AP Calculus BC Free Response Questions 1998-2014

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Example of a Polar, Vector, and Parametric Problem (w/calculator)

2008 AP® CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)

CALCULUS BC
SECTION II, Part A
Time—45 minutes
Number of problems—3

A graphing calculator is required for some problems or parts of problems.

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1. A particle moving along a curve in the xy-plane has position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time $t \geq 0$ with

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sqrt{3t} \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} = 3\cos\left(\frac{t^2}{2}\right).$$

The particle is at position $(1, 5)$ at time $t = 4$.

(a) Find the acceleration vector at time $t = 4$.

(b) Find the y-coordinate of the position of the particle at time $t = 0$.

(c) On the interval $0 \leq t \leq 4$, at what time does the speed of the particle first reach 3.5 ?

(d) Find the total distance traveled by the particle over the time interval $0 \leq t \leq 4$.

Example of a Sequence and Series (Taylor & McLaurin) Problem (w/calc)

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x	$h(x)$	$h'(x)$	$h''(x)$	$h'''(x)$	$h^{(4)}(x)$
1	11	30	42	99	18
2	80	128	$\frac{488}{3}$	$\frac{448}{3}$	$\frac{584}{9}$
3	317	$\frac{753}{2}$	$\frac{1383}{4}$	$\frac{3483}{16}$	$\frac{1125}{16}$

3. Let h be a function having derivatives of all orders for $x > 0$. Selected values of h and its first four derivatives are indicated in the table above. The function h and these four derivatives are increasing on the interval $1 \leq x \leq 3$.

(a) Write the first-degree Taylor polynomial for h about $x = 2$ and use it to approximate $h(1.9)$. Is this approximation greater than or less than $h(1.9)$? Explain your reasoning.

(b) Write the third-degree Taylor polynomial for h about $x = 2$ and use it to approximate $h(1.9)$.

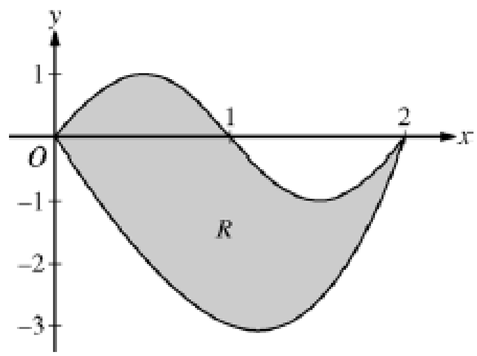
(c) Use the Lagrange error bound to show that the third-degree Taylor polynomial for h about $x = 2$ approximates $h(1.9)$ with error less than 3×10^{-4}.

Example of an Area/Volume Problem (w/calc)

2008 AP® CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

CALCULUS BC
SECTION II, Part A
Time—45 minutes
Number of problems—3

A graphing calculator is required for some problems or parts of problems.



1. Let R be the region bounded by the graphs of $y = \sin(\pi x)$ and $y = x^3 - 4x$, as shown in the figure above.

   (a) Find the area of R.

   (b) The horizontal line $y = -2$ splits the region R into two parts. Write, but do not evaluate, an integral expression for the area of the part of R that is below this horizontal line.

   (c) The region R is the base of a solid. For this solid, each cross section perpendicular to the x-axis is a square. Find the volume of this solid.

   (d) The region R models the surface of a small pond. At all points in R at a distance x from the y-axis, the depth of the water is given by $h(x) = 3 - x$. Find the volume of water in the pond.

Example of a Slope Field/Differential Equation/Euler's Method Problem (w/o calculator)

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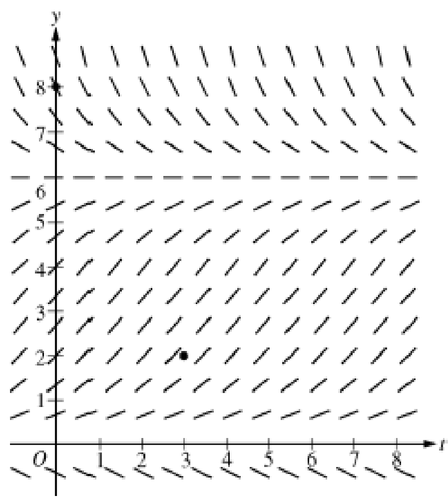
6. Consider the logistic differential equation $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{y}{8}(6 - y)$. Let $y = f(t)$ be the particular solution to the differential equation with $f(0) = 8$.

   (a) A slope field for this differential equation is given below. Sketch possible solution curves through the points $(3, 2)$ and $(0, 8)$.

   (Note: Use the axes provided in the exam booklet.)



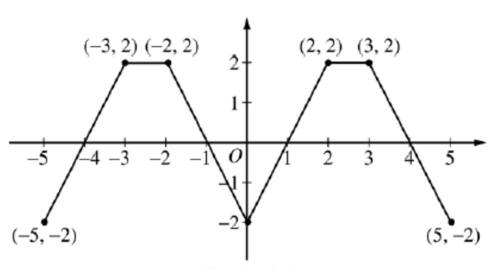
   (b) Use Euler's method, starting at $t = 0$ with two steps of equal size, to approximate $f(1)$.

