



Website: contoureducation.com.au | Phone: 1800 888 300
Email: hello@contoureducation.com.au

VCE Mathematical Methods $\frac{3}{4}$
Circular Functions Exam Skills [3.4]
Homework Solutions

Admin Info & Homework Outline:

Student Name	
Questions You Need Help For	
Compulsory Questions	Pg 3-Pg 12
Supplementary Questions	Pg 13-Pg 22



Section A: Recap



Contour Check

- Learning Objective: [3.4.1] - Period for sum of trigonometric functions and equivalent general solutions

Key Takeaways

- Multiple Forms of a General Solution

$$a + \text{Period} \cdot n = b + \text{Period} \cdot n$$

If the difference of a and b is a multiple of period.

- Period For Sum/Difference of Circular Functions

- When we add two circular functions,

$$\text{Period of the sum} = \text{LCM of two periods}$$

Space for Personal Notes

Section B: Compulsory Questions

Sub-Section: Basics (Tech Free)

Question 1 [3.4.1]

Find the period of $\sin(2x) - \cos(3x)$.

$\sin(2x)$ has period of π and $\cos(3x)$ has period of $\frac{2\pi}{3}$. [1M]
The LCM is 2π . So the period is 2π

Question 2 [3.3.3]

Consider the function $f(x) = 2\sin(2x) + 2$. Find the fraction of a period that $f(x) > 3$.

We solve $f(x) = 3 \implies \sin(2x) = \frac{1}{2}$ [1M]

$2x = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{5\pi}{6}$.

So $x = \frac{\pi}{12}, \frac{5\pi}{12}$. [1M]

Period is π . Above 3 for $\frac{5\pi}{12} - \frac{\pi}{12} = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

So fraction of a period that $f(x) > 3$ is $\frac{1}{3}$. [1A]

Space for Personal Notes

Question 3 [3.2.3]

Solve the equation $\sin\left(\frac{x}{3}\right) = -\frac{1}{2}$ for $x \in [2\pi, 6\pi]$.

$$\frac{x}{3} = \frac{7\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6} \quad [1M]$$

$$x = \frac{7\pi}{2}, \frac{11\pi}{2}. \quad [1A]$$

Question 4

a. Find a general solution to the equation $2 \sin\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \sqrt{3}$. [3.2.3]

$$\sin\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$

$$x - \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{\pi}{3} + 2n\pi, \frac{2\pi}{3} + 2n\pi. \quad [1M]$$

$$x = \frac{2\pi}{3} + 2n\pi, \pi + 2n\pi, \text{ where } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad [1A]$$

b. Subu is marking a student's answer to **part a.**, the student gave the answer:

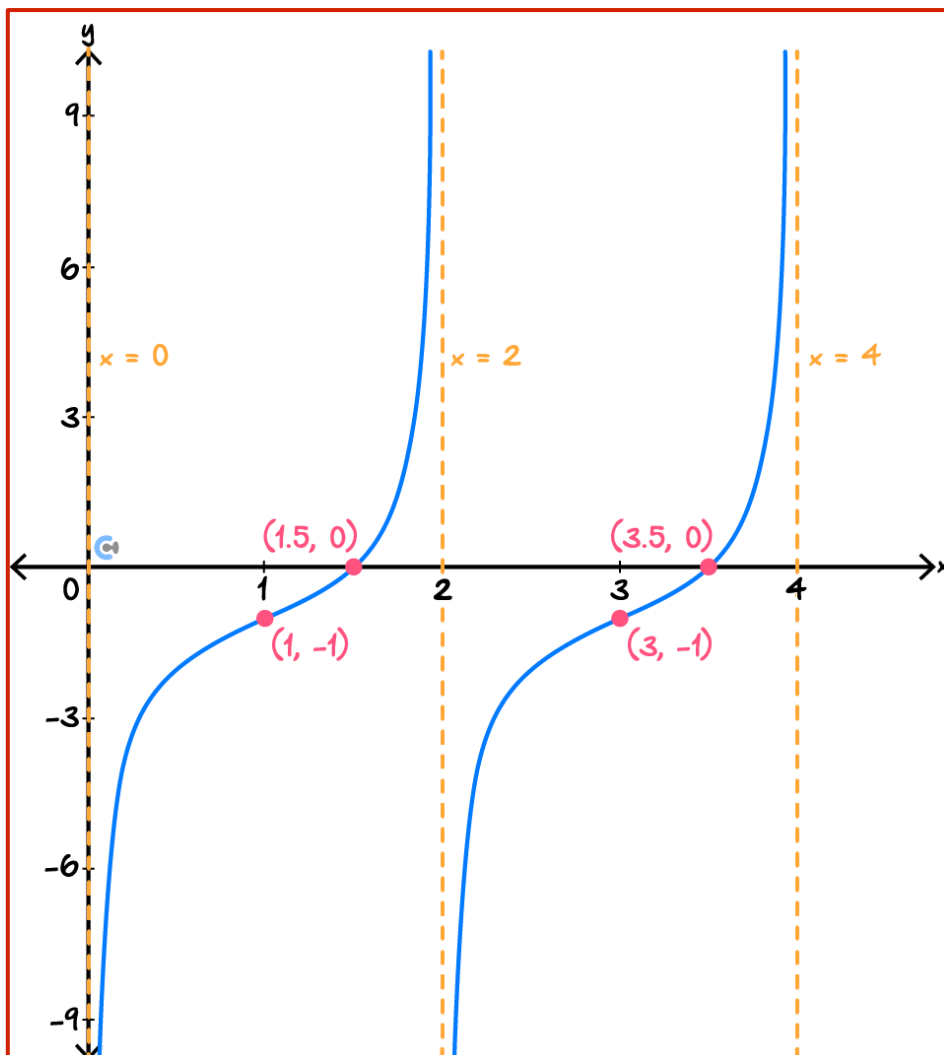
$$x = 2n\pi - \frac{4\pi}{3}, 2n\pi - \pi, \text{ where } n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Is the student's answer correct? Explain. [3.4.1]

The answer is correct, because each of the answers differ by a multiple of 2π from our answer in **part a.**, so they are equivalent general solutions.

