

SL Calculus Practice Problems

1. The point $P\left(\frac{1}{2}, 0\right)$ lies on the graph of the curve of $y = \sin(2x - 1)$.

Find the gradient of the tangent to the curve at P.

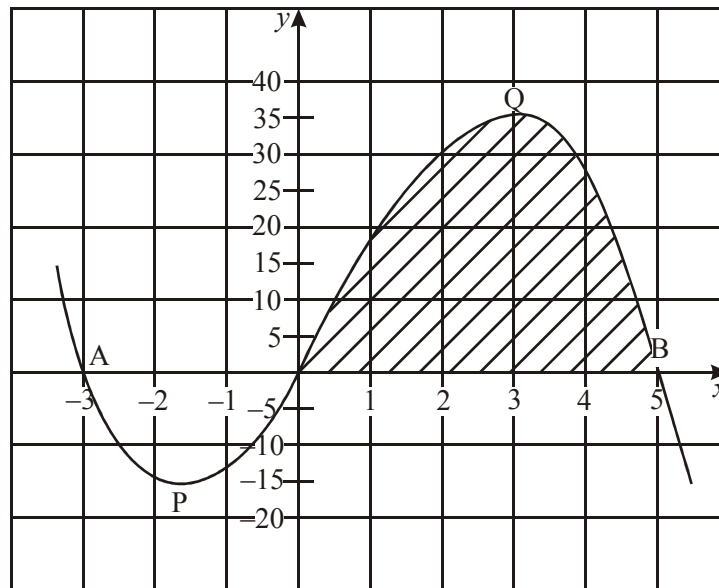
Working:

Answer:

(Total 4 marks)

2. The diagram below shows part of the graph of the function

$$f: x \mapsto -x^3 + 2x^2 + 15x.$$



The graph intercepts the x -axis at $A(-3, 0)$, $B(5, 0)$ and the origin, O . There is a minimum point at P and a maximum point at Q .

- (a) The function may also be written in the form $f: x \mapsto -x(x-a)(x-b)$, where $a < b$. Write down the value of

- (i) a ;
(ii) b .

(2)

- (b) Find

- (i) $f'(x)$;
(ii) the **exact** values of x at which $f'(x) = 0$;
(iii) the value of the function at Q .

(7)

- (c) (i) Find the equation of the tangent to the graph of f at O .
(ii) This tangent cuts the graph of f at another point. Give the x -coordinate of this point.

(4)

- (d) Determine the area of the shaded region.

(2)

(Total 15 marks)

3. A ball is dropped vertically from a great height. Its velocity v is given by

$$v = 50 - 50e^{-0.2t}, \quad t \geq 0$$

where v is in metres per second and t is in seconds.

- (a) Find the value of v when

- (i) $t = 0$;
(ii) $t = 10$.

(2)

- (b) (i) Find an expression for the acceleration, a , as a function of t .
 (ii) What is the value of a when $t = 0$? (3)
- (c) (i) As t becomes large, what value does v approach?
 (ii) As t becomes large, what value does a approach?
 (iii) Explain the relationship between the answers to parts (i) and (ii). (3)
- (d) Let y metres be the distance fallen after t seconds.
 (i) Show that $y = 50t + 250e^{-0.2t} + k$, where k is a constant.
 (ii) Given that $y = 0$ when $t = 0$, find the value of k .
 (iii) Find the time required to fall 250 m, giving your answer correct to **four** significant figures. (7)
- (Total 15 marks)

4. The graph of $y = x^3 - 10x^2 + 12x + 23$ has a maximum point between $x = -1$ and $x = 3$. Find the coordinates of this maximum point.

	Answer:
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(Total 6 marks)

5. In this question, s represents displacement in metres, and t represents time in seconds.

- (a) The velocity v m s⁻¹ of a moving body may be written as $v = \frac{ds}{dt} = 30 - at$, where a is a constant.
 Given that $s = 0$ when $t = 0$, find an expression for s in terms of a and t . (5)

Trains approaching a station start to slow down when they pass a signal which is 200 m from the station.

- (b) The velocity of Train 1 t seconds after passing the signal is given by $v = 30 - 5t$.
 (i) Write down its velocity as it passes the signal.
 (ii) Show that it will stop before reaching the station. (5)
- (c) Train 2 slows down so that it stops at the station. Its velocity is given by $v = \frac{ds}{dt} = 30 - at$, where a is a constant.
 (i) Find, in terms of a , the time taken to stop.
 (ii) Use your solutions to parts (a) and (c)(i) to find the value of a . (5)

(Total 15 marks)

6. Consider the function $h(x) = x^{\frac{1}{5}}$.
 (i) Find the equation of the tangent to the graph of h at the point where $x = a$, ($a \neq 0$). Write the equation in the form $y = mx + c$.
 (ii) Show that this tangent intersects the x -axis at the point $(-4a, 0)$. (Total 5 marks)

7. An aircraft lands on a runway. Its velocity v m s⁻¹ at time t seconds after landing is given by the equation $v = 50 + 50e^{-0.5t}$, where $0 \leq t \leq 4$.