   (c) Write the second-degree Taylor polynomial for f about $t = 0$, and use it to approximate $f(1)$.

   (d) What is the range of f for $t \geq 0$?

Example of a Function Defined as an Integral Problem (w/Calculator)

2006 AP® CALCULUS AB FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS



Graph of f

3. The graph of the function f shown above consists of six line segments. Let g be the function given by $g(x) = \int_0^x f(t)\,dt$.

   (a) Find $g(4)$, $g'(4)$, and $g''(4)$.

   (b) Does g have a relative minimum, a relative maximum, or neither at $x = 1$? Justify your answer.

   (c) Suppose that f is defined for all real numbers x and is periodic with a period of length 5. The graph above shows two periods of f. Given that $g(5) = 2$, find $g(10)$ and write an equation for the line tangent to the graph of g at $x = 108$.

Example of a Data Problem (w/calculator)

2008 AP® CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

t (hours)	0	1	3	4	7	8	9
$L(t)$ (people)	120	156	176	126	150	80	0

2. Concert tickets went on sale at noon $(t = 0)$ and were sold out within 9 hours. The number of people waiting in line to purchase tickets at time t is modeled by a twice-differentiable function L for $0 \le t \le 9$. Values of $L(t)$ at various times t are shown in the table above.

   (a) Use the data in the table to estimate the rate at which the number of people waiting in line was changing at 5:30 P.M. $(t = 5.5)$. Show the computations that lead to your answer. Indicate units of measure.

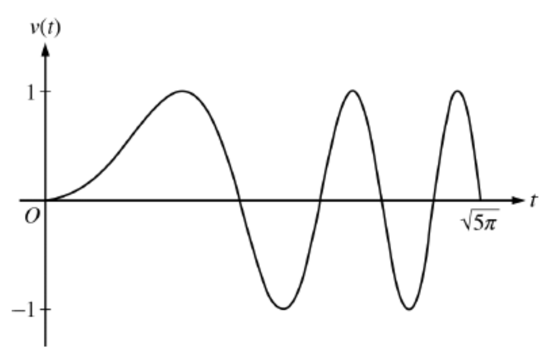
   (b) Use a trapezoidal sum with three subintervals to estimate the average number of people waiting in line during the first 4 hours that tickets were on sale.

   (c) For $0 \le t \le 9$, what is the fewest number of times at which $L'(t)$ must equal 0 ? Give a reason for your answer.

   (d) The rate at which tickets were sold for $0 \le t \le 9$ is modeled by $r(t) = 550te^{-t/2}$ tickets per hour. Based on the model, how many tickets were sold by 3 P.M. $(t = 3)$, to the nearest whole number?

Example of a Position, Velocity, Acceleration Problem (w/Calculator)

2007 AP® CALCULUS AB FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)



2. A particle moves along the x-axis so that its velocity v at time $t \ge 0$ is given by $v(t) = \sin\left(t^2\right)$. The graph of v is shown above for $0 \le t \le \sqrt{5\pi}$. The position of the particle at time t is $x(t)$ and its position at time $t = 0$ is $x(0) = 5$.

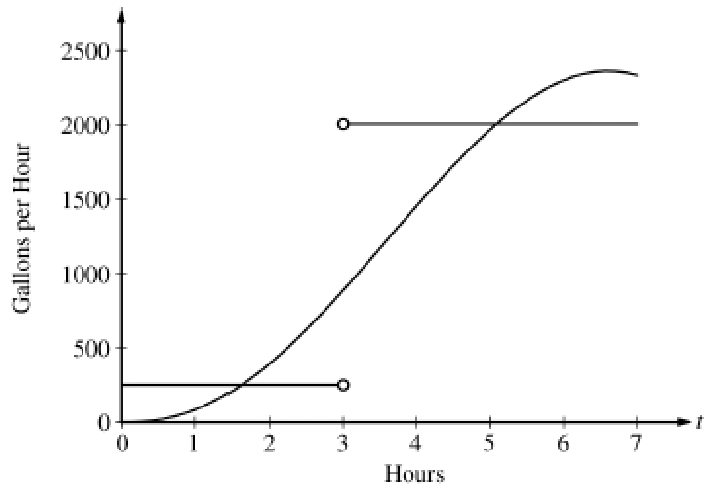
   (a) Find the acceleration of the particle at time $t = 3$.

   (b) Find the total distance traveled by the particle from time $t = 0$ to $t = 3$.

   (c) Find the position of the particle at time $t = 3$.

   (d) For $0 \le t \le \sqrt{5\pi}$, find the time t at which the particle is farthest to the right. Explain your answer.

Example of an Integral Application Problem (w/Calculator)



2. The amount of water in a storage tank, in gallons, is modeled by a continuous function on the time interval $0 \le t \le 7$, where t is measured in hours. In this model, rates are given as follows:

   (i) The rate at which water enters the tank is $f(t) = 100t^2 \sin\left(\sqrt{t}\right)$ gallons per hour for $0 \le t \le 7$.

