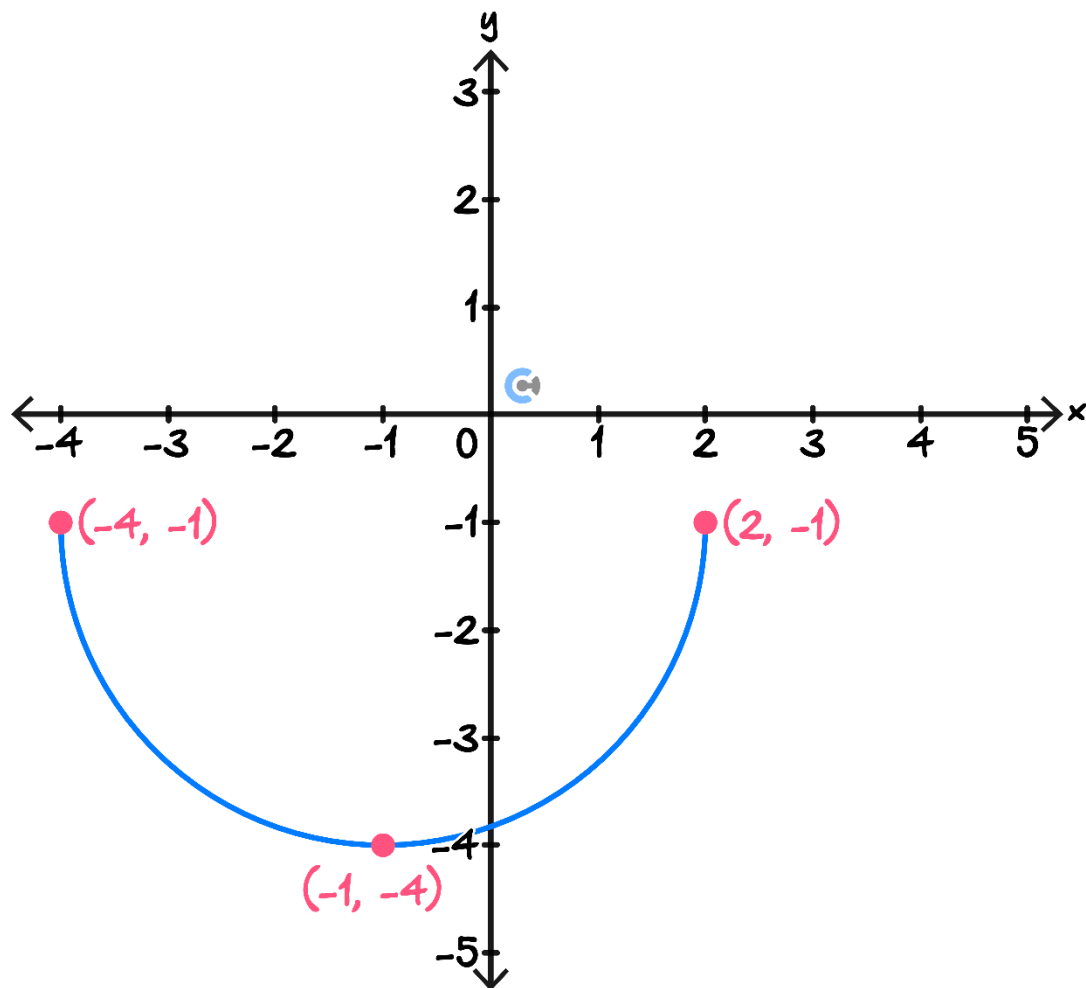
a.



b.



c.



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Sub-Section [2.3.3]: Solve Number of Solution Problems Graphically

Question 7 Tech-Active.



Consider the function $f(x) = 2x^2 - 5x - 7$.

Determine the real values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has two solutions.

Question 8 Tech-Active.



Consider the function $f(x) = 2x^3 - 12x^2 + 18x + 4$.

Determine the real values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has three solutions.

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Question 9 Tech-Active.

Consider the function $f(x) = 3x^4 - 12x^3 - 6x^2 + 36x + 4$.

Determine the real values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has two solutions.

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Sub-Section: Exam 1 Questions

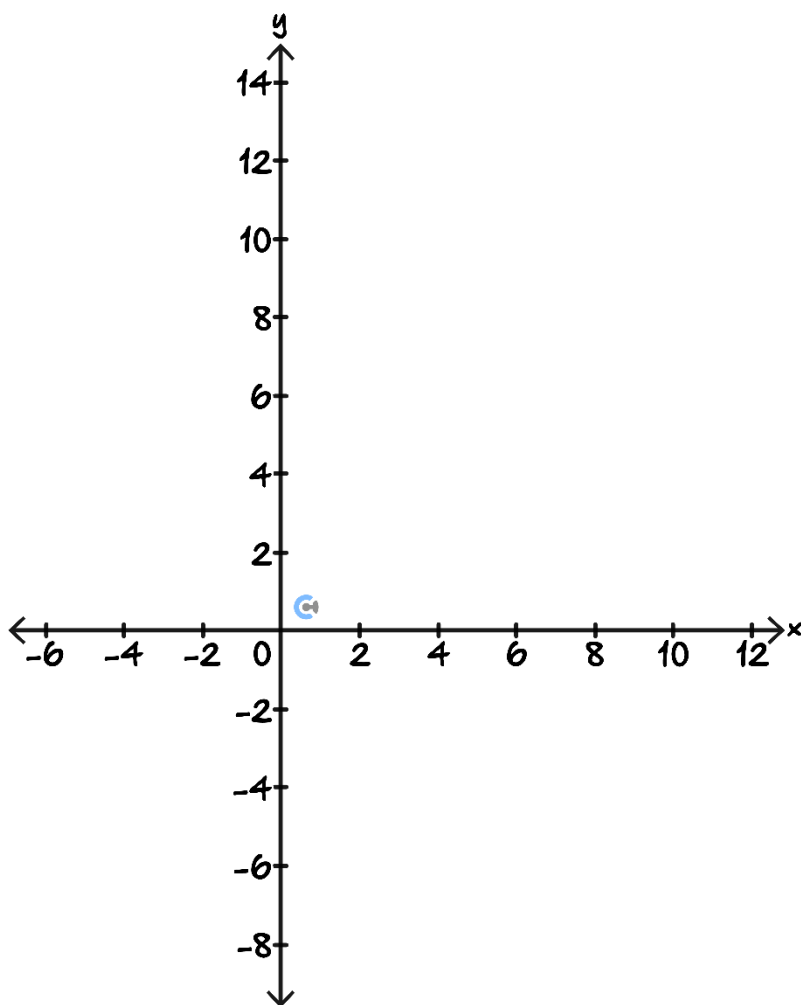


Question 10

Consider the function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 + x + 12, & -4 \leq x \leq 3 \\ 12 - 2x, & x > 3 \end{cases}$$

- a. Sketch the graph of $y = f(x)$ on the axes below. Label all intercepts, endpoints, and turning points.



b. State the range of $f(x)$.

c. Determine the range of values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has two solutions.

d. Justify whether or not $f^{-1}(x)$ is defined.

e. Find the maximal domain of the equation $y = \log_2(f(x))$.

