



Website: [contoureducation.com.au](http://contoureducation.com.au) | Phone: 1800 888 300  
Email: [hello@contoureducation.com.au](mailto:hello@contoureducation.com.au)

VCE Mathematical Methods  $\frac{3}{4}$   
Differentiation Exam Skills [0.11]  
Workshop

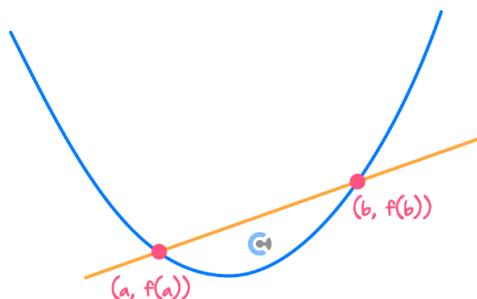
Error Logbook:



Not knowing how to do the q		Algebraic/Calculator Mistakes	
Question #:	Page #:	Question #:	Page #:
Notes:		Notes:	
Not reading the question/detail		Time management	
Question #:	Page #:	Question #:	Page #:
Notes:		Notes:	

## Section A: Recap

### Average Rate of Change

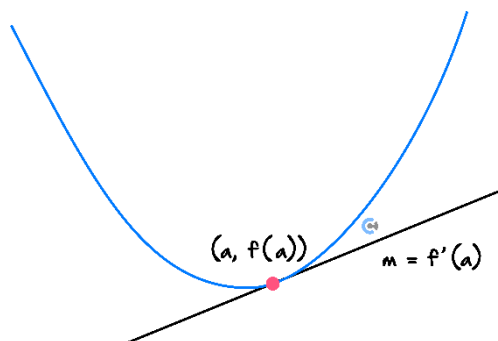


- The average rate of change of a function  $f(x)$  over  $x \in [a, b]$  is given by:

$$\text{Average rate of change} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

- It is the gradient of the line joining the two points.

### Instantaneous Rate of Change



- Instantaneous rate of change is a gradient of a graph at a single point/moment.

$$\text{Instantaneous rate of change} = f'(x)$$

- Differentiation is the process of finding the derivative of a function.
- First principles derivative definition:

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \right)$$

### Alternative Notation for Derivative



$$f'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

### Derivatives of Functions



► The derivatives of many of the standard functions are in the summary table below:

$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
$x^n$	$n \times x^{n-1}$
$\sin(x)$	$\cos(x)$
$\cos(x)$	$-\sin(x)$
$\tan(x)$	$\sec^2(x)$
$e^x$	$e^x$
$\log_e(x)$	$\frac{1}{x}$

### The Product Rule



► The derivative of  $h(x) = f(x) \times g(x)$  is given by:

$$h'(x) = f'(x) \cdot g(x) + g'(x) \cdot f(x)$$

► Or, in another form:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(u \cdot v) = u'v + v'u$$

Space for Personal Notes



### The Quotient Rule

- The derivative of a  $h(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  is given by:

$$h'(x) = \frac{f'(x) \cdot g(x) - f(x) \cdot g'(x)}{g(x)^2}$$

- Or, written in another form:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{u}{v} \right) = \frac{u'v - v'u}{v^2}$$

- 🔄 Always differentiate the top function first.



### The Chain Rule

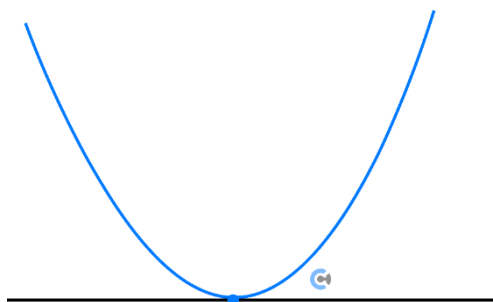
$$y = f(g(x))$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(g(x))g'(x)$$

- The process for finding derivatives of **composite functions**.



### Stationary Points



- The point where the gradient of the function is zero.

$$f'(x) = 0, \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$



## Calculator Commands: Finding Derivatives

### ➤ Mathematica

$$f' [x]$$

### ➤ TI

 Shift Minus

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))$$

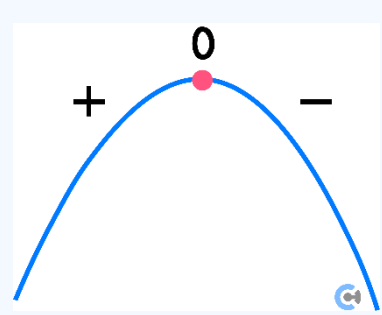
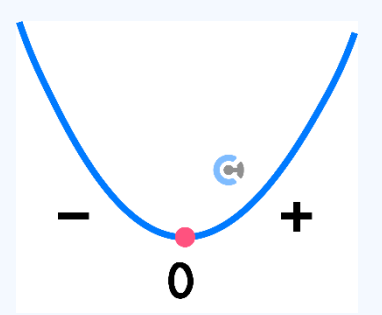
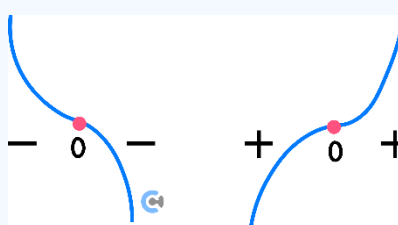
### ➤ Casio

 Math 2

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))$$

## Types of Stationary Points



Local Maximum	Local Minimum	Stationary Point of Inflection
		

 Sign test.

➤ We can identify the nature of a stationary point by using the sign table.

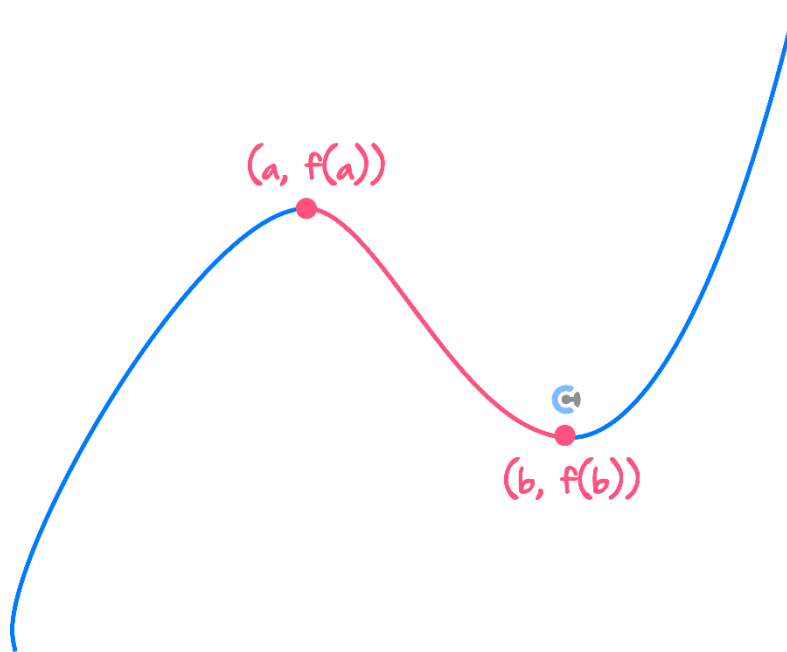
$x$	Less than $a$	$a$	Bigger than $a$
$f'(x)$	Negative	0	Positive
Shape	n - Decreasing curve	Stationary point	u - Increasing curve

➤ Find the gradient of the neighbouring points.