Question 5 [3.3.2]

Sketch the graph of $y = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2}(x-1)\right) - 1$ for $x \in (0,4)$. Label all axes intercepts with coordinates and asymptotes with their equations.





Sub-Section: Problem Solving (Tech-Active)

Question 6



The temperature T (in degrees Celsius) inside a greenhouse at t hours after midnight on a typical November day is modelled by the formula:

$$T = 25 - 4 \cos\left(\frac{\pi(t-3)}{12}\right), \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq 24.$$

Use this model to answer the following:

- a. State the maximum and minimum temperatures reached inside the greenhouse during the day. [3.3.2]

Max is 29 and Min is 21 [1A each]

- b. At what time is the maximum temperature reached? [3.2.3]

$t = 15$, so 3pm. [1A]

- c. Determine the time(s) when the temperature is exactly 23°C. [3.2.3]

Solve $T(t) = 23$ for $0 \leq t \leq 24$ [1M]

$t = 7, 23$. So at 7am and 11pm. [1A]

- d. Consider the hottest continuous 4-hour period in the greenhouse. What is the minimum temperature reached during this period? Give your answer to two decimal places. [3.3.2]

By symmetry hottest 4 hours period will be 2 hours either side of the max which occurs when $t = 15$. [1M]
So coolest temperature is $T(13) = T(17) \approx 28.46^\circ$ [1A]

- e. In the greenhouse, there is an automatic watering system that activates when the rate of change of temperature with respect to time is at least $+0.2^\circ\text{C}$ per hour. It switches off once the rate drops below this threshold.
- i. Use calculus to find an expression for the rate of change of temperature with respect to time.

$$T'(t) = \frac{1}{3}\pi \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{12}(t-3)\right) \quad [1A]$$

In[63]: $t[x] := 25 - 4 \cos\left[\frac{\pi(x-3)}{12}\right]$

In[64]: $t[x]$

Out[64]: $25 - 4 \cos\left[\frac{1}{12}\pi(-3+x)\right]$

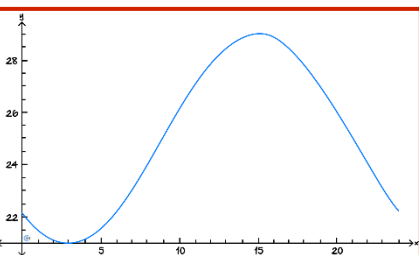
In[65]: $\text{Solve}[t[x] == 29 \ \&\& \ 0 \leq x \leq 24]$

Out[65]: $\{ \{x \rightarrow 15\}, \{x \rightarrow 15\} \}$

In[66]: $\text{Solve}[t[x] == 23 \ \&\& \ 0 \leq x \leq 24]$

Out[66]: $\{ \{x \rightarrow 7\}, \{x \rightarrow 23\} \}$

In[67]: $\text{Plot}[t[x], \{x, 0, 24\}]$



In[68]: $t[13]$

Out[68]: $25 - 2\sqrt{3}$

In[69]: $t[17]$

Out[69]: $25 - 2\sqrt{3}$

In[70]: $t[13] // N$

Out[70]: 28.4641

In[71]: $t'[t]$

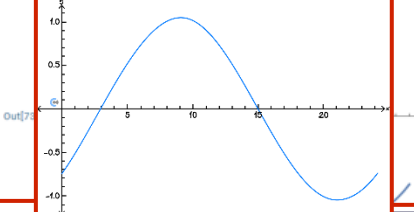
Out[71]: $\frac{1}{3}\pi \sin\left[\frac{1}{12}\pi(-3+t)\right]$

In[72]: $\text{Reduce}[t'[x] \geq 0.2 \ \&\& \ 0 \leq x \leq 24, x]$

Out[72]: $3.73402 \leq x \leq 14.266$

Out[72]: $3.73402 \leq x \leq 14.266$

In[73]: $\text{Plot}[t'[x], \{x, 0, 24\}]$



We require that $T'(t) \geq 0.2$ [1M]

Solving $T'(t) = 0.2$ for $0 \leq t \leq 24$ yields $t \approx 3.73, 14.27$. [1M]

Then looking at the shape of the derivative graph we conclude that $t \in [3.73, 14.27]$. [1A]

define $t(x) = 25 - 4\cos(\pi/12 * (x-3))$

solve($t(x)=29, x$) | $0 < x < 24$

solve($t(x)=23, x$) | $0 < x < 24$

$t(13)$

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

solve($\frac{\sin\left(\frac{(x-3)\cdot\pi}{12}\right)\cdot\pi}{3} = 0.2, x$) | $0 < x < 24$

$\{x=3.734021842, x=14.26597816\}$

done

$\{x=15\}$

$\{x=7, x=23\}$

28.46410162

$\sin\left(\frac{(x-3)\cdot\pi}{12}\right)\cdot\pi$

Define $t(x)=25-4\cdot\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{12}\cdot(x-3)\right)$