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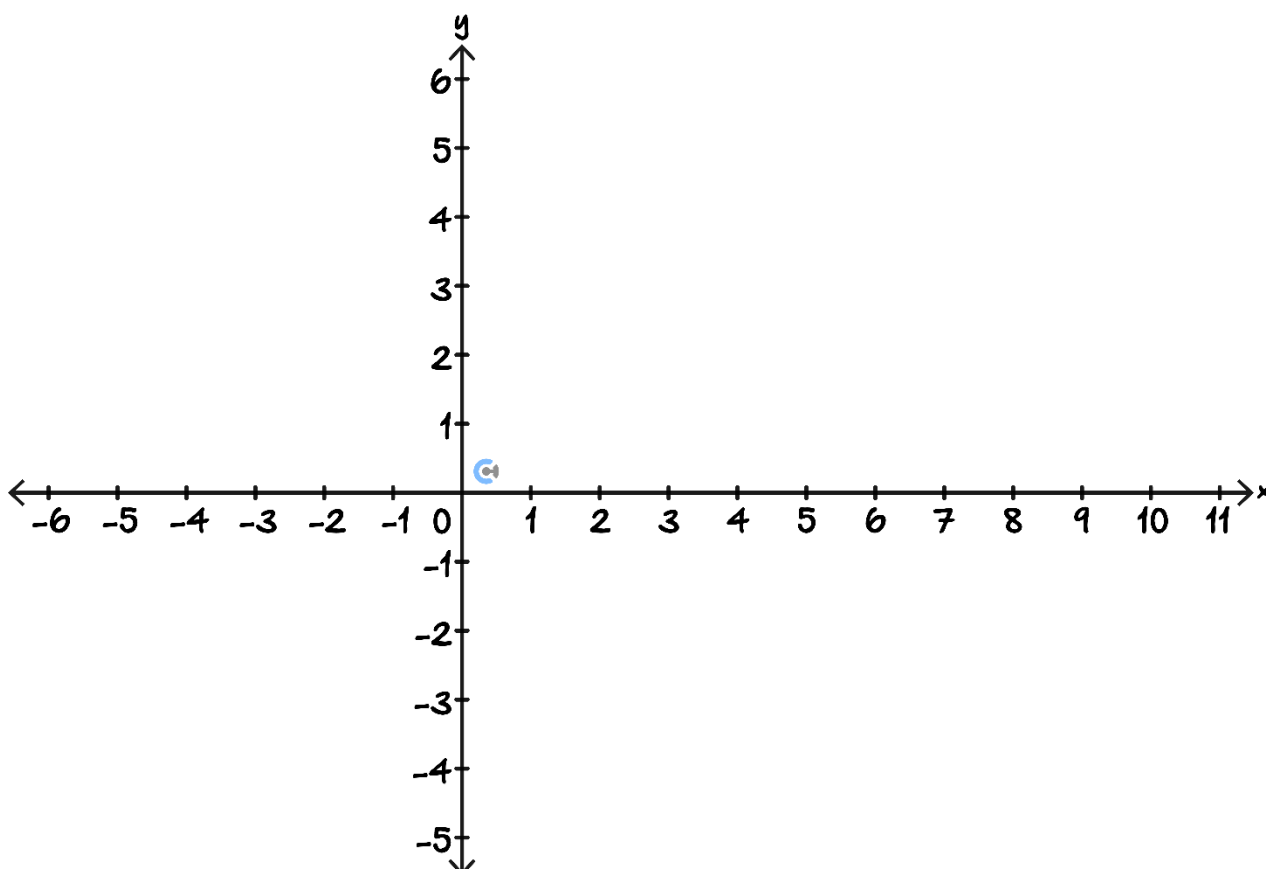
Question 11

Consider the function $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = \frac{2x+1}{x-2}$.

- a. State the maximal domain D of f .

- b. Express f in the form $a + \frac{b}{x-2}$ and state the values of a and b .

- c. Sketch the graph of $y = f(x)$ on the axes below. Label asymptotes with their equations and axes intercepts with the coordinates.



d. Find the values of x for which $f(x) \geq 1$.

e.

i. Determine the rule for $f^{-1}(x)$, the inverse of $f(x)$.

ii. Hence, determine the x -value for all points of intersection between $f(x)$ and $f^{-1}(x)$.

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Question 12

Consider the function $f : [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^2 - 2x + k$.

- a.** Define the inverse function of f .

- b.** Determine the values of k for which f and f^{-1} do not intersect each other.

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Sub-Section: Exam 2 Questions



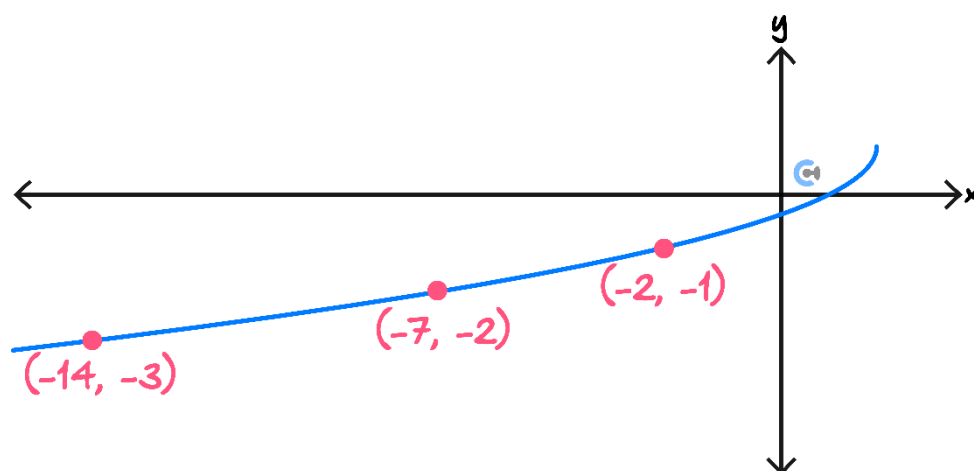
Question 13

The maximal domain of the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - x - 6}}$ is:

- A. $x \in (0, \infty)$
- B. $x \in (-2, 3)$
- C. $x \in (-\infty, 2] \cup [3, \infty)$
- D. $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [-2, 3]$

Question 14

The most likely rule for the following graph is:

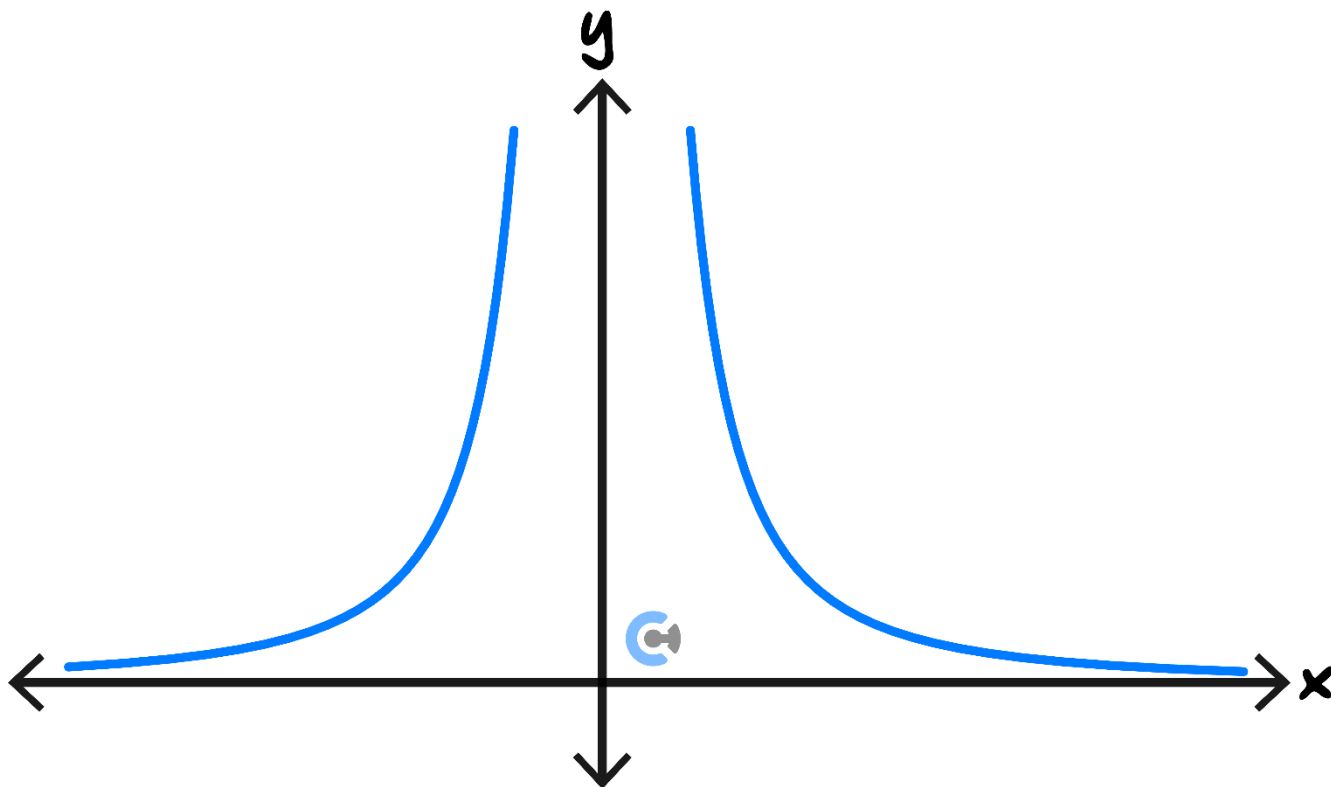


- A. $\sqrt{3 - x} + 1$
- B. $-\sqrt{2 - x} + 1$
- C. $3\sqrt{x + 1} - 1$
- D. $-3\sqrt{2 - x} + 1$