Space for Personal Notes



## Strictly Increasing and Strictly Decreasing Functions



Strictly Increasing:  $x \in (-\infty, a] \cup [b, \infty)$

Strictly Decreasing:  $x \in [a, b]$

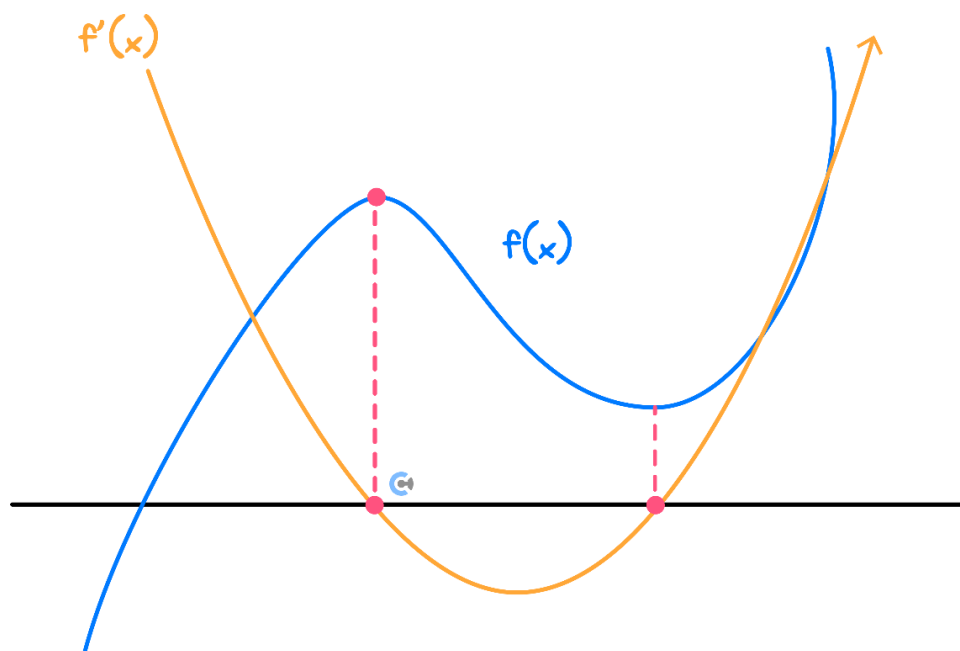
► Steps:

1. Find the turning points.
2. Consider the sign of the derivative between/outside the turning points.

Space for Personal Notes



## Graphs of the Derivative Function



$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
Stationary Point	$x$ -intercepts
Increasing	Positive
Decreasing	Negative

**$y$ -value of  $f'(x) = \text{Gradient of } f(x)$**

### ➤ Steps

1. Plot  $x$ -intercept at the same  $x$ -value as the stationary point of the original.
2. Consider the trend of the original function and sketch the derivative.
  - Original is increasing → Derivative is above the  $x$ -axis.
  - Original is decreasing → Derivative is below the  $x$ -axis.

Space for Personal Notes



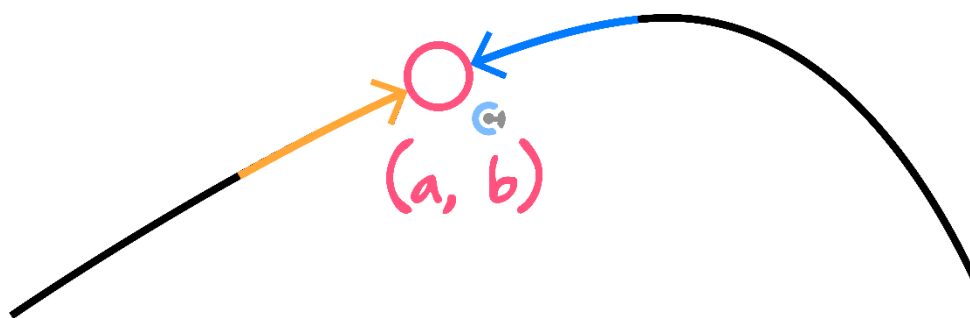
## Limits

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

*"The function  $f(x)$  approaches  $L$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$ ."*

- Limit is the value that a function ( $y$ -value) approaches as the  $x$ -value approaches  $a$  value.

## Validity of Limits



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \text{ exists if } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$$

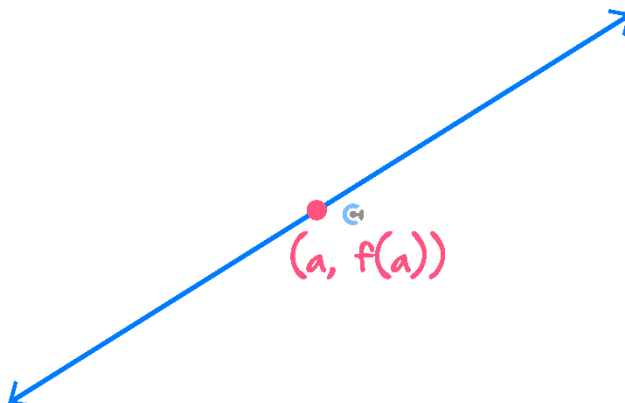
- Limit is defined when the left limit equals the right limit.

## Space for Personal Notes





## Continuity

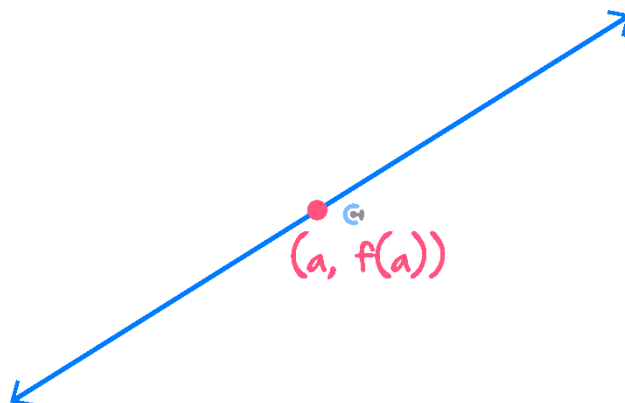


➤ A function  $f$  is said to be continuous at a point  $x = a$  if:

1.  $f(x)$  is defined at  $x = a$ .
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  exists.
3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$ .



## Differentiability



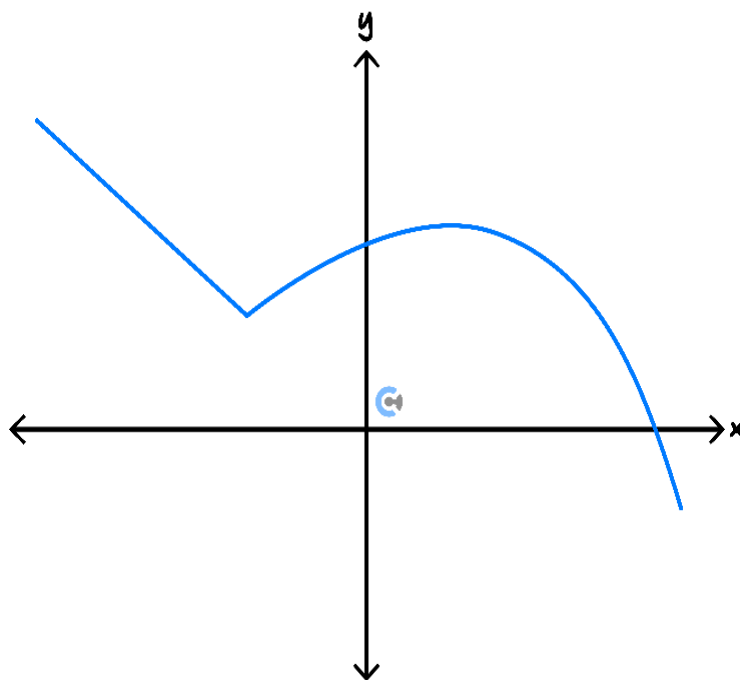
➤ A function  $f$  is said to be differentiable at a point  $x = a$  if:

1.  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = a$ .
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f'(x)$  exists.
  - Limit exists when the left and right limits are the same.
  - Gradient on the LHS and RHS must be the same.

► We **cannot** differentiate:

1. Discontinuous points.
2. Sharp points.
3. Endpoints.

### Finding the Derivative of Hybrid Functions



1. Simply derive each function.
2. Reject the values for  $x$  that are not differentiable from the domain.

### Second Derivatives

- The derivative of the derivative.
- To get the second derivative, we can **differentiate the original function twice**.

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f''(x)$$



## Concavity

- Concave up is when the gradient is increasing.