Done

solve($t(x)=29, x$) | $0 < x < 24$

$x=15$

solve($t(x)=23, x$) | $0 < x < 24$

$x=7$ or $x=23$

$t(13)$

28.4641

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

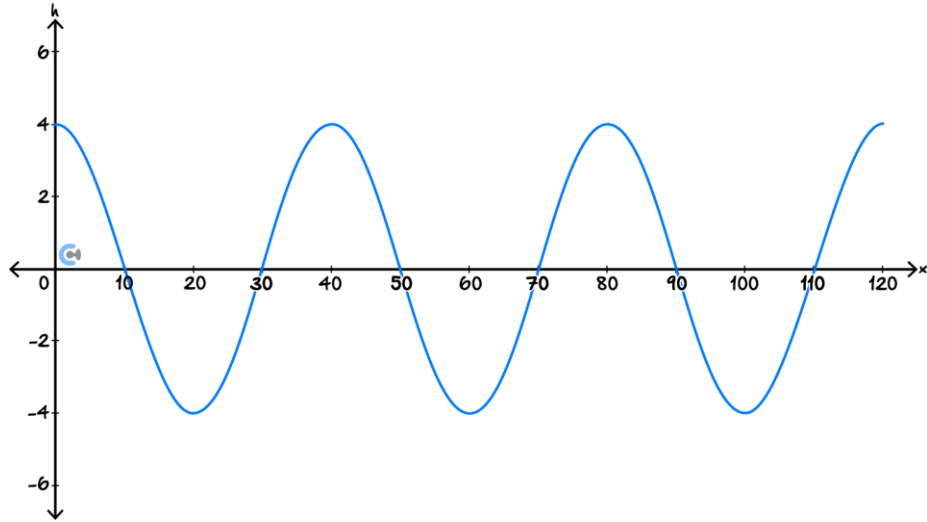
$-\pi \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi \cdot x}{12} + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

solve($\frac{-\pi \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi \cdot x}{12} + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)}{3} = 0.2, x$) | $0 < x < 24$

$x=3.73402$ or $x=14.266$

Question 7

An environmental scientist is monitoring the shape of sand dunes along a stretch of beach in Western Australia. She observes that the profile of the dunes can be modelled by a sine curve. Let h cm represent the height of the sand above sea level and x m represent the horizontal distance along the beach.



- a. What is the period of this curve? [3.3.2]

40 [1A]

- b. What is the amplitude of the curve? [3.3.2]

4 [1A]

- c. The height of the dunes can be modelled by a function of the form $h = a \sin(n(x - b))$. Write down an equation for the height of the dunes. [3.3.2]

$h = 4 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{20}(x - 30)\right)$ [1A]
 b term could be any $30 + 40n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

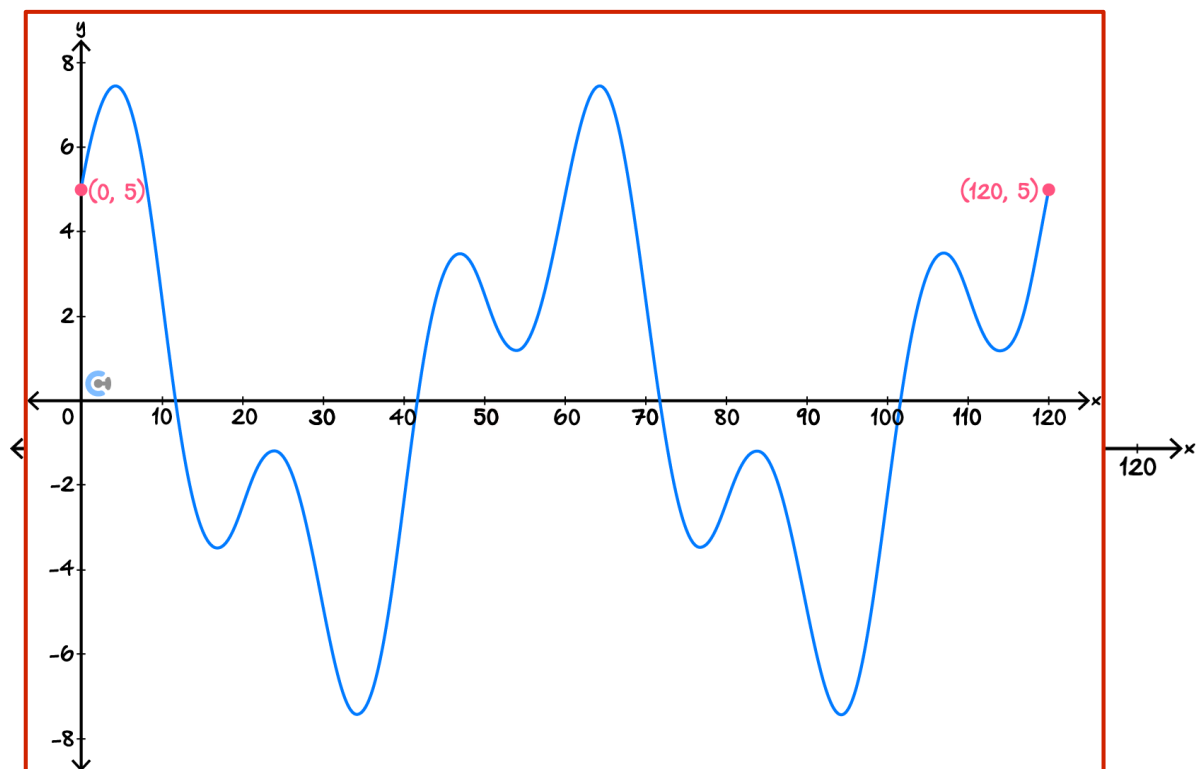
- d. If this pattern continues for 2 km, how many dune troughs would a person walk through? [3.3.2]