- (a) Find the velocity of the aircraft
 (i) when it lands;
 (ii) when $t = 4$. (4)
- (b) Write down an integral which represents the distance travelled in the first four seconds. (3)
- (c) Calculate the distance travelled in the first four seconds. (2)

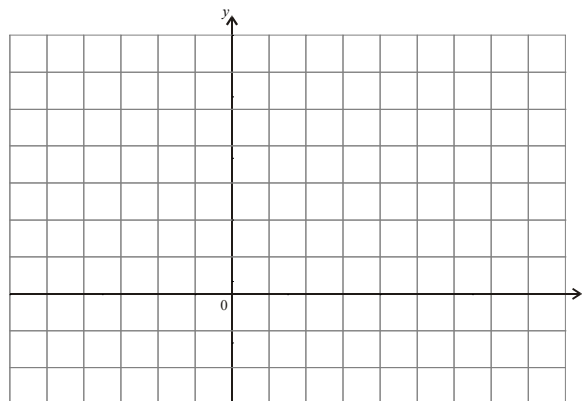
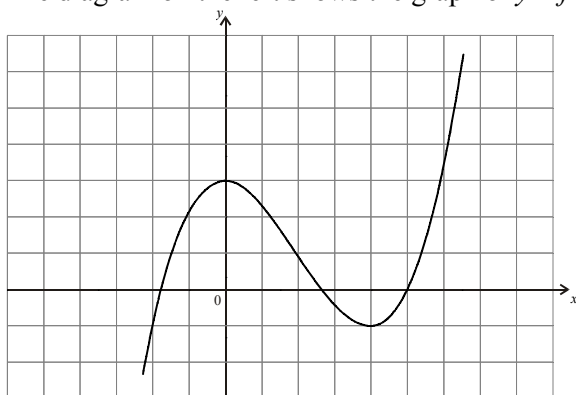
After four seconds, the aircraft slows down (decelerates) **at a constant rate** and comes to rest when $t = 11$.

- (d) **Sketch** a graph of velocity against time for $0 \leq t \leq 11$. Clearly label the axes and mark on the graph the point where $t = 4$. (5)

- (e) Find the constant rate at which the aircraft is slowing down (decelerating) between $t = 4$ and $t = 11$. (2)
- (f) Calculate the distance travelled by the aircraft between $t = 4$ and $t = 11$. (2)

(Total 18 marks)

8. The diagram on the left shows the graph of $y = f(x)$.



On the right hand grid sketch the graph of $y = f'(x)$.

(Total 6 marks)

9. Consider the function $f(x) = 1 + e^{-2x}$.

- (a) (i) Find $f'(x)$.
 (ii) Explain briefly how this shows that $f(x)$ is a decreasing function for all values of x (ie that $f(x)$ always decreases in value as x increases). (2)

Let P be the point on the graph of f where $x = -\frac{1}{2}$.

- (b) Find an expression in terms of e for
 (i) the y -coordinate of P;
 (ii) the gradient of the tangent to the curve at P. (2)

- (c) Find the equation of the tangent to the curve at P, giving your answer in the form $y = ax + b$. (3)

- (d) (i) Sketch the curve of f for $-1 \leq x \leq 2$.
 (ii) Draw the tangent at $x = -\frac{1}{2}$.
 (iii) Shade the area enclosed by the curve, the tangent and the y -axis.
 (iv) Find this area. (7)

(Total 14 marks)

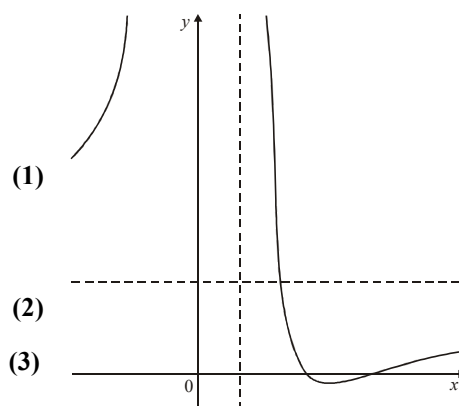
10. Consider the function f given by $f(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 13x + 20}{(x-1)^2}$, $x \neq 1$.

A part of the graph of f is given at right.

The graph has a vertical asymptote and a horizontal asymptote, as shown.