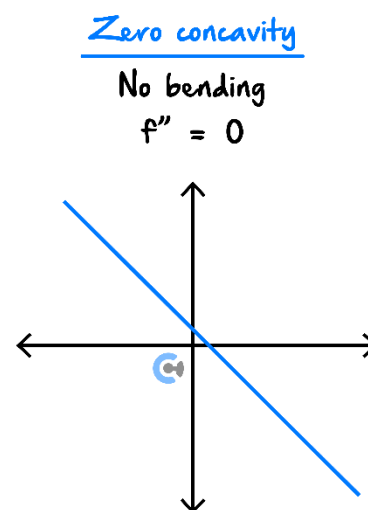
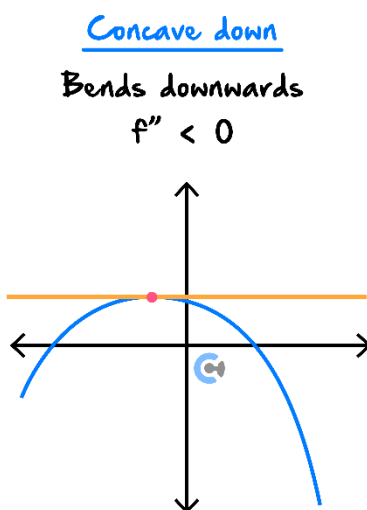
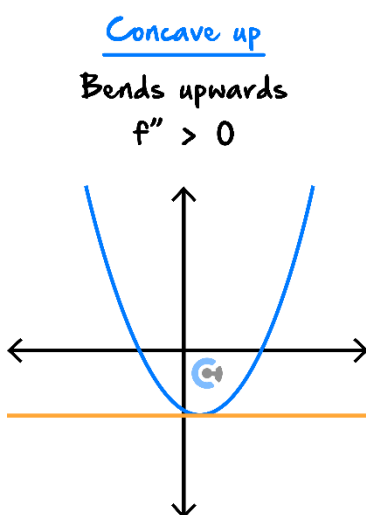
$$f''(x) > 0 \rightarrow \text{Concave Up}$$


- Concave down is when the gradient is decreasing.

$$f''(x) < 0 \rightarrow \text{Concave Down}$$

- Zero concavity is when the gradient is neither increasing nor decreasing.

$$f''(x) = 0 \rightarrow \text{Zero Concavity}$$



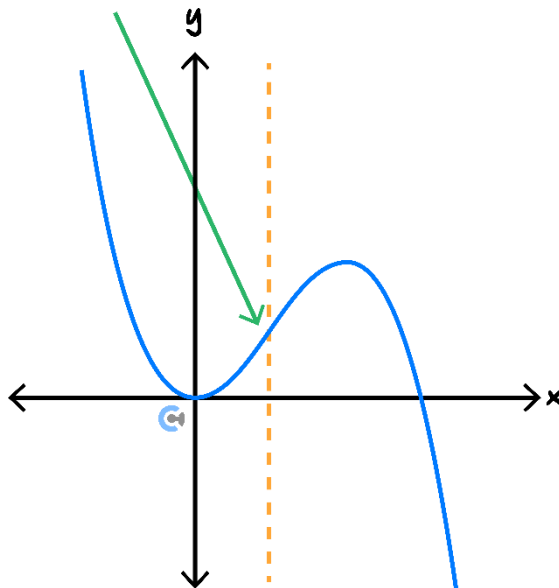
 Concavity is also linked to how the curve is bent.

Space for Personal Notes



## Points of Inflection

- A point at which a curve **changes concavity** is called a **point of inflection**.

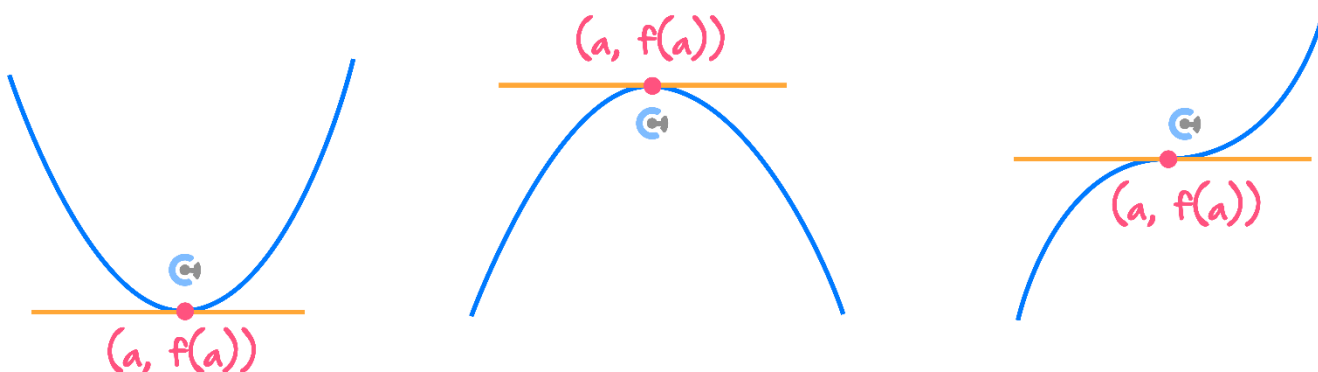


$$f''(x) = 0$$

- Simply, it is when the bending changes.



## The Second Derivative Test



- Suppose that  $f'(a) = 0$  and hence,  $f$  has a stationary point at  $x = a$ . The second derivative test states:

- Concave up gives us a local minimum.

$$f''(x) > 0 \rightarrow \text{Local Minimum}$$

- Concave down gives us a local maximum.

$$f''(x) < 0 \rightarrow \text{Local Maximum}$$

- Zero concavity gives us a stationary point of inflection.

$$f''(x) = 0 \rightarrow \text{Stationary Point of Inflection}$$

### Joining Smoothly



- Let two different curves be defined as  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ . For these two curves to join smoothly at  $x = a$ , they have to satisfy:

- $f(a) = g(a)$

- $f'(a) = g'(a)$

- In other words, the function must be **continuous** and **differentiable** at that point!

### Steps for Finding Strictly Increasing/Decreasing Regions



- Plot the graph on CAS.
- Find stationary points.
- Use a graph to determine which regions are increasing/decreasing.

### Space for Personal Notes

## Section B: Warmup

### Question 1

- a. Let  $g(x) = e^{\sin(x)}$ . Find  $g'(x)$ .

$$g'(x) = \cos(x)e^{\sin(x)}$$

- b. Let  $h(x)$  be a differentiable function. Find the derivative of  $x^2h(x)$ , with respect to  $x$ .

Use the product rule.

$$\frac{d}{dx} (x^2h(x)) = 2xh(x) + x^2h'(x).$$

c. Consider the function  $f$  given by:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2 - ax & x < 1 \\ ax^2 + bx + 4 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Find the integer values of  $a$  and  $b$  such that the graph of  $f$  joins smoothly at  $x = 1$ .

**Solution:** Let  $g(x) = 2 - ax$  then  $g'(x) = -a$ . Also let  $h(x) = ax^2 + bx + 4$ , then  $h'(x) = 2ax + b$ .

Now  $g(1) = h(1) \implies 2 - a = a + b + 4 \implies 2a + b = -2 \implies b = -2 - 2a$ .

Also  $g'(1) = h'(1) \implies -a = 2a + b \implies b = -3a$ .

So we solve  $-3a = -2 - 2a \implies a = 2$  then  $b = -6$ .

$a = 2, b = -6$ .

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Space for Personal Notes

## Section C: Exam 1 Questions (19 Marks)

INSTRUCTION: 19 Marks. 28 Minutes Writing.



### Question 2 (4 marks)

a. Let  $y = \frac{\sin(x)}{x^2+4}$ .

Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ . (2 marks)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\cos(x) \cdot (x^2+4) - \sin(x) \cdot 2x}{(x^2+4)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(x^2+4)\cos(x) - 2x\sin(x)}{(x^2+4)^2}$$

b. Let  $f(x) = x^2e^{7x}$ . Evaluate  $f'(1)$ . (2 marks)

$$f'(x) = 2xe^{7x} + x^2 \cdot e^{7x} \cdot 7$$

$$f'(1) = 2e^7 + 7e^7$$

$$= 9e^7$$

Space for Personal Notes



Question 3 (4 marks)

Let  $f : [-\pi, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f(x) = \cos(2x) + 1$ .

- a. Calculate the average rate of change of  $f$  between  $x = -\frac{\pi}{3}$  and  $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ . (2 marks)

$$\frac{f(\frac{\pi}{4}) - f(-\frac{\pi}{3})}{\frac{\pi}{4} - (-\frac{\pi}{3})} = \frac{1/2}{7\pi/12}$$

$$= \frac{6}{7\pi}$$

$$\frac{f(\frac{\pi}{4}) - f(-\frac{\pi}{3})}{\frac{\pi}{4} - (-\frac{\pi}{3})} = \frac{1/2}{7\pi/12}$$

$$= [\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}) + 1] - [\cos(-\frac{2\pi}{3}) + 1]$$

$$= 1 - (-\frac{1}{2} + 1) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

- b. Find the angle that a tangent to  $f$  makes with the positive  $x$ -axis when  $x = \frac{\pi}{3}$ . (2 marks)

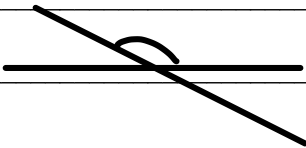
$$f'(x) = -2\sin(2x)$$

$$f'(\frac{\pi}{3}) = -2\sin(\frac{2\pi}{3})$$

$$= -2 \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$= -\sqrt{3}$$

$$\tan(\theta) = -\sqrt{3}$$

$$\theta = -\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{2\pi}{3}$$


$$\therefore \frac{2\pi}{3}$$

Space for Personal Notes

**Question 4** (8 marks)

Let  $f : [-2, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = (x + 1)^2(x - 1)$ .