$\frac{2000}{40} = 50$ dunes. [1A]

Further along the beach, the wind pattern changes, causing the shape of the dunes to be modelled by a more complex function:

$$h = 3 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{10}x\right) + 5 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{30}x\right)$$

- e. Sketch this function over the domain $0 \leq x \leq 120$. You only need to label the endpoints with coordinates. [3.3.2]



[1M shape, 1M endpoints labelled, 1M approximately correct local maxes and mins]

- f. What is the period of this new function? [3.4.1]

LCM of the two individual periods. LCM of 20 and 60. Period is 60. [1A]

- g. What are the absolute maximum and minimum values of this function? Give your answers correct to two decimal places. [3.3.2]

We maximise and minimize the function over 1 period.
The max is 7.43 and the min is -7.43. [1A]

- h.** Give the coordinates, correct to two decimal places, of all local maximum points during the first cycle. [3.2.3]

We solve $h'(x) = 0$ and look at the graph to identify which are maxima.

$$h'(x) = 0 \implies x = 4.23, 16.84, 23.93, 34.23, 46.84, 53.93. \quad [1M]$$

Local maxima occur at $(4.23, 7.43)$, $(23.93, -1.19)$ and $(46.84, 3.47)$. [1A]

Question 8

The temperature, $A^\circ\text{C}$, inside a cabin at t hours after 3 PM is given by the rule:

$$A = 20 - 4 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{12}t\right), \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq 24.$$

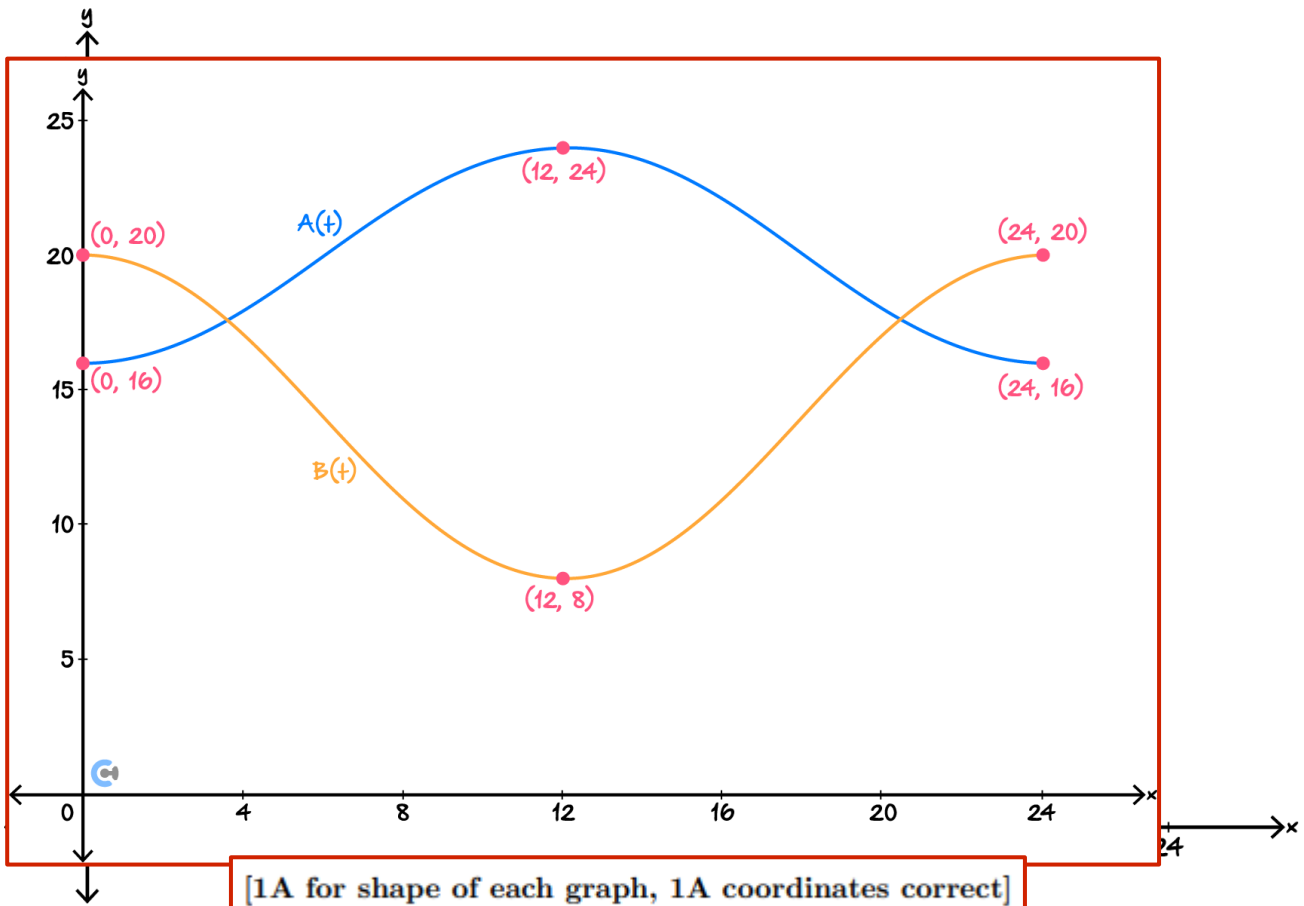
The temperature, $B^\circ\text{C}$, outside the cabin at the same time is given by:

$$B = 14 + 6 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{12}t\right), \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq 24.$$