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Question 15

The function g with graph shown below is best described as:



- A. One-to-one.
- B. One-to-many.
- C. Many-to-one.
- D. Many-to-many.

Question 16

The line with equation $4y + 3x = 25$ intersects the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ exactly once at the point $P(3, 4)$. The equation for the radius of the circle that passes through P is:

- A. $3y - 4x = 0$
- B. $3y + 4x = 25$
- C. $3y + 4x = 0$
- D. $3y - 4x = 25$

Question 17

Consider the function $f(x) = 12x^5 + 90x^4 + 140x^3 - 180x^2 - 480x - 200$.

The equation $f(x) = k$ will have three solutions for:

- A. $k \in (-618, -24) \cup (38, 632)$
- B. $k \in [-618, -24] \cup [38, 632]$
- C. $k \in (-24, 38)$
- D. $k \in [24, 38]$

Question 18

The function f is defined as $f : [a, a + 2] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^2 - 4x - 8$.

- a. Find the turning point of $f(x)$.

b. Find the values of a such that:

i. The range of $f(x)$ is $[-8, 4]$.

ii. The inverse function f^{-1} exists.

iii. $\sqrt{f(x)}$ does not exist.

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Question 19

The line with equation $y = mx$ intersects the circle with centre $(4,0)$ and radius 2 exactly once at the point $P(x, y)$.

(**Note:** A line that intersects a circle exactly once is called a line that is tangent to the circle.)

- a.** Find the equation of the circle.

- b.** Show that the x -coordinate of the point P satisfies the equation:

$$(1 + m^2)x^2 - 8x + 12 = 0$$

- c.** Use the discriminant to find the possible values of m .

d. Hence, find the two possible sets of coordinates for P .

e. Find the distance of P from the origin.

f. Find the acute angle that the two lines tangent to the circle make at the origin.

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Section B: Supplementary Questions

Sub-Section [2.3.1]: Restrict Domain Such that the Inverse Function Exists



Question 20



For each of the following functions, a domain restriction is given with an endpoint a or b . Determine the minimum value of a or maximum value of b such that the inverse function, f^{-1} , exists.

a. $f: (-\infty, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = (x + 1)^2 - 3$

b. $f: [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 7$

c. $f: [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = -x^2 + 8x - 11$

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Question 21

All the functions in this question are trunci written in a non-standard form.

a. Consider the function:

$$f : (-\infty, a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f(x) = \frac{11 + 12x + 3x^2}{x^2 + 4x + 4}$$

Find the maximum value of a such that $f(x)$ has an inverse.

b. Consider the function:

$$g : (a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g(x) = \frac{x^2 + 8x + 18}{x^2 + 8x + 16}$$

Find the minimum value of a such that $g(x)$ has an inverse.

c. Consider the function:

$$h : (a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad h(x) = \frac{3x^2 + 6x - 2}{x^2 + 2x + 1}$$

Find the minimum value of a such that $h(x)$ has an inverse.

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Question 22

For each of the following semicircle functions, a domain restriction is given with an endpoint a .

Determine the minimum or maximum value of a such that the inverse function exists.

- a.** Consider the semicircle function:

$$f : [-4, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = \sqrt{4 - (x + 2)^2}$$

Find the minimum value of a such that $f(x)$ has an inverse.

- b.** Consider the semicircle function:

$$g : [a, 4] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g(x) = 2 - \sqrt{8 + 2x - x^2}$$

Find the maximum value of a such that $g(x)$ has an inverse.

c. Consider the semicircle function:

$$h : [-5, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad h(x) = \sqrt{20 - 16x - 4x^2} + 1$$

Find the maximum value of a such that $h(x)$ has an inverse.

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Question 23

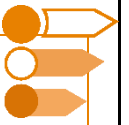
Consider the function:

$$f : [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f(x) = \frac{2x^2 + 8x + 11}{5 + 4x + x^2}$$

Find the maximum value of a such that $f(x)$ has an inverse.

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Sub-Section [2.3.2]: Figure Out Possible Rule of a Graph