- a. Show that  $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 - x - 1$ . (1 mark)

$$f(x) = (x+1)^2(x-1)$$

$$= (x+1)(x+1)(x-1)$$

$$= (x+1)(x^2-1)$$

$$= x^3 - 1 + x^2 - 1 = x^3 + x^2 - x - 1$$

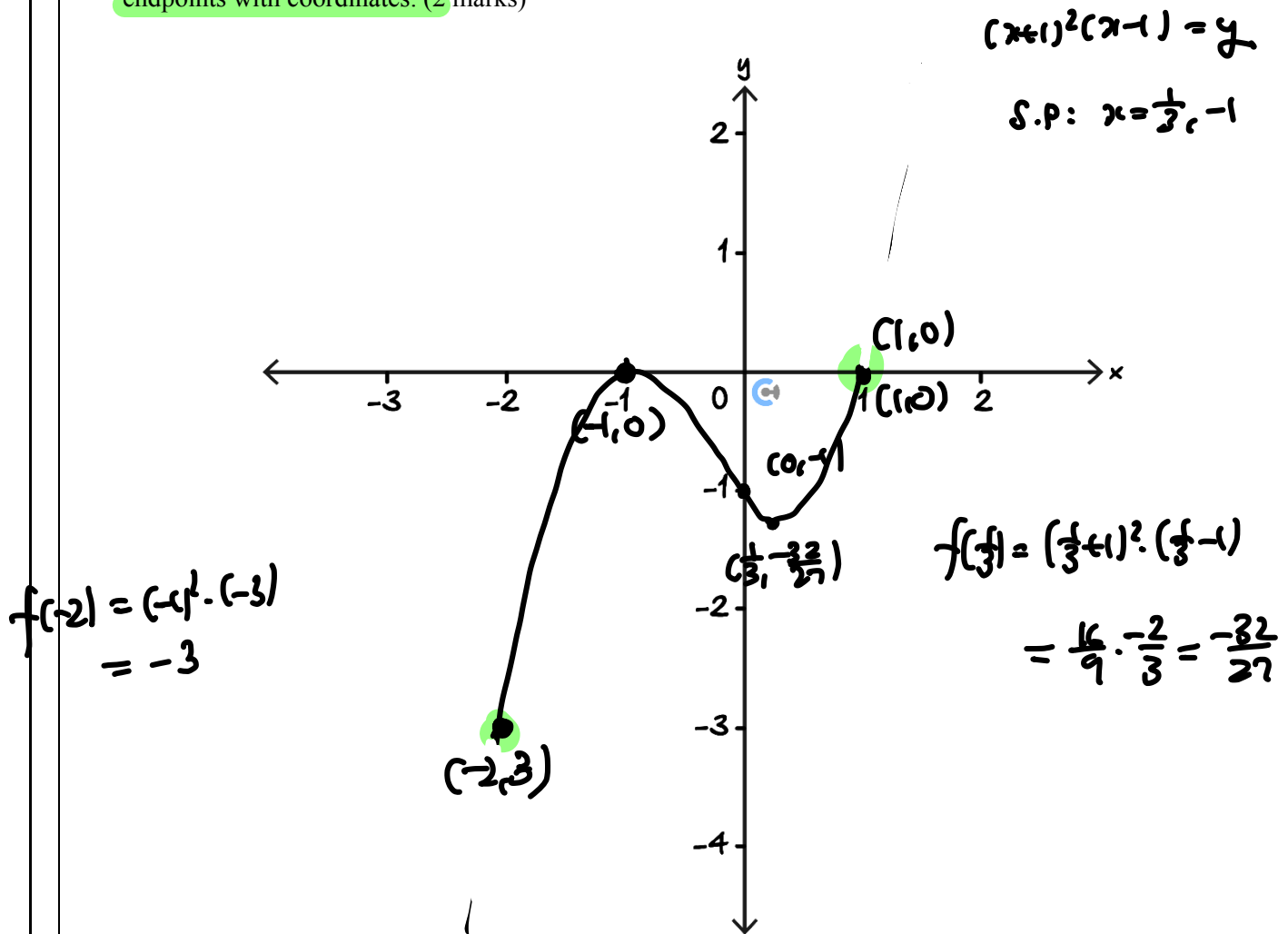
- b. Find the  $x$ -values for which the graph of  $y = f(x)$  has stationary points. (2 marks)

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0$$

$$(3x - 1)(x + 1) = 0$$

$$x = \frac{1}{3}, -1$$

- c. Hence, sketch the graph of  $y = f(x)$  on the axes below. Label all axes intercepts, stationary points, and endpoints with coordinates. (2 marks)



- d. The gradient of  $f$  at  $x = a$  is equal to the average rate of change of  $f$  on the interval  $x \in [-2, 0]$ . Determine the possible value(s) of  $a$ . (2 marks)

$f'(a) = \frac{f(0) - f(-2)}{0 - (-2)}$	$f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2x - 1$
$3a^2 + 2a - 1 = 1$	$f(0) - f(-2) = -1 - [-3]$
$3a^2 + 2a - 2 = 0$	$= 2$
$a = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4 \cdot 3 \cdot (-2)}}{6}$	$\therefore \frac{f(0) - f(-2)}{0 - (-2)} = \frac{2}{2} = 1$
$= \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{7}}{3}$	

- e. The function  $f$  is mapped to the function  $g$  according to  $g(x) = 2f\left(\frac{1}{3}(x+2)\right)$ . State the  $x$ -values for the stationary points of  $g$ . (1 mark)

$f: (-1, 0) \text{ \& } \left(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{32}{27}\right)$ $\downarrow$ $(-1, 0) \text{ \& } \left(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{64}{27}\right)$ $\downarrow$ $(-3, 0) \text{ \& } \left(1, -\frac{64}{27}\right)$ $\downarrow$ $(-5, 0) \text{ \& } (-1, -\frac{64}{27})$	Transform: Dil 2 from $x$ Dil 3 from $y$ 2 left <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <math>x = -5, -1</math> </div>
---	---

**Question 5** (3 marks)

A differentiable function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has the following two properties:

- ▶  $f'(x) = f(x)(6 - f(x))$
- ▶ The range of  $f$  is  $(0, 6)$ .

- a. Find  $f'(0)$  if  $f(0) = 2$ . (1 mark)

$$f'(0) = f(0) \cdot (6 - f(0))$$

$$= 2 \times (6 - 2) = 2 \times 4 = 8.$$

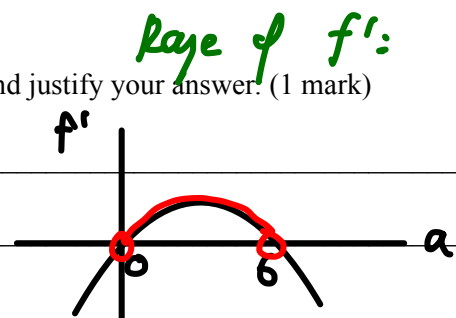
- b. Determine the number of stationary points of the graph of  $f$  and justify your answer. (1 mark)

#  $f' = 0$ .

let  $f(x) = a$ .

$$f'(x) = a(6 - a)$$

$$a \in (0, 6)$$



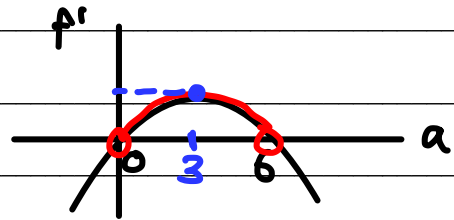
$f' = 0$ .