- (a) Write down the **equation** of the vertical asymptote.
 (b) $f(100) = 1.91$ $f(-100) = 2.09$ $f(1000) = 1.99$
 (i) Evaluate $f(-1000)$.
 (ii) Write down the **equation** of the horizontal asymptote.

- (c) Show that $f'(x) = \frac{9x - 27}{(x-1)^3}$, $x \neq 1$.



The second derivative is given by $f''(x) = \frac{72-18x}{(x-1)^4}$, $x \neq 1$.

(d) Using values of $f'(x)$ and $f''(x)$ explain why a minimum must occur at $x = 3$.

(2)

(e) There is a point of inflexion on the graph of f . Write down the coordinates of this point.

(2)

(Total 10 marks)

11. A car starts by moving from a fixed point A. Its velocity, $v \text{ m s}^{-1}$ after t seconds is given by $v = 4t + 5 - 5e^{-t}$. Let d be the displacement from A when $t = 4$.

(a) Write down an integral which represents d .

(b) Calculate the value of d .

Working:

Answers:

(a)

(b)

(Total 6 marks)

12. The displacement s metres of a car, t seconds after leaving a fixed point A, is given by

$$s = 10t - 0.5t^2.$$

(a) Calculate the velocity when $t = 0$.

(b) Calculate the value of t when the velocity is zero.

(c) Calculate the displacement of the car from A when the velocity is zero.

Working:

Answers:

(a)

(b)

(c)

(Total 6 marks)

13. The function $f(x)$ is defined as $f(x) = -(x-h)^2 + k$. The diagram at right shows part of the graph of $f(x)$. The maximum point on the curve is P (3, 2).

(a) Write down the value of

(i) h ;

(ii) k .

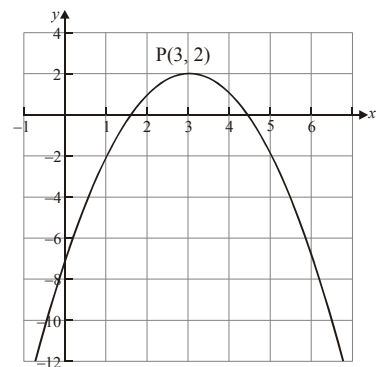
(b) Show that $f(x)$ can be written as $f(x) = -x^2 + 6x - 7$.

(c) Find $f'(x)$.

(2)

(1)

(2)



The point Q lies on the curve and has coordinates (4, 1). A straight line L , through Q, is perpendicular to the tangent at Q.

(d) (i) Calculate the gradient of L .

(ii) Find the equation of L .

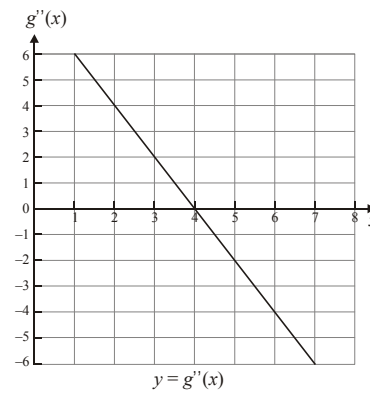
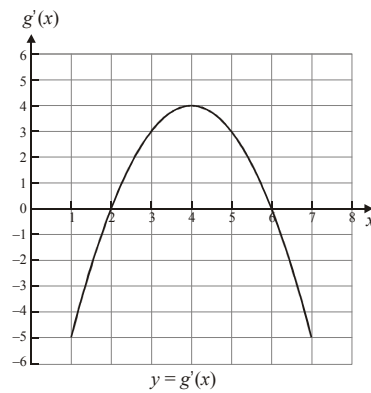
(iii) The line L intersects the curve again at R. Find the x -coordinate of R.

(8)

(Total 13 marks)

14. Let $y = g(x)$ be a function of x for $1 \leq x \leq 7$. The graph of g has an inflexion point at P, and a minimum point at M.

Partial sketches of the curves of g' and g'' are shown below.



Use the above information to answer the following.

- (a) Write down the x -coordinate of P, **and** justify your answer. (2)
 - (b) Write down the x -coordinate of M, **and** justify your answer. (2)
 - (c) Given that $g(4) = 0$, sketch the graph of g . On the sketch, mark the points P and M. (4)
- (Total 8 marks)

15. The velocity $v \text{ m s}^{-1}$ of a moving body at time t seconds is given by $v = 50 - 10t$.

- (a) Find its acceleration in m s^{-2} .
- (b) The initial displacement s is 40 metres. Find an expression for s in terms of t .