- a.** Find the temperature inside the cabin at 9 AM. [3.2.1]

$$t = 12 + 6 = 18. \quad A(18) = 20^\circ. \quad [1A]$$

- b. Sketch the graphs of $y = A(t)$ and $y = B(t)$ on the axes below. Label all endpoints and stationary points with coordinates. [3.3.2]



- c. Hence, state the values of t for when the temperature inside the cabin is greater than the temperature outside. [3.2.3]

We solve $A(t) = B(t)$ to get $t = 3.54, 20.46$. [1M]
 Then by looking at the graph we have $t \in (3.54, 20.46)$ [1A]
 (note round brackets because we said *greater*)

- d. Let $D(t)$ be the function that represents the difference between the temperature inside the cabin and outside the cabin.

- i. State the rule for $D(t)$.

$$D(t) = 6 - 10 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{12}t\right)$$

- ii. A sudden heat wave occurs and now the temperature outside is given by $K + 6 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{12}t\right)$. The temperature inside the cabin remains unchanged.

Find the value of K if the temperature outside is warmer than inside the cabin for exactly 16 hours. [3.3.3]

$$D(t) = 20 - K - 10 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{12}t\right).$$

We want $D(t) > 0$ for exactly 8 hours over one period. [1M]

$$\text{Solve } D(t) = 0 \implies t_1 = \frac{12}{\pi} \arccos\left(\frac{20-K}{10}\right), t_2 = 24 - \frac{12}{\pi} \arccos\left(\frac{20-K}{10}\right) \quad [1M]$$

$$\text{Then } t_2 - t_1 = 24 - \frac{24}{\pi} \arccos\left(\frac{20-K}{10}\right) = 8 \implies K = 25 \quad [1A].$$

Space for Personal Notes

Section C: Supplementary Questions

Sub-Section: Exam 1 Questions

Question 9

- a. State the range and period of the function.

$$h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, h(x) = 5 + 6 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2}\right)$$

The period is $\frac{2\pi}{\pi/2} = 4$ [1A]
The range is $[-1, 11]$. [1A]

- b. Solve the equation:

$$\sin\left(3x - \frac{\pi}{6}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \text{ for } x \in [0, \pi].$$

We have $3x - \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{5\pi}{6}$ [1M]

$$3x = \frac{\pi}{3}, \pi$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{9}, \frac{\pi}{3}$$

The period is $\frac{2\pi}{3} = \frac{6\pi}{9}$ so all solutions in $x \in [0, \pi]$ are:

$$x = \frac{\pi}{9}, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{7\pi}{9}, \pi. \text{ [1A]}$$