No soln

$\therefore$  Zero Stationary Points.

c. Find the range of  $f'$ . (1 mark)

$$f' \in (0, 9]$$



$$a(6-a)$$

$$f(x) = 3 \times (6-3)$$

$$= 3 \times 3 = 9$$

Space for Personal Notes

## Section D: Tech Active Exam Skills

### Calculator Commands: Finding Derivatives



#### ► Mathematica

$$f'[x]$$

$$D[f[x], x]$$

#### ► TI

 Shift Minus

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))$$

#### ► Casio

 Math 2

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))$$

### Calculator Commands: Finding Second Derivatives



#### ► Mathematica

$$f''[x]$$

$$D[f[x], \{x, 2\}]$$

#### ► TI

 Shift Minus

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2}(f(x))$$

#### ► Casio

 Math 2

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2}(f(x))$$

Space for Personal Notes



### Calculator Commands: Stationary Point

- ALWAYS sketch the graph first to get an idea of the nature of the stationary point.
- The turning points for a function  $f(x)$  can be found by solving  $f'(x) = 0$  and subbing the result into  $f$ .
- **Example:** Find the turning point for  $f(x) = e^{-x^2+2x}$ .
- TI:

Define $f(x) = e^{-x^2+2 \cdot x}$	Done
solve( $\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))=0, x$ )	$x=1$
$f(1)$	$e$

- Casio:

define f(x) = $e^{-x^2+2x}$	
	done
solve( $\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))=0, x$ )	
	{x=1}
f(1)	e

- Mathematica:

```
In[4]:= f[x_] := Exp[-x^2 + 2 x]
In[5]:= Solve[f'[x] == 0 && y == f[x], Reals]
Out[5]= {{x -> 1, y -> e}}
```

Space for Personal Notes



## Calculator Commands: Using Sliders/Manipulate on CAS

### ➤ Mathematica

Manipulate[Plot[function, {x, xmin, xmax}],  
{unknown, lowerbound, upperbound}]

**NOTE:** The function **must** be typed out instead of using its saved name.

### ➤ TI-Nspire

☐  $f1(x)=\text{function with unknown}$

#### Create Sliders

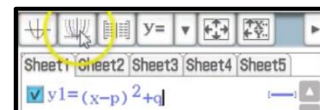
Create a slider for:

☒ unknown

OK Cancel

unknown = type any num  
-5.00000 5.00000

### ➤ Casio Classpad



## Calculator Commands: Joining Smoothly

### ➤ Mathematica

$f[x_] := \text{One Function}$   
[함수]

$g[x_] := \text{Another Function}$   
[함수]

Solve[f[x value] = g[x value] && f'[x value] = g'[x value]]

### ➤ TI and Casio

Define each branch as  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ .

TI: Define its derivative as  $df(x)$  and  $dg(x)$ .

Casio: Define them as different names.

Solve  $f(a) = g(a)$  and  $df(a) = dg(a)$  simultaneously.

Space for Personal Notes



Section E: Exam 2 Questions (22 Marks)

INSTRUCTION: 22 Marks. 32 Minutes Writing.



Question 6 (1 mark)

If  $y = \frac{\tan x}{h(x)}$ , then  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  is:

- A.  $\frac{h(x)\sec^2(x) + \tan(x)h'(x)}{h(x)^2}$
- B.  $\frac{h(x)\sec^2(x) + \tan(x)h'(x)}{h(x)^4}$
- C.  $\frac{h(x)\sec^2(x) - \tan(x)h'(x)}{h(x)^2}$
- D.  $\frac{h'(x)\sec^2(x) - \tan(x)h(x)}{h(x)^2}$

Question 7 (1 mark)

A cubic function has the rule  $y = f(x)$ . The graph of the derivative function  $f'(x)$  crosses the  $x$ -axis at  $(2, 0)$  and  $(-3, 0)$ . The maximum value of the derivative function is 10. The value of  $x$  for which the graph of  $y = f(x)$  has a local maximum is.

Quad-

- A. -2
- B. 2
- C. -3
- D. 3

$$f' = 0$$

$$x = 2, -3$$

⊖ local

⊖ local



Space for Personal Notes

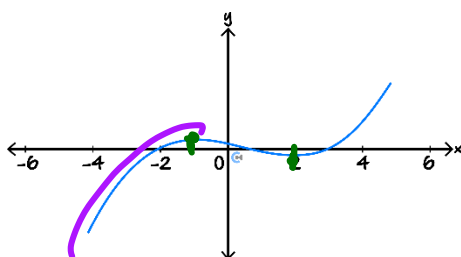
**Question 8** (1 mark)

Let  $h(x) = g(x)e^{f(x^2)}$  be a differentiable function. Then  $h'(x)$  is equal to:

- A.  $2e^{f(x^2)}g(x)f'(x^2) + e^{f(x^2)}g(x)$
- B.  $2xe^{f(x^2)}g(x)f'(x^2) + e^{f(x^2)}g'(x)$
- C.  $2x^2e^{f(x^2)}g'(x)f'(x^2) + e^{f(x^2)}g(x)$
- D.  $x^2e^{f(x^2)}g(x)f'(x^2) + e^{f(x^2)}g'(x)$

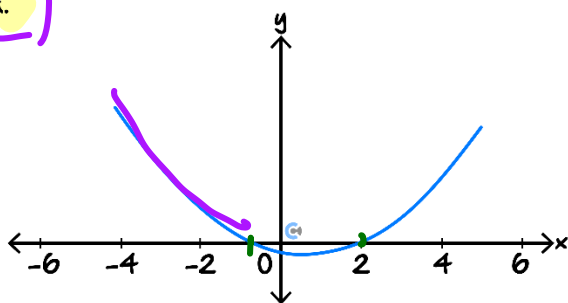
**Question 9** (1 mark)

The graph of the function with the equation  $y = f(x)$  is shown below.

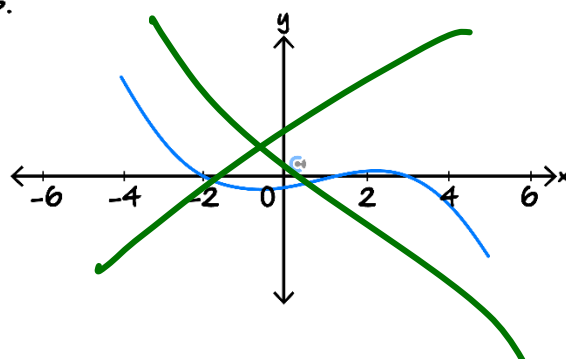


Which one of the following is most likely to be the graph of the derivative function with equation  $y = f'(x)$ ?

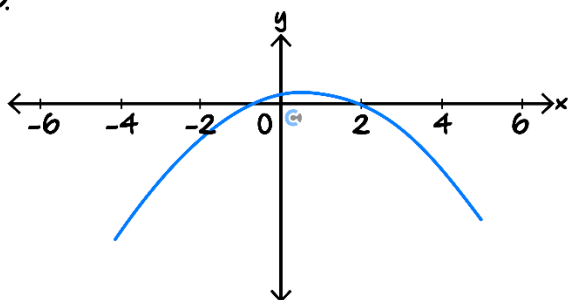
A.



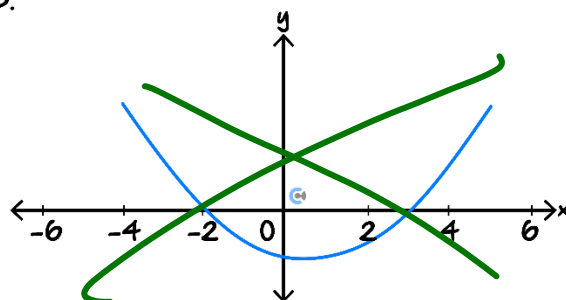
B.



C.



D.



**Question 10** (1 mark)

Consider the function  $h$ , where

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 + 2ax + 1 & x < 1 \\ a(x - b)^2 + a & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

The values of  $a$  and  $b$  such that the graph of  $y = f(x)$  joins smoothly at  $x = 1$  are:

A.  $a = 2, b = 1$

B.  $a = 1, b = 2$

C.  $a = \frac{1}{2}, b = 2$

D.  $a = 1, b = \frac{1}{2}$

$f(1) = g(1)$   
 $df(1) = dg(1)$

**Question 11** (1 mark)

Let  $f$  be a one-to-one differentiable function. The points  $(3, 5)$  and  $(5, 8)$  lie on the graph of  $f$ . It is known that  $f$  has; a gradient of 2 when  $x = 3$ , a gradient of 3, when  $x = 5$  and a gradient of 7, when  $x = 8$ .

The function  $g$  is differentiable and  $g(x) = f^{-1}(x)$  for all  $x$ .