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(Total 6 marks)

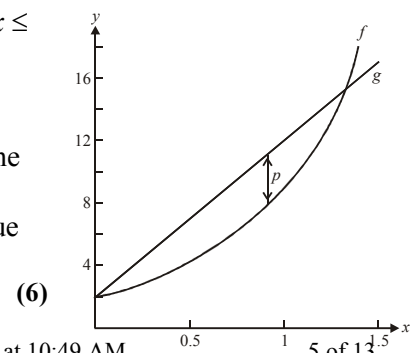
16. The function f is defined by $f: x \mapsto -0.5x^2 + 2x + 2.5$.

- (a) Write down
 - (i) $f'(x)$;
 - (ii) $f'(0)$.(2)
 - (b) Let N be the normal to the curve at the point where the graph intercepts the y -axis. Show that the equation of N may be written as $y = -0.5x + 2.5$. (3)
- Let $g: x \mapsto -0.5x + 2.5$
- (c)
 - (i) Find the solutions of $f(x) = g(x)$.
 - (ii) Hence find the coordinates of the other point of intersection of the normal and the curve. (6)
 - (d) Let R be the region enclosed between the curve and N .
 - (i) Write down an expression for the area of R .
 - (ii) Hence write down the area of R . (5)

(Total 16 marks)

17. The diagram below shows the graphs of $f(x) = 1 + e^{2x}$, $g(x) = 10x + 2$, $0 \leq x \leq 1.5$.

- (a)
 - (i) Write down an expression for the vertical distance p between the graphs of f and g .
 - (ii) Given that p has a maximum value for $0 \leq x \leq 1.5$, find the value of x at which this occurs.



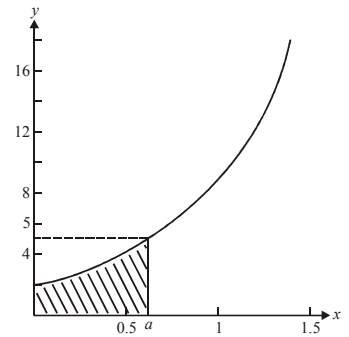
The graph of $y = f(x)$ only is shown in the diagram at right. When $x = a$, $y = 5$.

- (b) (i) Find $f^{-1}(x)$.
 (ii) **Hence** show that $a = \ln 2$.
- (c) The region shaded in the diagram is rotated through 360° about the x -axis. Write down an expression for the volume obtained.

(5)

(3)

(Total 14 marks)



18. The equation of a curve may be written in the form $y = a(x - p)(x - q)$. The curve intersects the x -axis at $A(-2, 0)$ and $B(4, 0)$. The curve of $y = f(x)$ is shown in the diagram at right.

- (a) (i) Write down the value of p and of q .
 (ii) Given that the point $(6, 8)$ is on the curve, find the value of a .
 (iii) Write the equation of the curve in the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$.

(5)

- (b) (i) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.
 (ii) A tangent is drawn to the curve at a point P . The gradient of this tangent is 7. Find the coordinates of P .

(4)

- (c) The line L passes through $B(4, 0)$, and is perpendicular to the tangent to the curve at point B .
 (i) Find the equation of L .
 (ii) Find the x -coordinate of the point where L intersects the curve again.

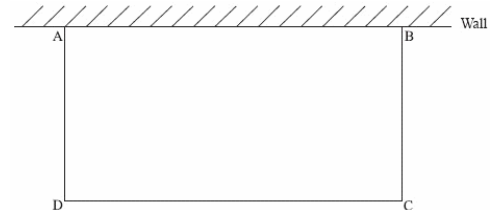
(6)

(Total 15 marks)

19. The diagram shows a rectangular area $ABCD$ enclosed on three sides by 60 m of fencing, and on the fourth by a wall AB .

Find the width of the rectangle that gives its maximum area.

(Total 6 marks)



20. A particle moves with a velocity $v \text{ m s}^{-1}$ given by $v = 25 - 4t^2$ where $t \geq 0$.

- (a) The displacement, s metres, is 10 when t is 3. Find an expression for s in terms of t .

(6)

- (b) Find t when s reaches its maximum value.

(3)

- (c) The particle has a positive displacement for $m \leq t \leq n$. Find the value of m and the value of n .

(3)

(Total 12 marks)

21. If $f'(x) = \cos x$, and $f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = -2$, find $f(x)$.

Working:

Answer:

(Total 4 marks)

22. (a) Sketch the graph of $y = \pi \sin x - x$, $-3 \leq x \leq 3$, on millimetre square paper, using a scale of 2 cm per unit on each axis.
Label and number both axes and indicate clearly the approximate positions of the x -intercepts and the local maximum and minimum points. (5)
- (b) Find the solution of the equation $\pi \sin x - x = 0$, $x > 0$. (1)
- (c) Find the indefinite integral $\int (\pi \sin x - x) dx$
and hence, or otherwise, calculate the area of the region enclosed by the graph, the x -axis and the line $x = 1$. (4)
- (Total 10 marks)

23. A curve with equation $y = f(x)$ passes through the point $(1, 1)$. Its gradient function is $f'(x) = -2x + 3$. Find the equation of the curve.