Space for Personal Notes

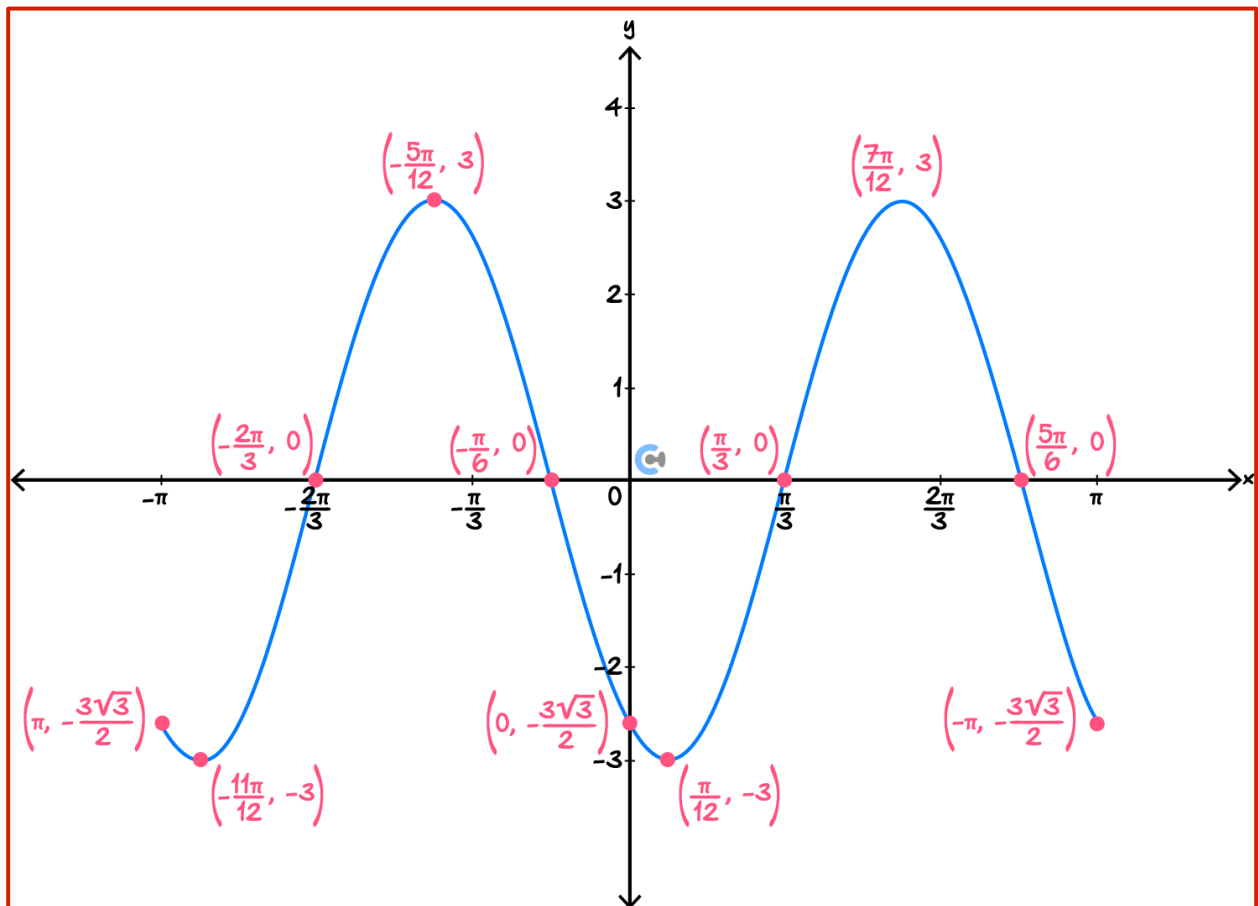
Question 10

For the function $f : [-\pi, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = -3 \sin\left(2x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$.

- a. Write down the amplitude and period of the function.

Period is π and amplitude is 3.

- b. Sketch the graph of the function f on the set of axes below. Label axes intercepts with their coordinates. Label endpoints of the graph with their coordinates.



[1M shape, 1M endpoints, 1M intercepts]

Question 11

- a. Show that $(2x - 1)(4x^2 + 2x - 1) = 8x^3 - 4x + 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}(2x - 1)(4x^2 + 2x - 1) &= 8x^3 + 4x^2 - 2x + (-4x^2 - 2x + 1) \\ &= 8x^3 - 4x + 1 \quad [1M]\end{aligned}$$

- b. Show that $\frac{\tan^2(x)+1}{\tan^2(x)-1} = \frac{1}{1-2\cos^2(x)}$.

We proceed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\tan^2(x) + 1}{\tan^2(x) - 1} &= \frac{\tan^2(x) + 1}{\tan^2(x) - 1} \times \frac{\cos^2(x)}{\cos^2(x)} \quad [1M] \\ &= \frac{\sin^2(x) + \cos^2(x)}{\sin^2(x) - \cos^2(x)} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sin^2(x) - \cos^2(x)} \quad [1M] \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - \cos^2(x)) - \cos^2(x)} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - 2\cos^2(x)} \quad [1A]\end{aligned}$$

c. Hence, using the previous two results, solve the equation:

$$\frac{\tan^2(x)+1}{\tan^2(x)-1} = 4 \cos(x) \text{ for } 0 \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

You may use the fact that $\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{4}\right) = \frac{2\pi}{5}$.

Let $a = \cos(x)$, then we have that

$$\frac{1}{1-2a^2} = 4a$$

$$4a - 8a^3 = 1$$

$$8a^3 - 4a + 1 = 0 \quad [1M]$$

Then from part a. we have $8a^3 - 4a + 1 = 0 \implies (2a-1)(4a^2+2a-1) = 0$.
Solve

$$4a^2 + 2a - 1 = 0$$

$$a = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4+16}}{8} = \frac{-2 \pm 2\sqrt{5}}{8} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{4} \quad [1M]$$

Note that both of these are in the range $[-1, 1]$.

Therefore we solve $\cos(x) = \frac{1}{2}$, $\cos(x) = \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{4}$, $\cos(x) = \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{4}$ for $0 \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$.
[1M]

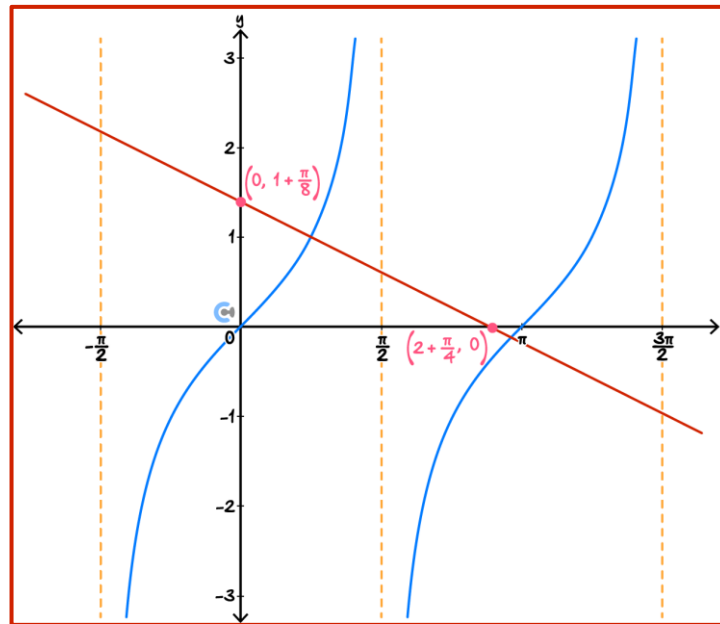
$$x = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{2\pi}{5} \quad [1A]$$

Space for Personal Notes

Sub-Section: Exam 2 Questions

Question 12

The graph of $f : \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \cup \left(\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $f(x) = \tan(x)$ is shown below.



a.

i. Find $f'\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)$.

2. [1A]

ii. Find the equation of the **normal** to the graph of $y = f(x)$ at the point where $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$.