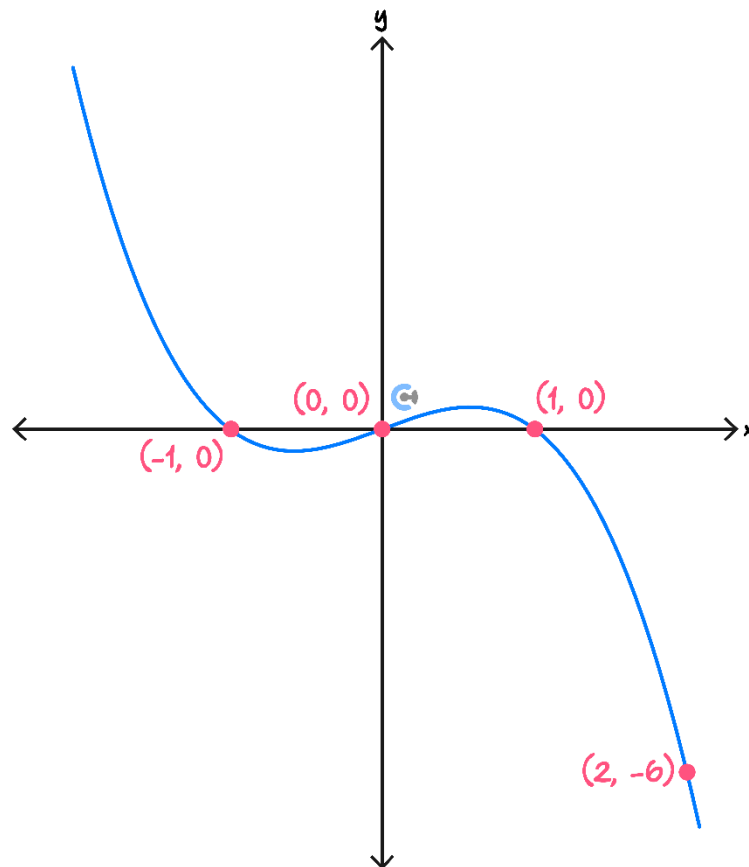


Question 24

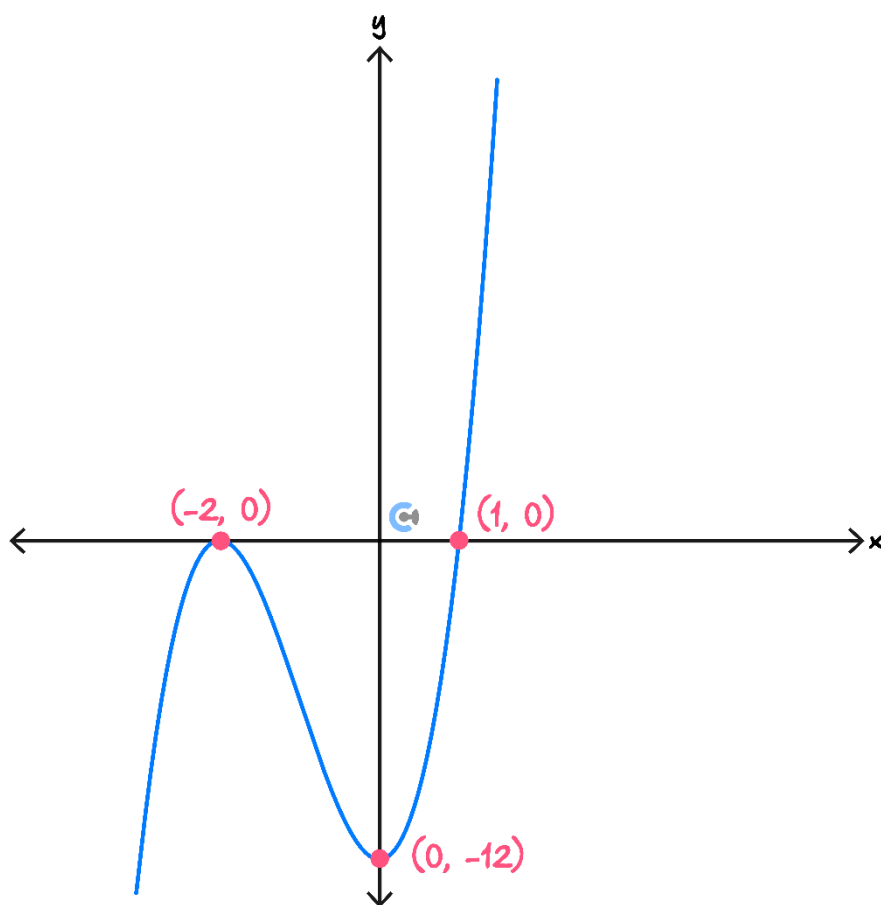


Determine a possible rule for the following graphs:

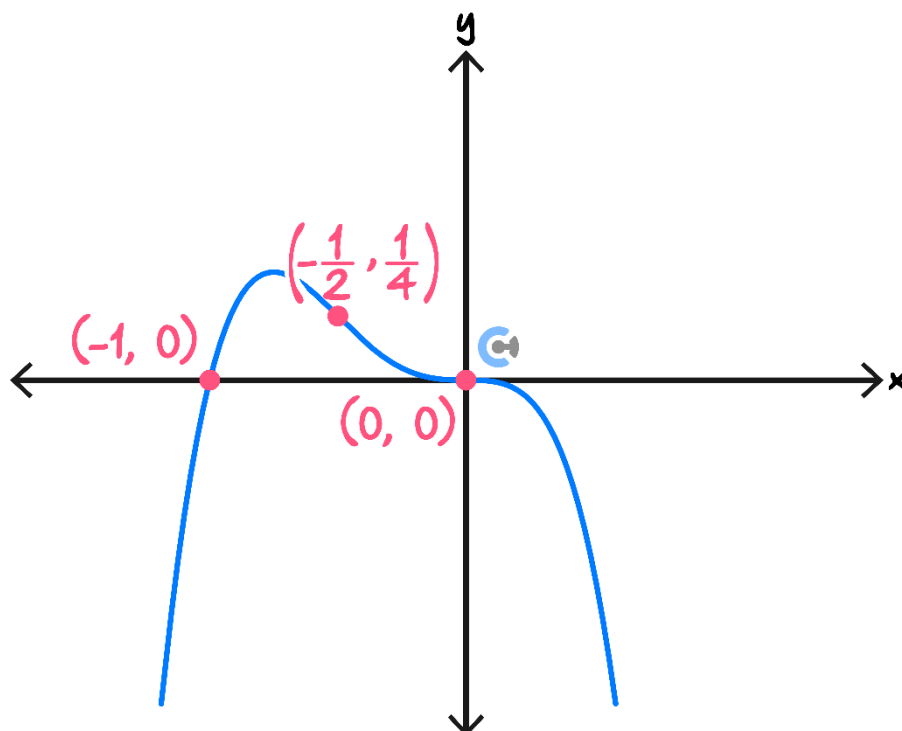
a.



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c.



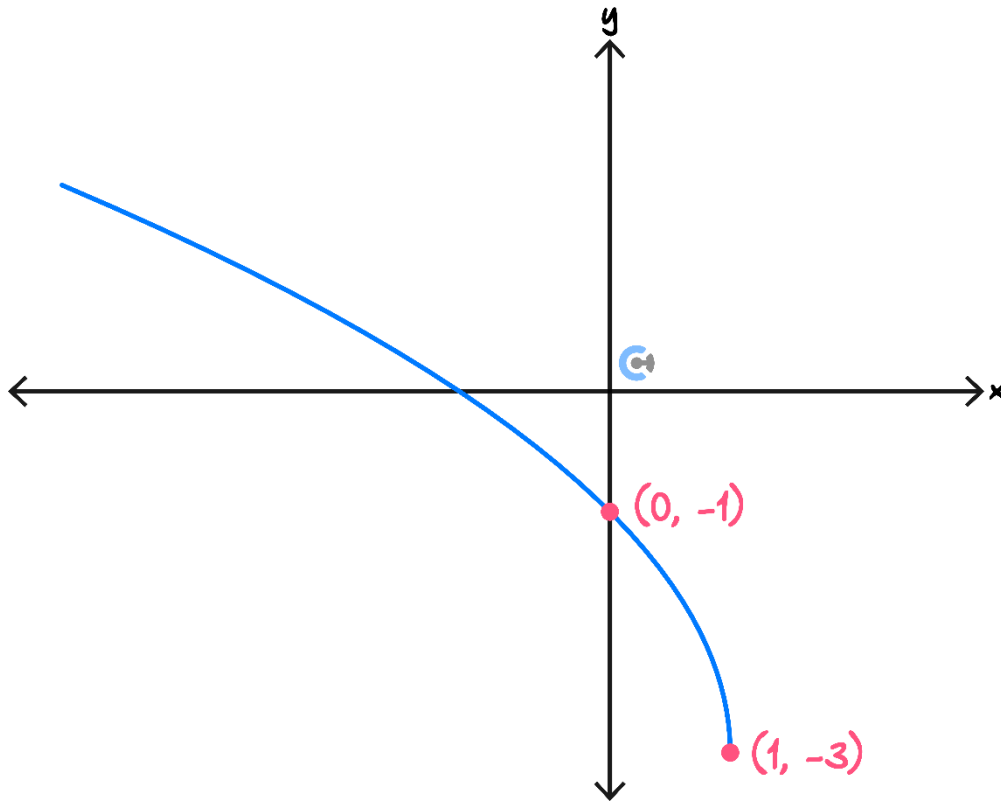
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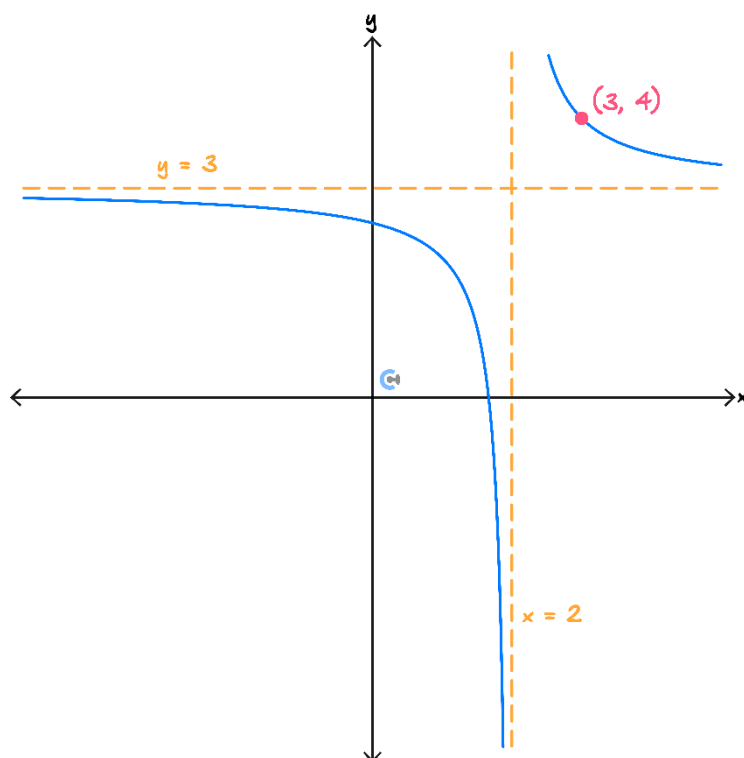
Question 25

Determine a possible rule for the graphs.