	Answer:
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(Total 4 marks)

24. Given that $f(x) = (2x + 5)^3$ find

- (a) $f'(x)$;
 (b) $\int f(x) dx$.

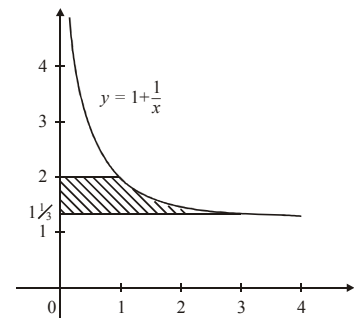
	Answers: (a) (b)
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(Total 4 marks)

25. The diagram shows the graph of the function $y = 1 + \frac{1}{x}$, $0 < x \leq 4$. Find the **exact** value of the area of the shaded region.

	Answer:
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(Total 4 marks)



26. In this question you should note that radians are used throughout.

- (a) (i) Sketch the graph of $y = x^2 \cos x$, for $0 \leq x \leq 2$ making clear the approximate positions of the positive x -intercept, the maximum point and the end-points. (7)
- (ii) Write down the **approximate** coordinates of the positive x -intercept, the maximum point and the end-points. (2)
- (b) Find the **exact value** of the positive x -intercept for $0 \leq x \leq 2$. (2)

Let R be the region in the first quadrant enclosed by the graph and the x -axis.

- (c) (i) Shade R on your diagram. (3)
- (ii) Write down an integral which represents the area of R . (3)
- (d) Evaluate the integral in part (c)(ii), either by using a graphic display calculator, or by using the following information.

$$\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 \sin x + 2x \cos x - 2 \sin x) = x^2 \cos x.$$

(3)

(Total 15 marks)

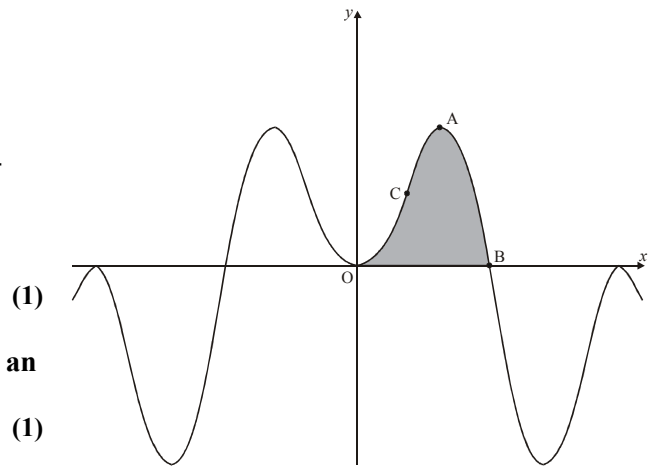
27. In this part of the question, radians are used throughout.

The function f is given by

$$f(x) = (\sin x)^2 \cos x.$$

The diagram shows part of the graph of $y = f(x)$.

The point A is a maximum point, the point B lies on the x -axis, and the point C is a point of inflexion.



- (a) Give the period of f . (1)
- (b) From consideration of the graph of $y = f(x)$, find **to an accuracy of one significant figure** the range of f . (1)
- (c) (i) Find $f''(x)$.
 (ii) Hence show that at the point A, $\cos x = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$.
 (iii) Find the exact maximum value. (9)
- (d) Find the exact value of the x -coordinate at the point B. (1)
- (e) (i) Find $\int f(x) dx$.
 (ii) Find the area of the shaded region in the diagram. (4)
- (f) Given that $f''(x) = 9(\cos x)^3 - 7 \cos x$, find the x -coordinate at the point C. (4)

(Total 20 marks)

28. Let $f'(x) = 1 - x^2$. Given that $f(3) = 0$, find $f(x)$.

Working:

Answer:

(Total 4 marks)

29. **Note:** Radians are used throughout this question.