Line with gradient of $-\frac{1}{2}$ that passes through $\left(\frac{\pi}{4}, 1\right)$. [1M]
 $y = \frac{8 + \pi}{8} - \frac{x}{2}$ [1A]

[1A for each intercept, 1M straight line through $\left(\frac{\pi}{4}, 1\right)$]

iii. Sketch the graph of this normal on the axes above. Give the exact axis intercepts.

- b. Find the exact values of $x \in \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \cup \left(\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)$ such that $f'(x) = f'\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)$.

We solve $f'(x) = 2$. [1M]
 $x = -\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}$. [1A]

- c. Let $g(x) = f(x - a)$. Find the exact value of $a \in (-1, 1)$ such that $g(1) = 1$.

We solve $\tan(1 - a) = 1$ for $a \in (-1, 1)$. [1M]
 $a = 1 - \frac{\pi}{4}$. [1A]

- d. Let $h: \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \cup \left(\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, h(x) = \sin(x) + \tan(x) + 2$.




- i. Find $h'(x)$.

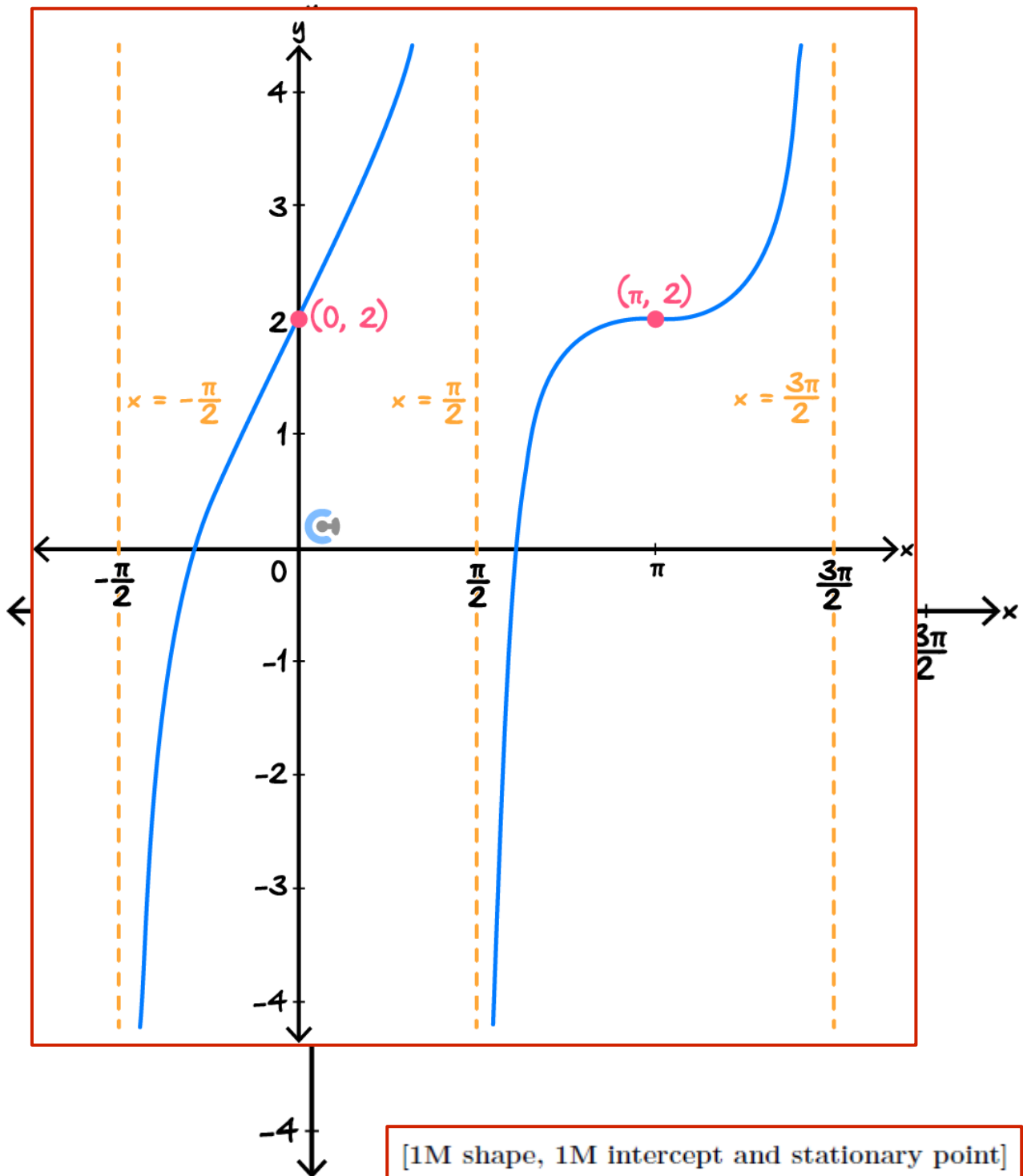
$h'(x) = \cos(x) + \sec^2(x) = \cos(x) + \frac{1}{\cos^2(x)}$ [1A]

- ii. Solve the equation $h'(x) = 0$ for $x \in \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \cup \left(\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)$. (Give exact values.)