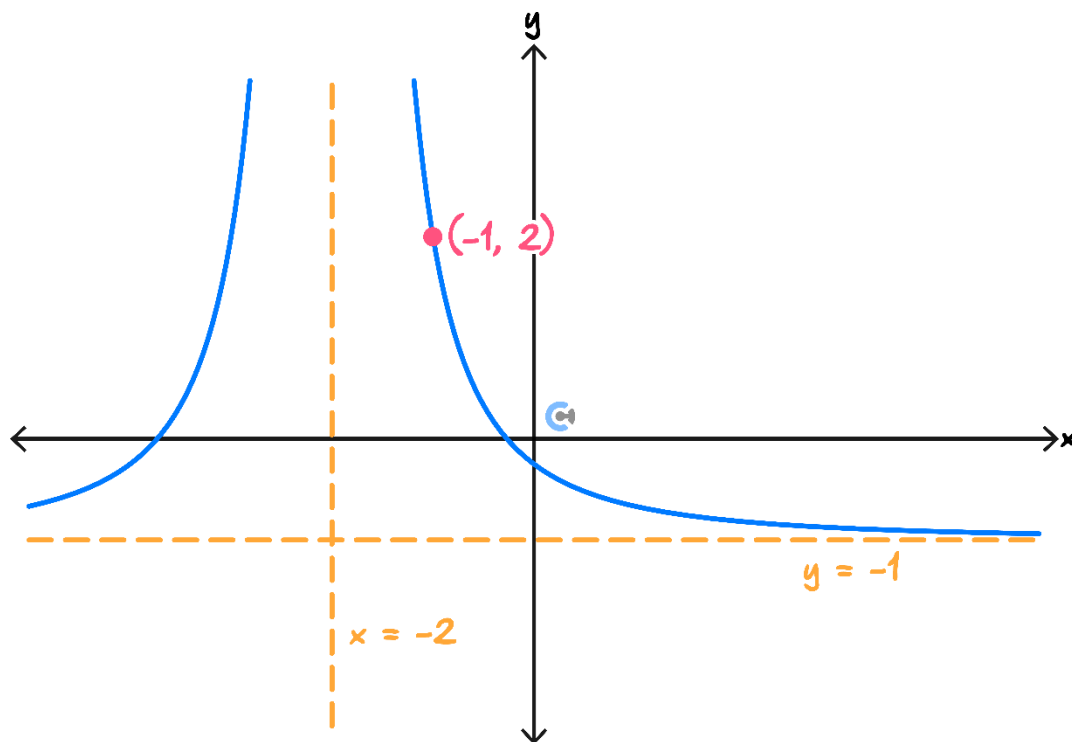
a.



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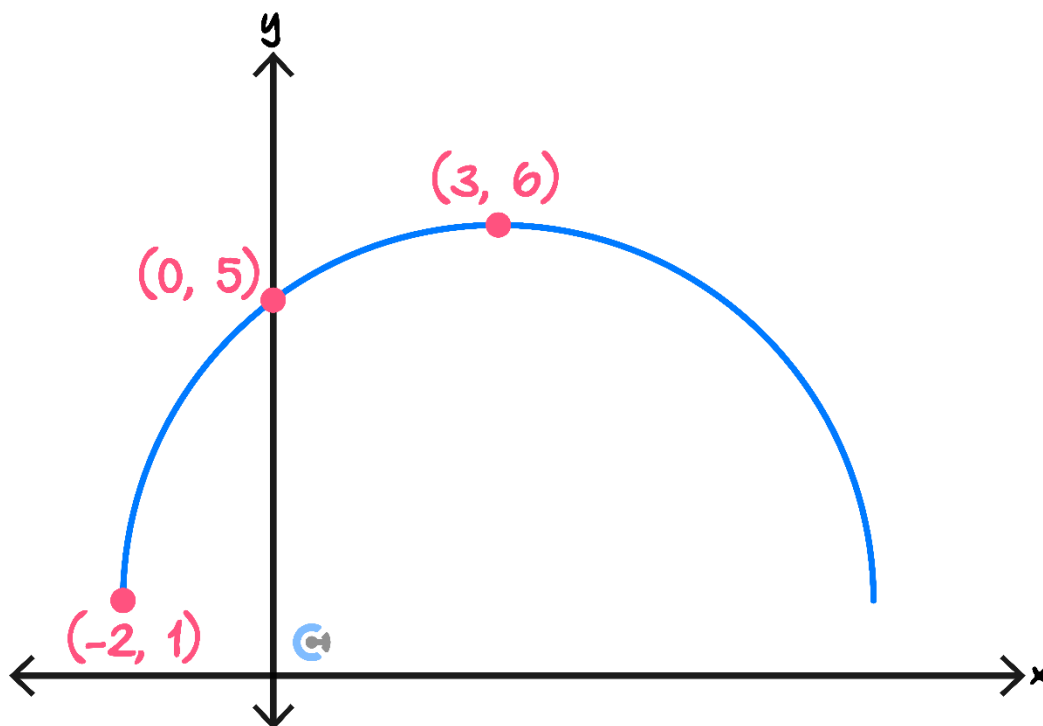
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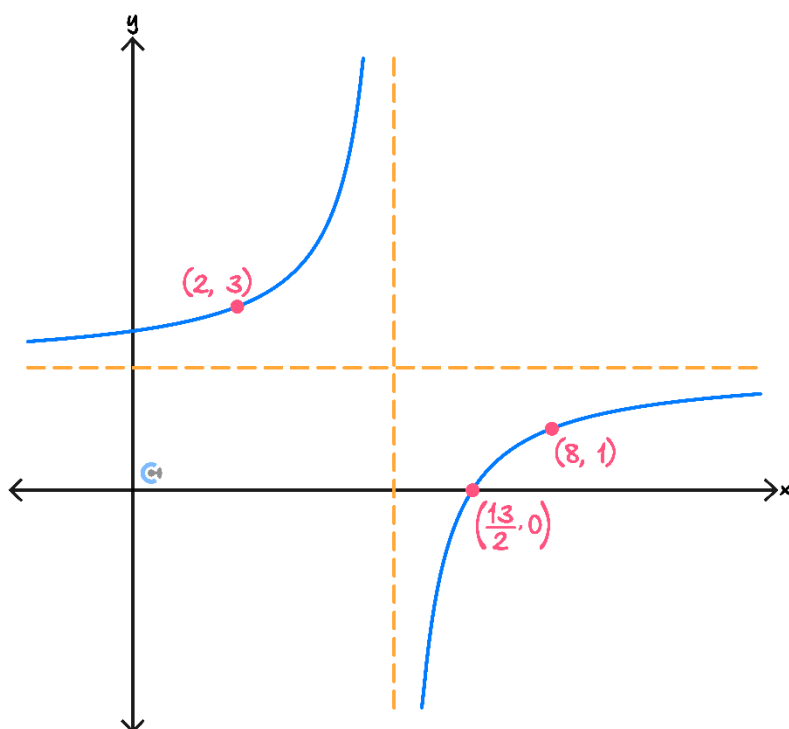
Question 26

Determine a possible rule for the graphs.