$g'(5)$  is equal to:

A.  $\frac{1}{2}$

B. 2

C.  $\frac{1}{8}$

D.  $\frac{1}{3}$

$f: (3, 5) \rightarrow (5, 8)$   
 $m = 2$   
 $g = f^{-1}: (5, 3) \rightarrow (8, 5)$   
 $m = \frac{1}{2}$

$\frac{dy}{dx} \rightarrow \frac{dx}{dy}$

Space for Personal Notes

**Question 12** (1 mark)

A continuous function  $f$  has the following properties:

$$f(0) = 0$$

$$f(-3) = 0$$

$$f'(0) = 0$$

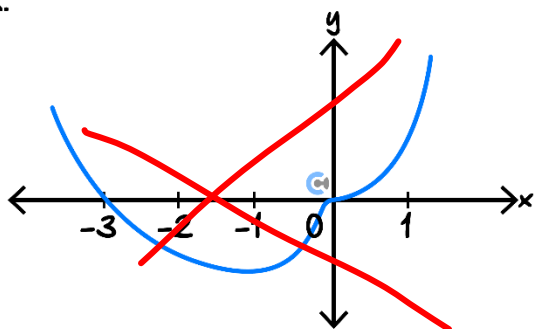
$$f'(-1) = 0$$

$$f'(x) > 0 \text{ for } x \in (-\infty, -1)$$

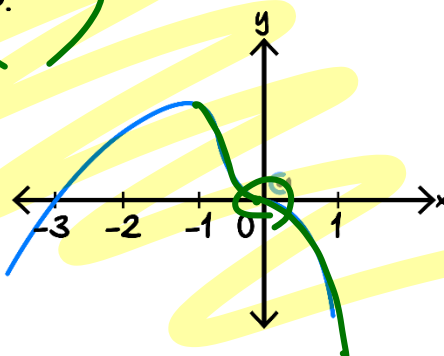
$$f'(x) < 0 \text{ for } x \in (-1, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$$

Which one of the following is most likely to represent the graph of  $f$ ?

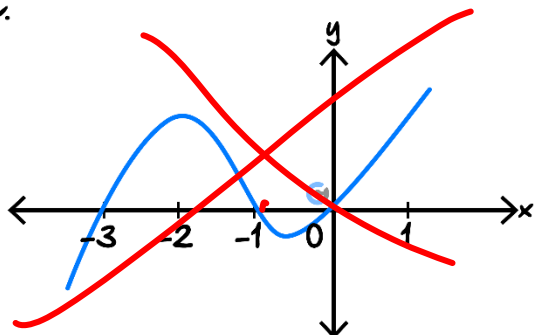
A.



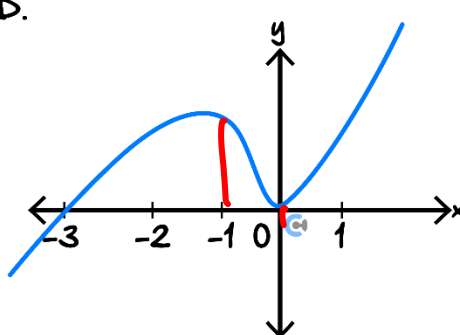
B.



C.



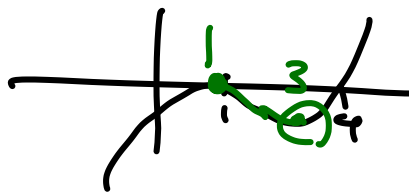
D.



Space for Personal Notes

Question 13 (15 marks)

Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = (x - 1)^2(x - 4)$ .



a. Find  $f'(x)$ . (1 mark)

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 12x + 9$$

b. For what values of  $x$  is  $f(x)$  strictly decreasing? (1 mark)

= Squared

$$f'(x) = 0$$

$$x = 1, 3$$

$$x \in [1, 3]$$

c.

i. Find the gradient of the line segment joining the points on the graph of  $y = f(x)$  where  $x = 0$  and  $x = 4$ . (1 mark)

$$\frac{f(4) - f(0)}{4 - 0} = 1$$

- ii. Show that the midpoint of the line segment in **part c.i.** also lies on the graph of  $y = f(x)$ . (2 marks)

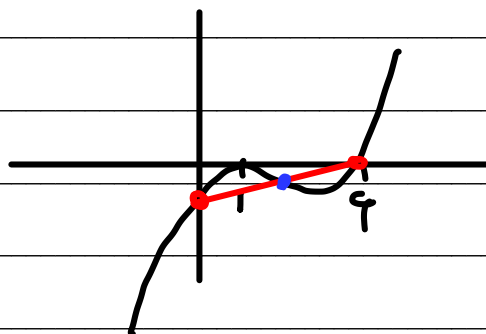
$$(0, -4) \quad \text{and} \quad (4, 4)$$

$$\text{Midpt: } (2, -2)$$

$$f(2) = (2-1)^2 \cdot (2-4)$$

$$= 1^2 \cdot (-2)$$

$$= -2 \quad \therefore \text{ lies }$$



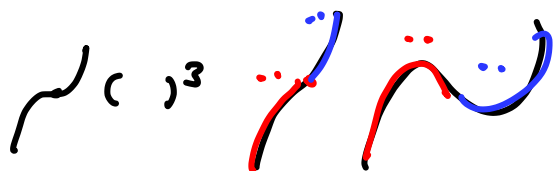
- iii. Find the values of  $x$  for which the tangent to the graph of  $y = f(x)$  is equal to the gradient of the line segment joining the points on the graph where  $x = 0$  and  $x = 4$ . (2 marks)

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(4) - f(0)}{4 - 0}$$

$$= 1$$

$$x = \frac{6 \pm 2\sqrt{5}}{3}$$

Let  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, g(x) = (x - a)^2(x - 4)$ , where  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .



d.

Cubic

- i. State the value of  $a$  for which  $g(x)$  has a stationary point of inflection. (1 mark)

$$(x-a)^2 = (x-4)$$

$$a = 4$$

- ii. Find the coordinates for the stationary points of  $g$ , in terms of  $a$ . (2 marks)

$$g'(x) = 0.$$

$$x = a, \frac{a+8}{3}$$

$$(a, 0), \left(\frac{a+8}{3}, \frac{4(a-4)^3}{27}\right)$$

- e. Find the values of  $a$  for which the gradient of  $g(x)$  when  $x = \frac{10+a}{3}$  is negative. (1 mark)

$$g'\left(\frac{10+a}{3}\right) < 0$$

$$a > 5$$

- f. Suppose the tangent to the graph of  $y = g(x)$  at  $x = \frac{10+a}{3}$  has a positive gradient.  $a < 5$ .
- i. Find the coordinates of another point where the tangent to the graph of  $y = g(x)$  is parallel to the tangent at  $x = \frac{10+a}{3}$ . (2 marks)

$$g'(x) = g'\left(\frac{10+a}{3}\right)$$

$$x = \frac{3a-2}{3}, \quad \frac{10+a}{3}$$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{3a-2}{3}, \frac{4}{27}(3a-14)\right)$$

- ii. Find the value(s) of  $a$  for which the points that these parallel tangents are drawn at have the same  $y$ -value. (2 marks)

$$f\left(\frac{10+a}{3}\right) = f\left(\frac{3a-2}{3}\right)$$

$$a = 6, 3 \pm \sqrt{3}$$

$$a \neq 6, a < 5$$

$$\therefore a = 3 \pm \sqrt{3}$$

Space for Personal Notes



Section F: Extension Exam 1 (12 Marks)

INSTRUCTION: 12 Marks. 18 Minutes Writing.



Question 14 (9 marks)

Consider the function  $f : [0, 4] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x}(4-x)}{2}$ .

a.

- i. For  $x \in (0, 4)$ , show that the gradient of the tangent to the graph of  $f$  is  $\frac{4-3x}{4\sqrt{x}}$ . (1 mark)

You get this

- ii. Hence, find the coordinates of any stationary points of  $f$ . (2 marks)

$$\frac{4-3x}{4\sqrt{x}} = 0$$

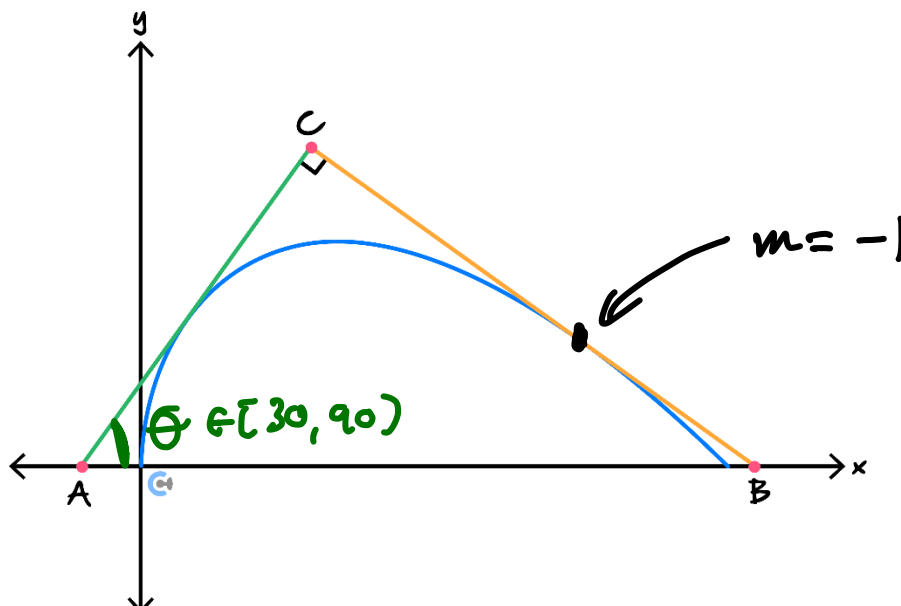
$$4-3x=0$$

$$x = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$\left(\frac{4}{3}, \frac{8\sqrt{3}}{9}\right)$$

The edges of the **right-angled** triangle  $ABC$  are the line segments  $AC$  and  $BC$  which are tangent to the graph of  $f$  and the line segment  $AB$ , which is part of the horizontal axis, as shown below.