We solve $\cos(x) + \sec^2(x) = 0$ over the domain. [1M]
 $x = \pi$ only. [1A]

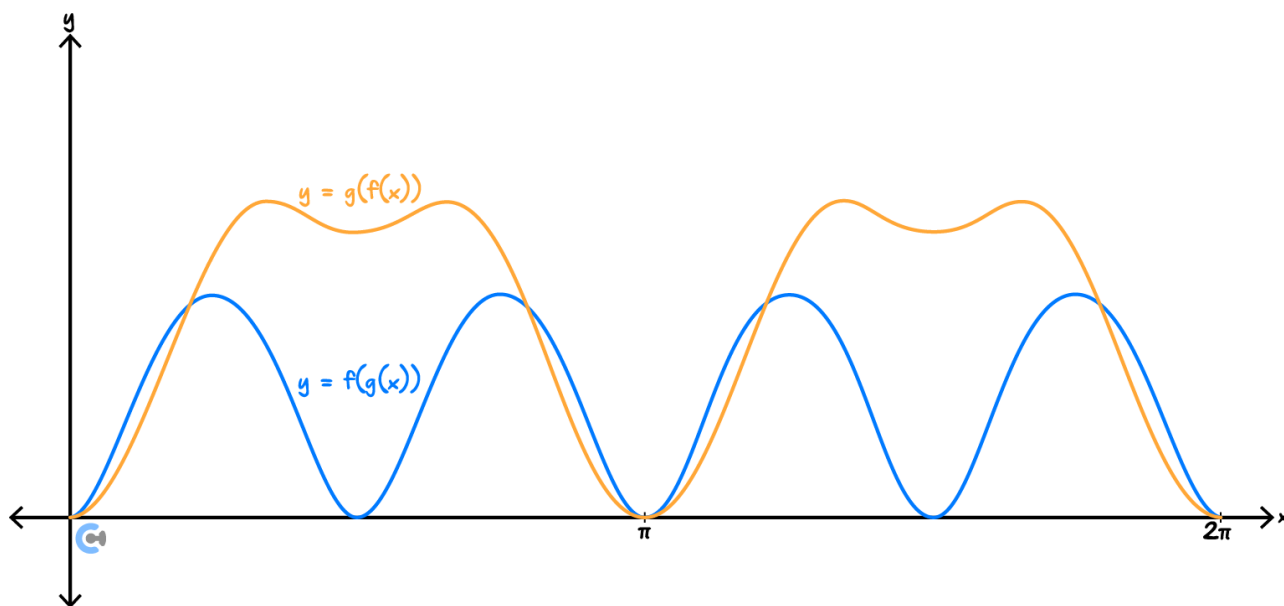
e. Sketch the graph of $y = h(x)$ on the axes below.

-  Give the exact coordinates of any stationary points.
-  Label each asymptote with its equation.
-  Give the exact value of the y-intercept.



Question 13

The graph below shows the compositions $g \circ f$ and $f \circ g$, where $f(x) = \sin^2(x)$ and $g(x) = \sin(2x)$.



a.

- i. The graph of $y = (g \circ f)(x)$ has a local maximum whose x -value lies in the interval $\left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$.

Find the coordinates of this local maximum, correct to one decimal place.

(1.1, 1). [1A]

- ii. State the range of $g \circ f$ for $x \in [1, 2]$. Give your answers correct to one decimal place.

[0.9, 1]

b.

- i. State the period of $f \circ g$.

$$\text{Period} = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

- ii. Find the derivative of $f \circ g$.

$$(f \circ g)'(x) = 4 \sin(\sin(2x)) \cos(2x) \cos(\sin(2x))$$

- iii. Hence, find two equations that when solved give the x coordinates for turning points of $f \circ g$.

$$\sin(\sin(2x)) = 0. \quad [1A]$$

$$\cos(2x) = 0. \quad [1A]$$

Note that the equation $\cos(\sin(2x)) = 0$ has no real solutions.

- iv. Hence, find the x -values of the stationary points of $f \circ g$ where $x \in [0, \pi]$.

$$x = 0, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \pi$$

- v. Find the range of $f \circ g$ where $x \in [0, 2\pi]$.

$$[0, \sin^2(1)].$$

c. Let $f_1 : (-\pi, 0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f_1(x) = \sin^2(x)$.

Find all values of x in the interval $(0, 2\pi)$ for which the composition $f_1 \circ g$ is defined.

We require that $\text{ran } g \subseteq \text{dom } f_1$.

$\text{ran } g = [-1, 1]$. We have that $[-1, 0) \subseteq (-\pi, 0)$. [1M]

So find when $\text{ran } g = [-1, 0)$. Solve $-1 \leq \sin(2x) < 0$ for $x \in (0, 2\pi)$.

$x \in \left(\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi\right) \cup \left(\frac{3\pi}{2}, 2\pi\right)$. [1A]

Space for Personal Notes



Website: contoureducation.com.au | Phone: 1800 888 300 | Email: hello@contoureducation.com.au

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

Free 1-on-1 Support



Be Sure to Make The Most of These (Free) Services!

- Experienced Contour tutors (45 + raw scores, 99 + ATARs).
- For fully enrolled Contour students with up-to-date fees.
- After school weekdays and all-day weekends.

<u>1-on-1 Video Consults</u>	<u>Text-Based Support</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Book via bit.ly/contour-methods-consult-2025 (or QR code below).➤ One active booking at a time (must attend before booking the next).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Message +61 440 138 726 with questions.➤ Save the contact as "Contour Methods".

[Booking Link for Consults](https://bit.ly/contour-methods-consult-2025)
bit.ly/contour-methods-consult-2025



[Number for Text-Based Support](tel:+61440138726)
[+61 440 138 726](tel:+61440138726)