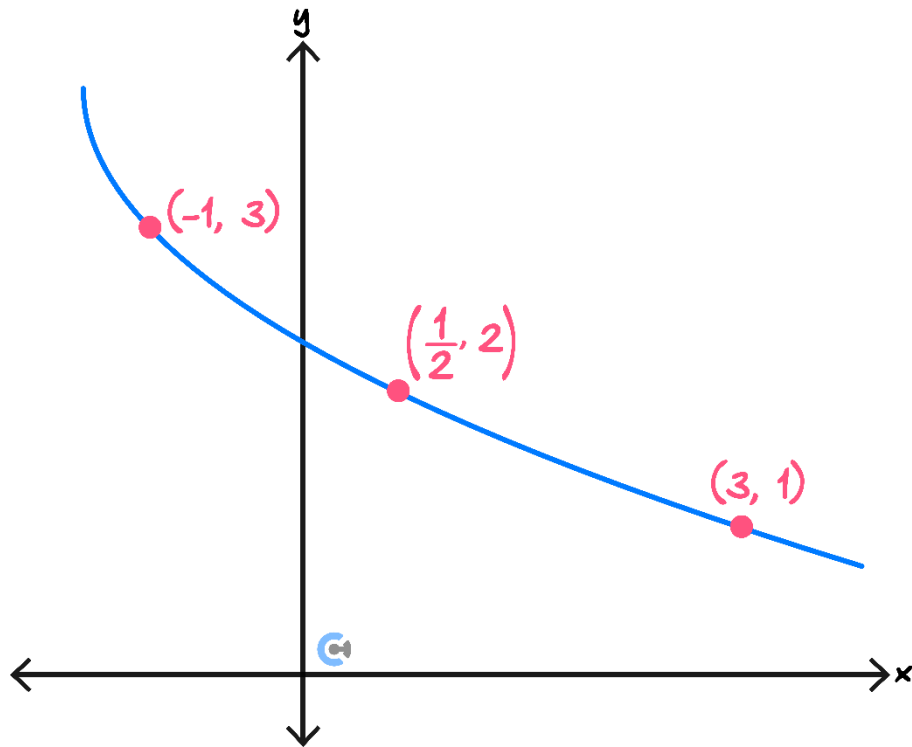
a.



b.



c.



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A graph of a cubic function is shown on a Cartesian coordinate system. The x-axis and y-axis are black lines with arrows at the ends. The origin is marked with a small blue circle and the letter 'O'. The curve is blue and passes through the points $(-7, 0)$, $(-1, 0)$, and $(0, 1)$. The points are marked with red dots and labeled with their coordinates in red text.

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Sub-Section [2.3.3]: Solve Number of Solution Problems Graphically

Question 28 Tech-Active.



Consider the function $f(x) = 4x^2 - 4x + 5$.

Determine the real values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has two solutions.

Question 29 Tech-Active.



Consider the function $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 9x + 2$.

Determine the real values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has three:

a. Two solutions.

b. Three solutions.

Question 30 Tech-Active.



Consider the function $f(x) = x^4 - 8x^3 + 6x^2 + 40x - 14$.

Determine the real values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has :

a. Three solutions.

b. Two solutions.

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Question 31

Consider the function $f(x) = 3x^3 + k$.

Determine the real value of k for which $f(x) = f^{-1}(x)$ has three solutions.

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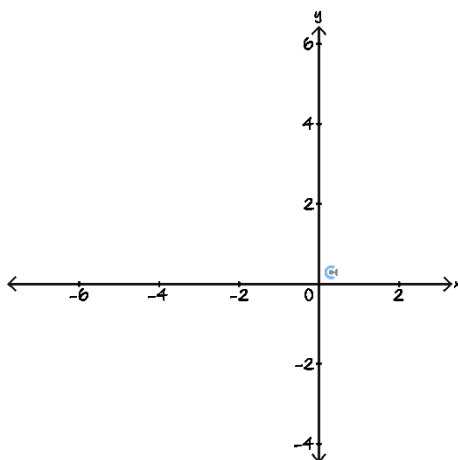
Sub-Section: Exam 1 Questions



Question 32

Let $f(x) = \frac{2x+6}{x+4}$ be defined on its maximal domain.

- a. Sketch the graph of $f(x)$ on the axes below. Labelling all asymptotes with their equations and axial intercepts with their coordinates.



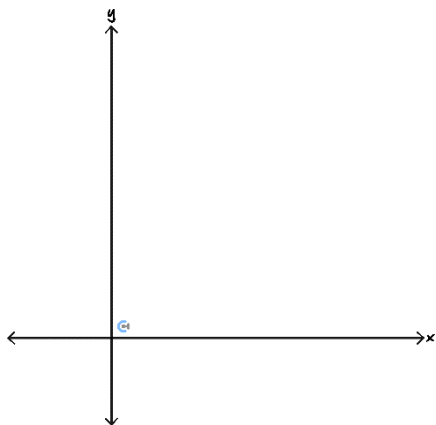
- b. State the domain and range of f^{-1} .

- c. Find the values of x for which $f(x) > 1$.

Question 33

Consider the function $f : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{h\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f(x) = \frac{a}{(x-h)^2} + k$.

The graph of f is drawn below.



- a. Show that $a = -2$, $h = 2$, and $k = 5$.

- b. Find the maximal domain of $g(x) = \sqrt{4 - (f(x) - 1)^2}$.

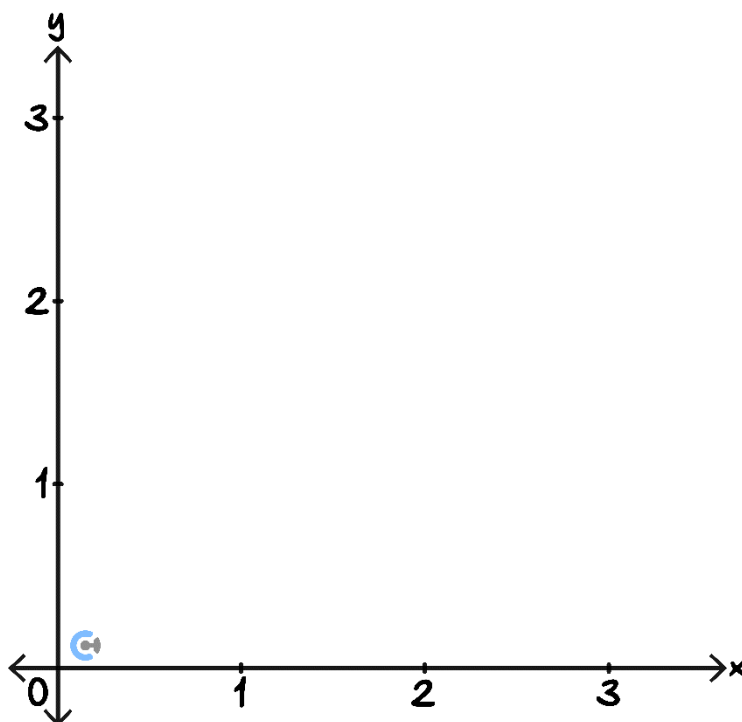
Question 34

Consider the function $f : [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = x^2 - 2x + 2$.

- a. Find the smallest value of a for which the inverse function of f , f^{-1} exists.

- b. State the domain and range of f^{-1} .

- c. The graph of $y = f(x)$ is drawn on the axis below, sketch the graph of $y = f^{-1}(x)$ on the same axis, labelling points of intersection with their coordinates.



d. Let $g: [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, g(x) = (x - 1)^2 + k$.

i. Find the values of k for which $g(x) = g^{-1}(x)$ has no solutions.

ii. Find the values of k for which $g(x) = g^{-1}(x)$ has two solutions.

iii. Find the values of k for which $g(x) = g^{-1}(x)$ has one solution.

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Sub-Section: Exam 2 Questions

Question 35

The maximal domain of the function f is $(-2, \infty)$.