Let  $\theta$  be the angle that  $AC$  makes with the positive direction of the horizontal axis, where  $30^\circ \leq \theta < 90^\circ$ .



- b. Find the equation of the line through  $B$  and  $C$ , in the form  $y = mx + c$ , for  $\theta = 45^\circ$ . (2 marks)

$$m_{AC} = \tan(45^\circ) = 1$$

$$m_{BC} = -1$$

$$\therefore y = -x + c$$

Sub (4, 0)

$$0 = -4 + c$$

$$c = 4$$

$$\therefore y = -x + 4$$

$$f'(x) = -1$$

$$\frac{4-3x}{4\sqrt{x}} = -1$$

$$4-3x = -4\sqrt{x}$$

$$(4-3x)^2 = 16x$$

$$9x^2 - 24x + 16 = 16x$$

$$9x^2 - 40x + 16 = 0$$

$$(9x - 4)(x - 4) = 0$$

$$x = \frac{4}{9}, \quad x = 4$$

$$4-3x < 0$$

$$\frac{4}{3} < x$$

$$\therefore x = 4$$

$$(4, 0)$$

c. Find the coordinates of  $C$  when  $\theta = 45^\circ$ . (4 marks)

**Solution:** We now need to find the equation of line segment  $AC$ . We know it has gradient 1, so solve  $f'(x) = 1$ .

We solve  $4 - 3x = 4\sqrt{x}$ . Let  $a = \sqrt{x}$

$$4 - 3a^2 = 4a$$

$$3a^2 + 4a - 4 = 0$$

$$(3a - 2)(a + 2) = 0$$

$$a = -2, \frac{2}{3}$$

Only  $a = \frac{2}{3}$  valid  $\Rightarrow x = \frac{4}{9}$ .

$$\text{Now } f\left(\frac{4}{9}\right) = \frac{2\left(\frac{36}{9} - \frac{4}{9}\right)}{3 \times 2} = \frac{64}{54} = \frac{32}{27}.$$

Then

$$y - \frac{32}{27} = x - \frac{12}{27}$$

$$y = x + \frac{20}{27}.$$

Now we find  $C$  at the intersection of  $y = x + \frac{20}{27}$  and  $y = -x + 4$ .

$$\Rightarrow 2x = \frac{108}{27} - \frac{20}{27} = \frac{88}{27} \Rightarrow x = \frac{44}{27} \Rightarrow y = \frac{64}{27}.$$

Thus  $C\left(\frac{44}{27}, \frac{64}{27}\right)$

Space for Personal Notes

Question 15 (3 marks)

A triangle is formed in the first quadrant of the unit circle with vertices at  $O(0,0)$ ,  $C$  and  $B$ . The vertex  $C$  lies on the unit circle, and the vertex  $B$  lies directly under  $C$ , on the  $x$ -axis. Let  $\theta$  be the angle that the line segment  $OC$  makes with the positive  $x$ -axis where  $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

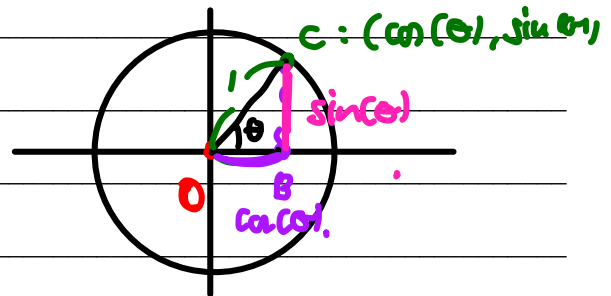
Find the maximum area of the triangle and show that it is a maximum.

1) "Area of the triangle"

$$A(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) \\ = \frac{1}{4} \sin(2\theta)$$

2) "Domain":  $\theta \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$

3) Find tip & endpoint



$$A'(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sin(\theta) \cdot \sin(\theta) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(\theta) \cdot \cos(\theta) \\ = \frac{1}{2} (\cos^2(\theta) - \sin^2(\theta)) = 0$$

$$\cos^2(\theta) = \sin^2(\theta) \\ 1 = \tan^2(\theta)$$

$$\tan(\theta) = \pm 1$$

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

Space for Personal Notes

$$4) A\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \\ = \frac{1}{2} \times \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

Show:  $A'\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right)$  ;  $A'\left(\frac{3\pi}{8}\right)$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\cos^2\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right) - \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right)) \quad \Bigg| \quad = \frac{1}{2} (\cos^2\left(\frac{3\pi}{8}\right) - \sin^2\left(\frac{3\pi}{8}\right)) \quad \therefore \text{local max}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{4} \quad \Bigg| \quad = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{3}{4}\right) = -\frac{1}{4}$$

Question 15 (3 marks) *Alternative Method.*

A triangle is formed in the first quadrant of the unit circle with vertices at  $O(0, 0)$ ,  $C$  and  $B$ . The vertex  $C$  lies on the unit circle, and the vertex  $B$  lies directly under  $C$ , on the  $x$ -axis. Let  $\theta$  be the angle that the line segment  $OC$  makes with the positive  $x$ -axis where  $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Find the maximum area of the triangle and show that it is a maximum.

$$\therefore \text{Area} = x \sqrt{1-x^2}$$

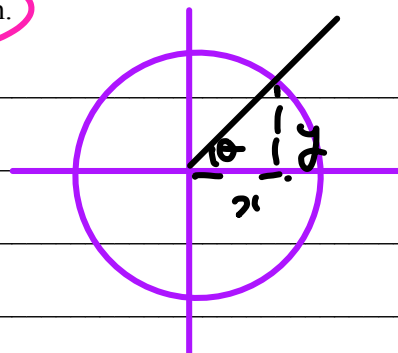
$$\frac{dA}{dx} = \sqrt{1-x^2} + x \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-x^2}} \cdot (-2x) = 0$$

$$\sqrt{1-x^2} = \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$1-x^2 = x^2$$

$$1 = 2x^2$$

$$x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{as } x > 0 \text{ for } 0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$



$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

$$y = \sqrt{1-x^2} \quad \text{as } y > 0$$

$$\text{for } 0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Space for Personal Notes

$$\therefore A\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \sqrt{1-\frac{1}{2}} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

*show it is max*

$$\begin{aligned} A'\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) &= \sqrt{1-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1/\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{2}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

*something bigger than  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$*

$$A'(\text{something bigger than } \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}) = (-)$$

*$\therefore$  local max*

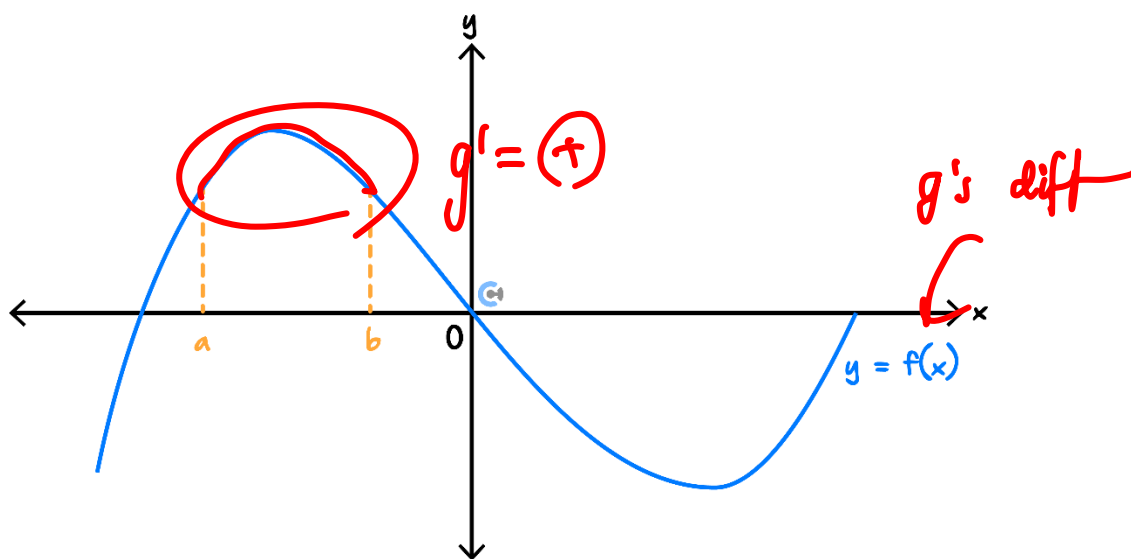
Section G: Extension Exam 2 (17 Marks)

INSTRUCTION: 17 Marks. 24 Minutes Writing.