   (ii) The rate at which water leaves the tank is

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} 250 & \text{for } 0 \le t < 3 \\ 2000 & \text{for } 3 < t \le 7 \end{cases} \text{ gallons per hour.}$$

The graphs of f and g, which intersect at $t = 1.617$ and $t = 5.076$, are shown in the figure above. At time $t = 0$, the amount of water in the tank is 5000 gallons.

(a) How many gallons of water enter the tank during the time interval $0 \le t \le 7$? Round your answer to the nearest gallon.

(b) For $0 \le t \le 7$, find the time intervals during which the amount of water in the tank is decreasing. Give a reason for each answer.

(c) For $0 \le t \le 7$, at what time t is the amount of water in the tank greatest? To the nearest gallon, compute the amount of water at this time. Justify your answer.

Example of a Logistic Growth Problem (w/o calculator)

2004 AP® CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

5. A population is modeled by a function P that satisfies the logistic differential equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{P}{5}\left(1 - \frac{P}{12}\right).$$

(a) If $P(0) = 3$, what is $\lim_{t\to\infty} P(t)$?

If $P(0) = 20$, what is $\lim_{t\to\infty} P(t)$?

(b) If $P(0) = 3$, for what value of P is the population growing the fastest?

(c) A different population is modeled by a function Y that satisfies the separable differential equation

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \frac{Y}{5}\left(1 - \frac{t}{12}\right).$$

Find $Y(t)$ if $Y(0) = 3$.

(d) For the function Y found in part (c), what is $\lim_{t\to\infty} Y(t)$?

Example of a Misc. Problem (w/Calculator)

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x	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$g(x)$	$g'(x)$
1	6	4	2	5
2	9	2	3	1
3	10	–4	4	2
4	–1	3	6	7

3. The functions f and g are differentiable for all real numbers, and g is strictly increasing. The table above gives values of the functions and their first derivatives at selected values of x. The function h is given by $h(x) = f(g(x)) - 6$.

(a) Explain why there must be a value r for $1 < r < 3$ such that $h(r) = -5$.

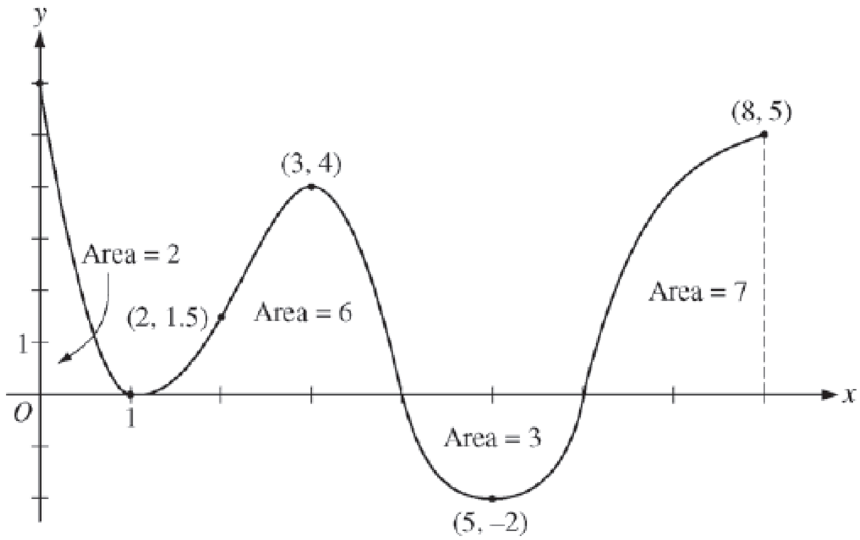
(b) Explain why there must be a value c for $1 < c < 3$ such that $h'(c) = -5$.

(c) Let w be the function given by $w(x) = \int_1^{g(x)} f(t)\,dt$. Find the value of $w'(3)$.

(d) If g^{-1} is the inverse function of g, write an equation for the line tangent to the graph of $y = g^{-1}(x)$ at $x = 2$.

Example of a Min/Max/Inflection Point Problem (w/o Calculator)

2013 AP® CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS



Graph of f'

4. The figure above shows the graph of f', the derivative of a twice-differentiable function f, on the closed interval $0 \le x \le 8$. The graph of f' has horizontal tangent lines at $x = 1$, $x = 3$, and $x = 5$. The areas of the regions between the graph of f' and the x-axis are labeled in the figure. The function f is defined for all real numbers and satisfies $f(8) = 4$.

   (a) Find all values of x on the open interval $0 < x < 8$ for which the function f has a local minimum. Justify your answer.

   (b) Determine the absolute minimum value of f on the closed interval $0 \le x \le 8$. Justify your answer.

   (c) On what open intervals contained in $0 < x < 8$ is the graph of f both concave down and increasing? Explain your reasoning.

   (d) The function g is defined by $g(x) = (f(x))^3$. If $f(3) = -\frac{5}{2}$, find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of g at $x = 3$.