A possible rule for f is:

A. $f(x) = \log_2(x - 2)$

B. $f(x) = \sqrt{2 - x}$

C. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x+2}$

D. $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+2}}$

Question 36

Consider the function $f : (a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = \frac{1}{x-1}$ where $a < b < 1$.

The range of f is:

A. $\left(\frac{1}{a-1}, \frac{1}{b-1}\right]$

B. $\left[\frac{1}{b-1}, \frac{1}{a-1}\right)$

C. $(b, a]$

D. $\left[\frac{1}{a-1}, \frac{1}{b-1}\right)$

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Question 37

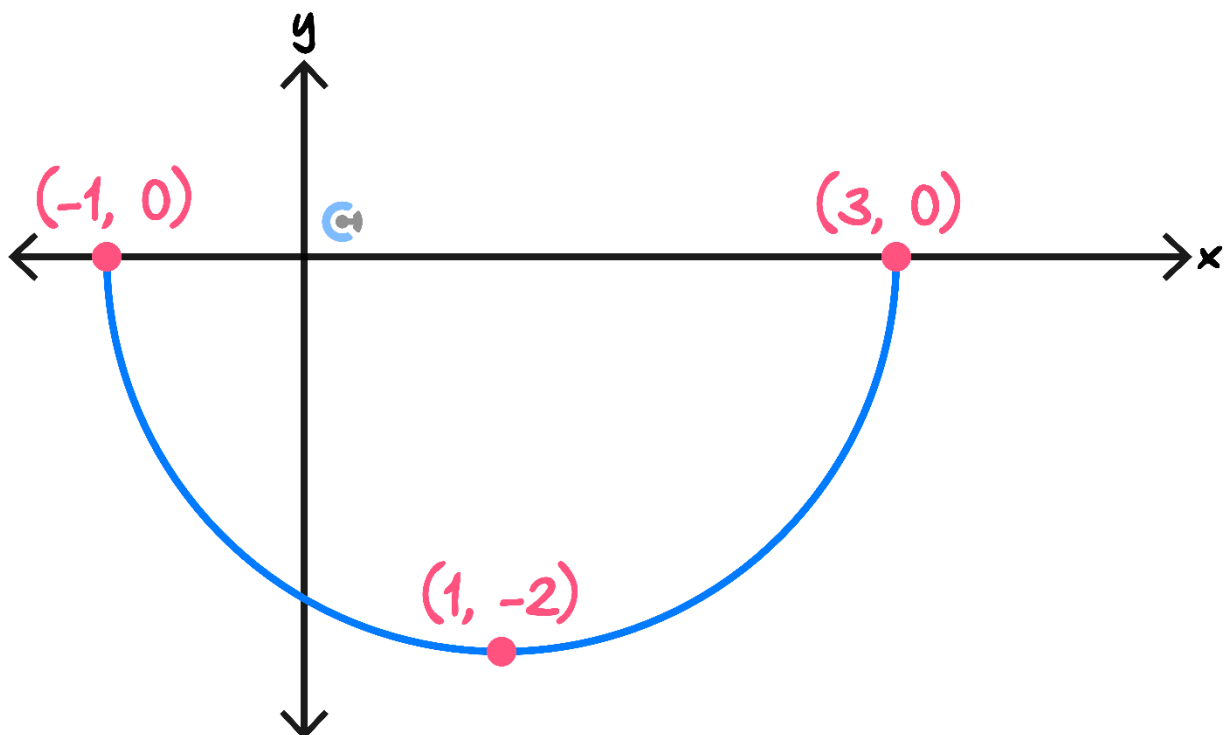
Consider the function $f(x) = 3x^4 + 4x^3 - 12x^2 + 2$.

The equation $f(x) = k$ will have three solutions for:

- A. $k > -3$
- B. $k < 2$
- C. $-3 < k < 2$
- D. $k = -3$ or $k = 2$

Question 38

The equation that best represents the graph below is:



- A. $y = -\sqrt{3 + 2x - x^2}$
- B. $y = -\sqrt{3 - 2x - x^2}$
- C. $y = \sqrt{4 - (x - 1)^2}$
- D. $(x + 1)^2 + y^2 = 4$

Question 39

Consider the function $f: [-20, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = 2x^2 - 12x + 5$.

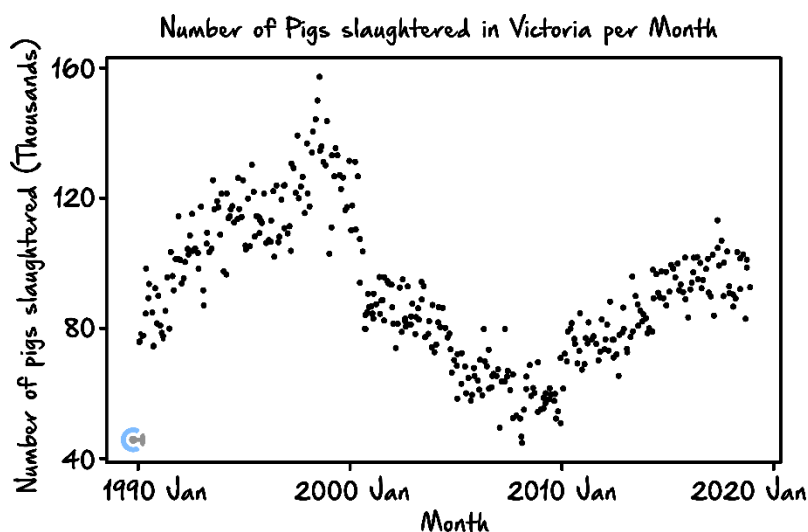
The smallest value of a for which the inverse function of f , f^{-1} exists is:

- A.** $a = 6$
- B.** $a = -6$
- C.** $a = 3$
- D.** $a = -3$

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Question 40

The points shown on the chart below represent the number of pigs slaughtered in Australia, from 1990 to 2018.



We can attempt to model y , the number of pigs slaughtered in thousands, as a function of time.

Specifically, the variable t which represents the month when the pigs were slaughtered, where $t = 1$ corresponds to January 1990, $t = 2$ corresponds to February 1990 and so on.

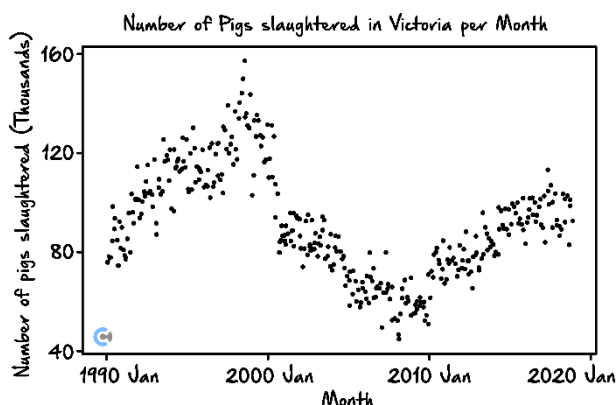
Our first attempt is setting $y = f(t)$, where $f : [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f(t) = \frac{a}{1000}t^3 + \frac{b}{100}t^2 + \frac{c}{10}t + d$, is a cubic polynomial.

We can do this by ensuring f reflects some suitable points.

- a. If we want $f(1) = 76$, $f(103) = 157.1$, $f(219) = 44.8$, and $f(348) = 92.3$, find the values of a, b, c, d correct to 3 decimal places.

- b. Plot the graph of f over the interval $[1, 348]$ on the axis below, labelling the four points mentioned in **part a.i** with their coordinates.

You can use the fact that $t = 103$ corresponds to July, 1998, $t = 219$ corresponds to March 2008 and $t = 348$ corresponds to December 2018.



- c.
- i. According to this model, what is the earliest month after 2018 for which the number of pigs slaughtered will be greater than 157100?