Question 16 (1 mark)

The graph of the function with equation  $y = f(x)$  is shown below.



Let  $g$  be the function such that  $g'(x) = f(x)$

On the interval  $(a, b)$ , the graph of  $g$  will:

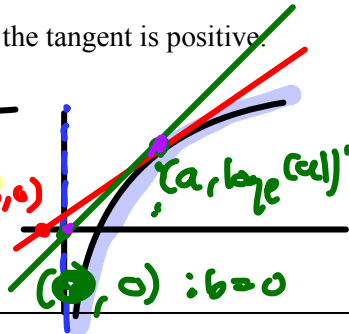
- A. Have a negative gradient.
- B. Have a positive gradient.
- C. Have a local minimum value.
- D. Have a local maximum value.

Space for Personal Notes

Question 17 (1 mark)

The tangent to the graph of  $y = \log_e(x)$  at the point  $(a, \log_e(a))$  crosses the  $x$ -axis at the point  $(b, 0)$  where  $b < 0$ . Which of the following is false?

- A. The gradient of the tangent is positive.
- B.  $a > e$  True
- C.  $1 < a < e$
- D.  $a > 0$



tangent to  $(\log_e(x), x, a)$

$y =$   
sub  $(0, 0)$

$a = e$

Gradient!

$f'(a) =$

$\frac{1}{a} = \frac{\log_e(a) - 0}{a - 0}$

$1 = \log_e(a)$

$a = e$

Question 18 (1 mark)

A function  $f(x)$  satisfies  $f'(x) = xf(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $f(0) = 2$ . Which one of the following statements is false?

- A.  $f(x)$  is increasing for  $x > 0$ .
- B.  $f(x)$  has a local maximum at  $x = 0$ .
- C.  $f(x)$  satisfies  $f(x) = Ce^{x^2/2}$  for some constant  $C$ .
- D.  $f(x)$  grows faster than any polynomial function as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ .

$f'(0) = 0 \cdot f(0) = 0 \times 2 = 0$

stationary point

$f''(x) = 1 \cdot f(x) + x \cdot f'(x)$

Question 19 (1 mark)

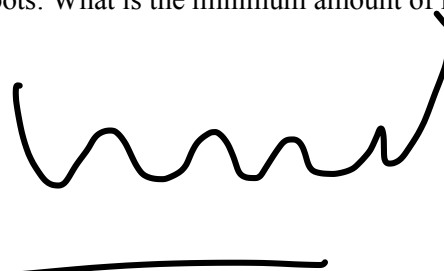
Let  $p(x)$  be a degree seven polynomial with seven real roots. What is the minimum amount of real roots that  $q(x)$  can have if  $q'(x) = p(x)$ ?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 7
- D. 8

$q' = \text{deg } 7$

$q = \text{deg } 8$

$f''(0) = \underline{f(0)} + 0 = 2 = \ddot{\smile}$



Space for Personal Notes

Question 20 (13 marks)

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

- a. The transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2, T(x, y) = (x, ay + d)$  maps the graph of  $y = 3^x$  onto the graph of  $f$ .

State the values of  $a$  and  $d$ . (2 marks)

$$3^x \cdot 3^2 - 4$$

$$= 9 \cdot 3^x - 4$$

$$a = 9$$

$$d = -4$$

- b. Find the rule and domain for  $f^{-1}$ , the inverse function of  $f$ . (2 marks)

$$\text{let } y = f^{-1}(x).$$

$$f^{-1}(x) = \log_3(x+4) - 2$$

$$\text{Dom } f^{-1} = \text{Rge } f = (-4, \infty)$$

- c. Find the gradient of  $f$  and the gradient of  $f^{-1}$  at  $x = -1$ . (2 marks)

$$f'(-1) = 3 \log_e(3)$$

$$(f^{-1})'(-1) = \frac{1}{3 \log_e(3)}$$

Exam tip

"when a q seems random + easy"

⇒ Hint for next question"

Gradients are reciprocals.



$$\tan(\theta) = \left| \frac{m_1 - m_2}{1 + m_1 m_2} \right|$$

- d. The graphs of  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  intersect each other at two points. Let  $\theta_1$  be the angle that  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  make at their first point of intersection and let  $\theta_2$  be the angle that  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  make at their second point of intersection.

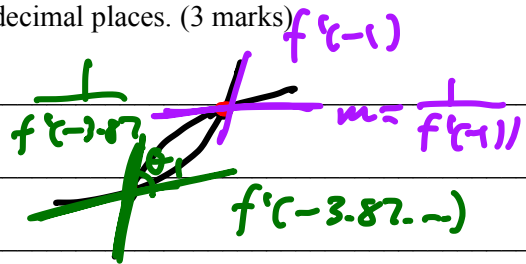
Find  $\theta_1 - \theta_2$ . Give your answer in degrees correct to two decimal places. (3 marks)

1) Find intersection

$$f(x) = x \quad (\text{line})$$

$$x = -3.87, -1$$

$$(-3.87, -3.87) \text{ and } (-1, -1)$$



$$\theta_2 = 56.243$$

$$2) \tan(\theta_1) = \left| \frac{f'(-3.87) - f'(-1)}{1 + f'(-3.87)f'(-1)} \right|$$

$$17.76^\circ$$

$$\theta_1 = 74.007^\circ$$

The function  $f$  is mapped to the function  $g$  when it undergoes a dilation by factor  $k$  from the  $x$ -axis, where  $k > 0$ .

$\Rightarrow$  2 marks

- e. Find the value(s) of  $k$  such that  $g$  and  $g^{-1}$  intersect each other exactly once. Give your answer(s) correct to three decimal places. (2 marks)

$$\text{for intersect } y = x$$

"Once"

$\Rightarrow$  intersect w same graph  
"tangent"

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= x & : \text{intersect} \\ f'(x) &= 1 & : \text{same} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 0.729, -1.696 \\ k &= 0.045, 0.651 \end{aligned}$$

\* Important \*

$\hookrightarrow$  sketch & see

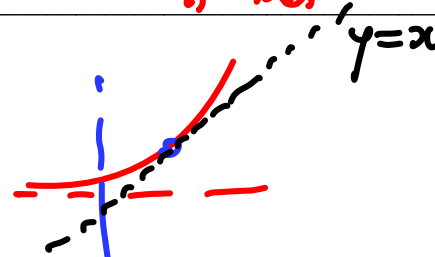
$\hookrightarrow$  k x f(x). "Sliders"

asio:

Math: Manipulate (---)

$\hookrightarrow$  Play around w k value  
= Notice when the curve

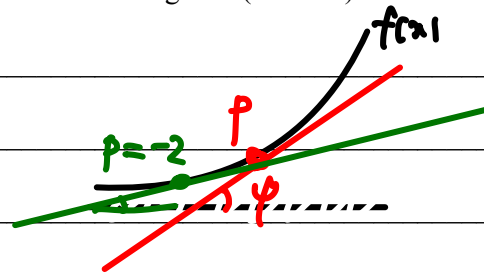
is met



- f. Let  $p \in (-2, \infty)$ . The tangent drawn to the graph of  $f$  at  $x = p$  makes an angle of  $\varphi$  with the positive  $x$ -axis. State the range of values that  $\varphi$  can take. Give your answer in degrees. (2 marks)

$$\tan^{-1}(f'(-2)) = \tan^{-1}(\ln(3))$$

$$\varphi \in (\tan^{-1}(\ln(3)), 90)$$



Space for Personal Notes



Website: [contoureducation.com.au](https://contoureducation.com.au) | Phone: 1800 888 300 | Email: [hello@contoureducation.com.au](mailto:hello@contoureducation.com.au)

## VCE Mathematical Methods $\frac{3}{4}$

# Free 1-on-1 Consults



### 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](https://bit.ly/contour-methods-consult-2025)