- (a) Draw the graph of $y = \pi + x \cos x$, $0 \leq x \leq 5$, on millimetre square graph paper, using a scale of 2 cm per unit. Make clear
 (i) the integer values of x and y on each axis;
 (ii) the approximate positions of the x -intercepts and the turning points. (5)
- (b) **Without the use of a calculator**, show that π is a solution of the equation $\pi + x \cos x = 0$. (3)
- (c) Find another solution of the equation $\pi + x \cos x = 0$ for $0 \leq x \leq 5$, giving your answer to **six** significant figures. (2)
- (d) Let R be the region enclosed by the graph and the axes for $0 \leq x \leq \pi$. Shade R on your diagram, and write down an integral which represents the area of R . (2)
- (e) Evaluate the integral in part (d) to an accuracy of **six** significant figures. (If you consider it necessary, you can make use of the result $\frac{d}{dx}(x \sin x + \cos x) = x \cos x$.) (3)

(Total 15 marks)

30. Find

(a) $\int \sin(3x+7)dx;$

(b) $\int e^{-4x} dx.$

Answers:

(a)

(b)

(Total 4 marks)

31. The derivative of the function f is given by $f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x} - 0.5 \sin x$, for $x \neq -1$.The graph of f passes through the point $(0, 2)$. Find an expression for $f(x)$.

Answer:

(Total 6 marks)

32. Consider functions of the form $y = e^{-kx}$

(a) Show that $\int_0^1 e^{-kx} dx = \frac{1}{k} (1 - e^{-k})$.

(3)

(b) Let $k = 0.5$ (i) Sketch the graph of $y = e^{-0.5x}$, for $-1 \leq x \leq 3$, indicating the coordinates of the y -intercept.(ii) Shade the region enclosed by this graph, the x -axis, y -axis and the line $x = 1$.

(iii) Find the area of this region.

(5)

(c) (i) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of k , where $y = e^{-kx}$.

The point $P(1, 0.8)$ lies on the graph of the function $y = e^{-kx}$.(ii) Find the value of k in this case.(iii) Find the gradient of the tangent to the curve at P .

(5)

(Total 13 marks)

33. Let $f(x) = \sqrt{x^3}$. Find

(a) $f'(x);$

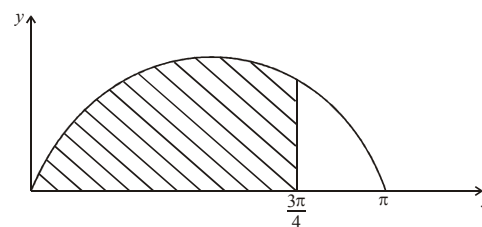
(b) $\int f(x)dx.$

Answers:

(a)

(b)

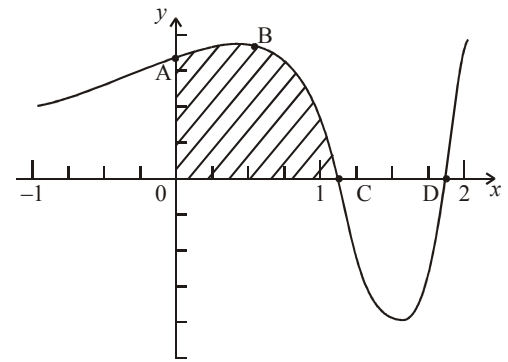
(Total 6 marks)

34. The diagram shows part of the curve $y = \sin x$. The shaded region is bounded by the curve and the lines $y = 0$ and $x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$.Given that $\sin \frac{3\pi}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ and $\cos \frac{3\pi}{4} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$, calculate the**exact** area of the shaded region.

Answer:

(Total 6 marks)

35. The diagram below shows a sketch of the graph of the function $y = \sin(e^x)$ where $-1 \leq x \leq 2$, and x is in **radians**. The graph cuts the y -axis at A, and the x -axis at C and D. It has a maximum point at B.



- (a) Find the coordinates of A. (2)
- (b) The coordinates of C may be written as $(\ln k, 0)$. Find the **exact** value of k . (2)
- (c) (i) Write down the y -coordinate of B. (6)
- (ii) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$. (5)
- (iii) Hence, show that at B, $x = \ln \frac{\pi}{2}$. (3)
- (d) (i) Write down the integral which represents the shaded area. (Total 18 marks)
- (ii) Evaluate this integral.
- (e) (i) Copy the above diagram into your answer booklet. (There is no need to copy the shading.) On your diagram, sketch the graph of $y = x^3$.
- (ii) The two graphs intersect at the point P. Find the x -coordinate of P.

36. Given that $\int_1^3 g(x)dx = 10$, deduce the value of

- (a) $\int_1^3 \frac{1}{2} g(x)dx$;
- (b) $\int_1^3 (g(x) + 4)dx$.