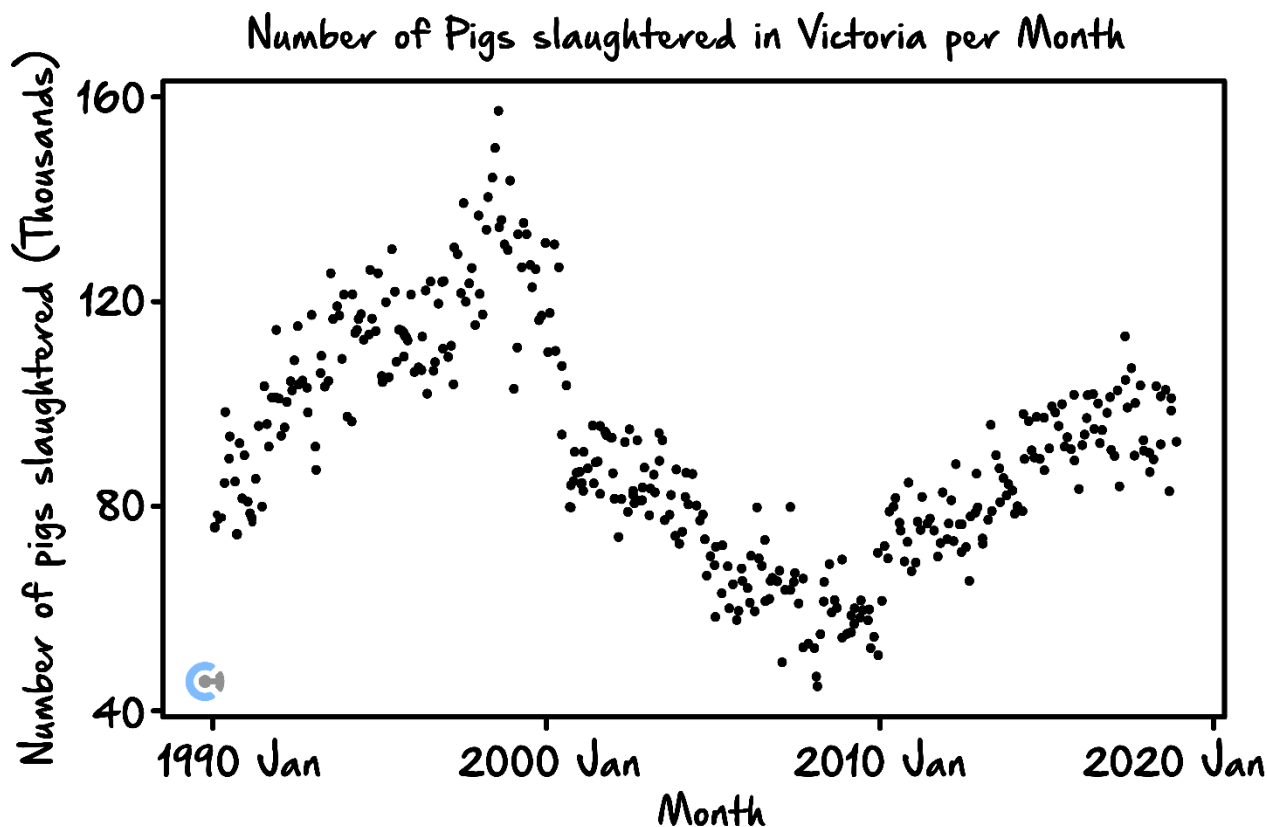
- ii. For what values of k , does $f(t) = k$ have two solutions? Give your answer to 2 decimal places.

- iii. Does our cubic model accurately reflect the minimum and maximum number of pigs slaughtered from 1990 to 2018?

d. An alternative model can be $y = g(t)$, where $g(t) = \sqrt{at^3 + bt^2 + ct + d}$.

- i. Explain why the restrictions $g(1) = 76$, $g(103) = 157.1$, $g(219) = 44.8$, and $g(348) = 92.3$ are unusable.

- ii. Sketch the graph of $y = g(t)$ over the interval $[1, 348]$ on the axis below if $g(1) = 76$, $g(103) = 157.1$, $g(262) = 70.2$ and $g(348) = 92.3$. Label endpoints and turning points with their coordinates correct to 2 decimal places.



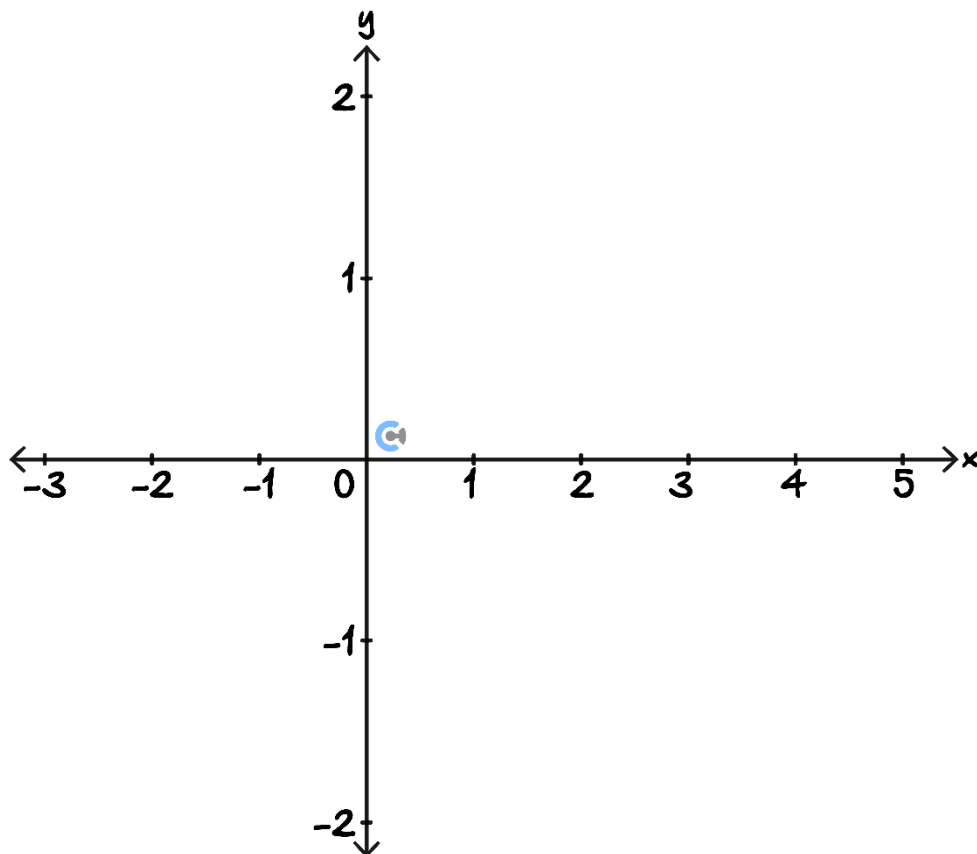
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Question 41

Consider the function $f(x) = \frac{5-8x+2x^2}{x^2-4x+4}$.

- a. State the maximum domain and range of f .

- b. Sketch the graph of f on the axis below, labelling asymptotes with their equations and axes intercepts with their coordinates.



c. Consider the function $g(x) = 3x^4 + 8x^2 - 6x^2 - 24x + k$.

i. State the turning points of $g(x)$ in terms of k .

ii. For what values of k , does the equation $g(x) = 2$ have exactly two solutions?

iii. For what values of k , does the equation $g(x + a) = f(x)$ never have a solution for any value of a ?

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VCE Mathematical Methods ½

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What Are 1-on-1 Consults?

- **Who Runs Them?** Experienced Contour tutors (45 + raw scores and 99 + ATARs).
- **Who Can Join?** Fully enrolled Contour students.
- **When Are They?** 30-minute 1-on-1 help sessions, after-school weekdays, and all-day weekends.
- **What To Do?** Join on time, ask questions, re-learn concepts, or extend yourself!
- **Price?** Completely free!
- **One Active Booking Per Subject:** Must attend your current consultation before scheduling the next. :)

SAVE THE LINK, AND MAKE THE MOST OF THIS (FREE) SERVICE!



Booking Link

bit.ly/contour-methods-consult-2025