Answers:

- (a)
- (b)

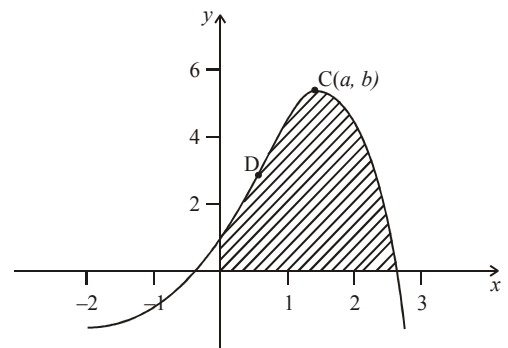
(Total 6 marks)

37. Consider the function $f(x) = \cos x + \sin x$.

- (a) (i) Show that $f(-\frac{\pi}{4}) = 0$.
- (ii) Find in terms of π , the smallest **positive** value of x which satisfies $f(x) = 0$.

(3)

The diagram shows the graph of $y = e^x (\cos x + \sin x)$, $-2 \leq x \leq 3$. The graph has a maximum turning point at $C(a, b)$ and a point of inflexion at D.



- (b) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$. (3)
- (c) Find the **exact** value of a and of b . (4)
- (d) Show that at D, $y = \sqrt{2}e^{\frac{\pi}{4}}$. (5)
- (e) Find the area of the shaded region. (2)

(Total 17 marks)

38. It is given that $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^3 + 2x - 1$ and that $y = 13$ when $x = 2$.

Find y in terms of x .

Answer:

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(Total 6 marks)

39. (a) Find $\int (1 + 3 \sin(x + 2)) dx$.
 (b) The diagram shows part of the graph of the function $f(x) = 1 + 3 \sin(x + 2)$.
 The area of the shaded region is given by $\int_0^a f(x) dx$.

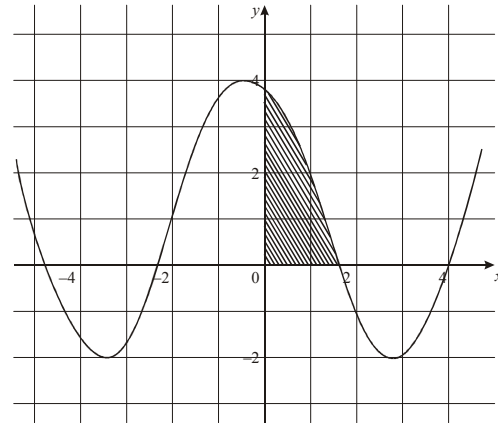
Find the value of a .

Answers:

(a)

(b)

(Total 6 marks)



40. (a) Consider the function $f(x) = 2 + \frac{1}{x-1}$. The diagram below is a sketch of part of the graph of $y = f(x)$.

Copy and complete the sketch of $f(x)$.

- (b) (i) Write down the x -intercepts and y -intercepts of $f(x)$.
 (ii) Write down the equations of the asymptotes of $f(x)$.
 (c) (i) Find $f'(x)$.
 (ii) There are no maximum or minimum points on the graph of $f(x)$.
 Use your expression for $f'(x)$ to explain why.

(2)

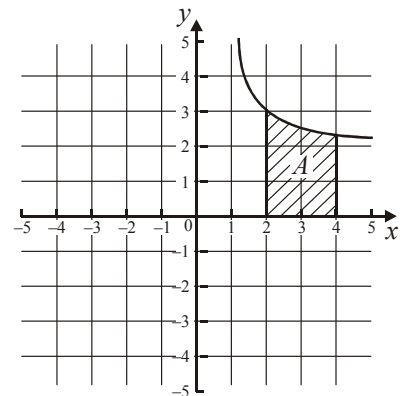
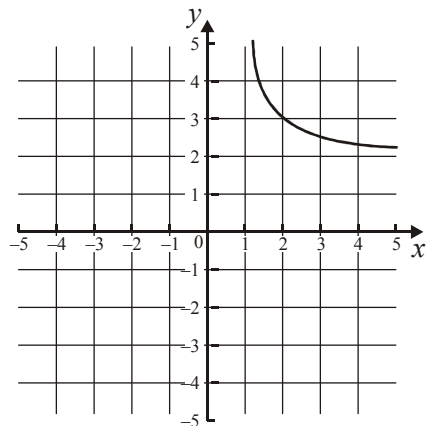
(4)

(3)

The region enclosed by the graph of $f(x)$, the x -axis and the lines $x = 2$ and $x = 4$, is labelled A , as shown at right.

- (d) (i) Find $\int f(x) dx$.
 (ii) Write down an expression that represents the area labelled A .
 (iii) Find the area of A .

(7)
 (Total 16 marks)



41. The derivative of the function f is given by $f'(x) = e^{-2x} + \frac{1}{1-x}$, $x < 1$.

The graph of $y = f(x)$ passes through the point $(0, 4)$. Find an expression for $f(x)$.

Working:

Answer:

.....

(Total 6 marks)

42. Let f be a function such that $\int_0^3 f(x) dx = 8$.

(a) Deduce the value of

(i) $\int_0^3 2f(x) dx$;

(ii) $\int_0^3 (f(x) + 2) dx$.

(b) If $\int_c^d f(x-2) dx = 8$, write down the value of c and of d .

Answers:

(a) (i)

(ii)

(b) $c = \dots\dots\dots$, $d = \dots\dots\dots$

(Total 6 marks)

43. Let $h(x) = (x-2) \sin(x-1)$ for $-5 \leq x \leq 5$. The curve of $h(x)$ is shown at right. There is a minimum point at R and a maximum point at S. The curve intersects the x -axis at the points $(a, 0)$ $(1, 0)$ $(2, 0)$ and $(b, 0)$.

(a) Find the exact value of

(i) a ;

(ii) b .

(2)

The regions between the curve and the x -axis are shaded for $a \leq x \leq 2$ as shown.

(b) (i) Write down an expression which represents the **total** area of the shaded regions.

(ii) Calculate this total area.

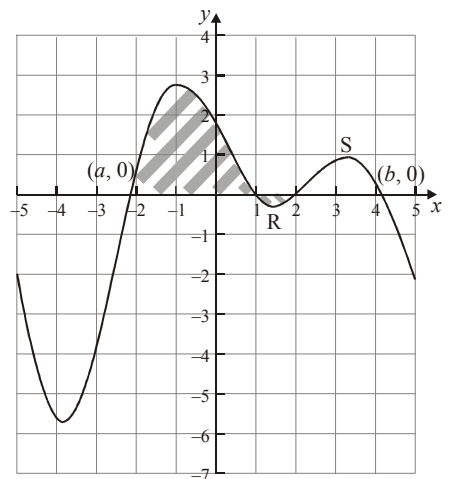
(5)

(c) (i) The y -coordinate of R is -0.240 . Find the y -coordinate of S.

(ii) Hence or otherwise, find the range of values of k for which the equation $(x-2) \sin(x-1) = k$ has **four** distinct solutions.

(4)

(Total 11 marks)



44. Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$.

(a) Write down the equation of the horizontal asymptote of the graph of f .

(1)

(b) Find $f'(x)$.

(3)

(c) The second derivative is given by $f''(x) = \frac{6x^2 - 2}{(1+x^2)^3}$.

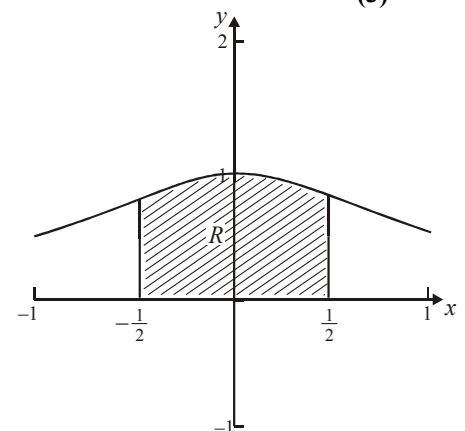
Let A be the point on the curve of f where the gradient of the tangent is a maximum. Find the x -coordinate of A.

(4)

(d) Let R be the region under the graph of f , between $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $x = \frac{1}{2}$, as shaded in the diagram at right

Write down the definite integral which represents the area of R.

(2)



(Total 10 marks)

45. The function f is given by $f(x) = 2\sin(5x - 3)$.

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

(b) Write down $\int f(x)dx$.

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(Total 6 marks)

46. Let $f(x) = (3x + 4)^5$. Find

(a) $f'(x)$;

(b) $\int f(x)dx$.

.....

Answers:

(a)

(b)

(Total 6 marks)

47. The curve $y = f(x)$ passes through the point $(2, 6)$.

Given that $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 5$, find y in terms of x .

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Answer:

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(Total 6 marks)

48. The table below shows some values of two functions, f and g , and of their derivatives f' and g' .

x	1	2	3	4
$f(x)$	5	4	-1	3
$g(x)$	1	-2	2	-5
$f'(x)$	5	6	0	7
$g'(x)$	-6	-4	-3	4

Calculate the following.

(a) $\frac{d}{dx}(f(x) + g(x))$, when $x = 4$;

(b) $\int_1^3 (g'(x) + 6)dx$.

.....

Answers:

(a)

(b)

(Total 6 marks)

49. Given $\int_3^k \frac{1}{x-2} dx = \ln 7$, find the value of k .

(Total 6 marks)

50. The graph of $y = \sin 2x$ from $0 \leq x \leq \pi$ is shown at right.

The area of the shaded region is 0.85. Find the value of k .

(Total 6 marks)

