

MAA

EXERCISES [MAA 5.5-5.6]
MONOTONY AND CONCAVITY
Compiled by Christos Nikolaidis

O. Practice questions

1. [Maximum mark: 12] **[without GDC]**

Differentiate each of the functions below and hence determine whether it is **increasing** or **decreasing** on its entire domain.

(i) $f(x) = x^3 + x + 5$

(ii) $f(x) = 5 - 5x^5$

(iii) $f(x) = 5 - 3e^{2x}$

(iv) $f(x) = \frac{2x+1}{3x+5}$

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2. [Maximum mark: 12] ***[without GDC]***

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

- (a) Find any stationary points and determine their nature. [6]
(b) Find any points of inflexion and justify your answer. [3]
(c) Sketch the graph of the function. (Use your GDC to check the result). [3]

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3. [Maximum mark: 12] ***[without GDC]***

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

- (a) Find any stationary points and determine their nature. [6]
- (b) Find any points of inflexion and justify your answer. [3]
- (c) Sketch the graph of the function. (Use your GDC to check the result). [3]

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4. [Maximum mark: 5] **[without GDC]**

It is given that $f'(x) = (x - 1)(x - 3)(x - 4)^2$.

Find the stationary points of f and determine their nature.

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5. [Maximum mark: 4] **[without GDC]**

It is given that $f''(x) = (x - 1)(x - 3)(x - 4)^2$.

Find the points of inflexion of f ; justify your answer.

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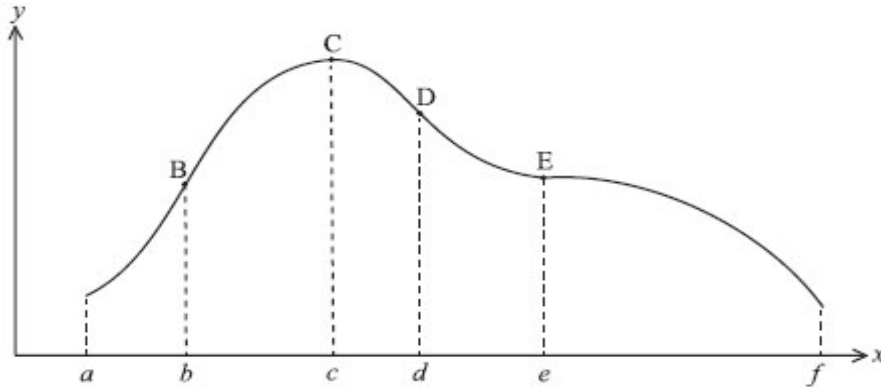
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6. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

The graph of a function g is given in the diagram below.



The gradient of the curve has its maximum value at point B and its minimum value at point D. The tangent is horizontal at points C and E.

- (a) Complete the table below, by stating, for each interval, whether the first derivative g' is **positive** or **negative**; the second derivative g'' is **positive** or **negative**.

Interval	g'	g''
$a < x < b$	positive	positive
$b < x < c$		
$c < x < d$		
$d < x < e$		
$e < x < f$		

[4]

- (a) Complete the table below, by stating for each point, whether the first derivative g' is **positive**, **negative** or **zero**, the second derivative g'' is **positive**, **negative** or **zero**.

	Point	g'	g''
B	$x = b$	positive	zero
C	$x = c$		
D	$x = d$		
E	$x = e$		

[3]

7. [Maximum mark: 12] **[with GDC]**

Let $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx$

(a) Find the first and the second derivative of $f(x)$, in terms of a, b, c . [4]

(b) The graph
 passes through the point $P(1,4)$
 has a local maximum at P
 has a point of inflexion at $x = 2$.

Write down three linear equations representing this information. [3]

(c) **Hence** find the values of a, b, c . [2]

(d) The function has a local minimum at $x = d$. Find the value of d and justify that it is a minimum. [3]

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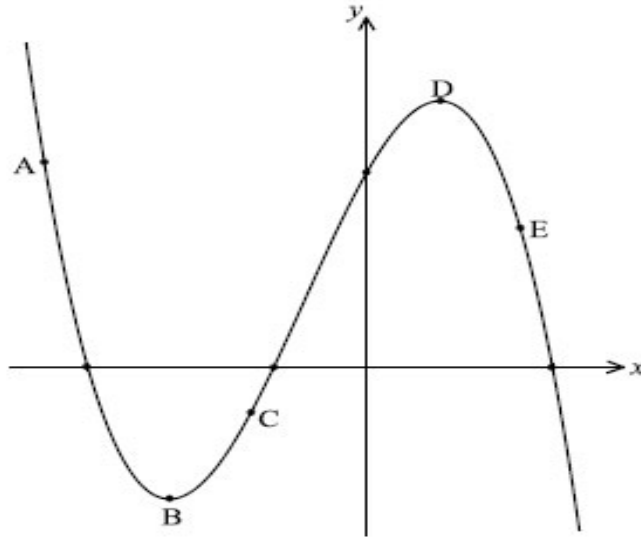
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A. Exam style questions (SHORT)

9. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

The following diagram shows part of the curve of a function f . The points A, B, C, D and E lie on the curve, where B is a minimum point and D is a maximum point.



(a) Complete the following table, noting whether $f'(x)$ is positive, negative or zero at the given points.

	A	B	E
$f'(x)$			

[2]

(b) Complete the following table, noting whether $f''(x)$ is positive, negative or zero at the given points.

	A	C	E
$f''(x)$			

[2]

(c) Complete the following table, noting whether each value is positive, negative or zero.

$f(0)$	$f'(0)$	$f''(0)$

[2]

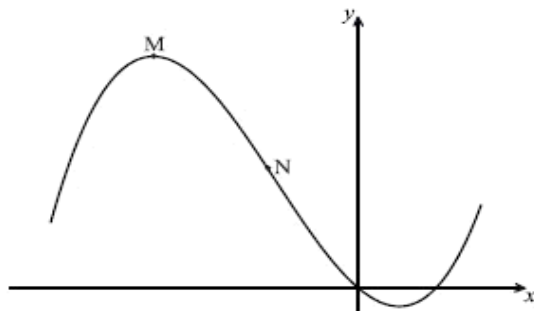
(d) Write down the number of points of inflexion for this curve.

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10. [Maximum mark: 11] [without GDC]

Consider $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 + 2x^2 - 5x$. Part of the graph of f is shown below. There is a maximum point at M, and a point of inflexion at N.



- (a) Find $f'(x)$ [2]
- (b) Find the x -coordinate of M. [3]
- (c) Find the x -coordinate of N. [3]
- (d) The line L is the tangent to the curve of f at $(3, 12)$. Find the equation of L in the form $y = ax + b$. [3]

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11. [Maximum mark: 8] **[without GDC]**

Let $g(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x + 5$.

- (a) Find the two values of x at which the tangent to the graph of g is horizontal. [5]
- (b) For each of these values, determine whether it is a maximum or a minimum. [3]

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12. [Maximum mark: 5] **[with GDC]**

Let $f'(x) = -24x^3 + 9x^2 + 3x + 1$.

- (a) There are two points of inflexion on the graph of f . Write down the x -coordinates of these points. [3]
- (b) Let $g(x) = f''(x)$. Explain why the graph of g has no points of inflexion. [2]

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13. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

Consider the function $f(x) = \frac{3x-2}{2x+5}$.

The graph of this function has a vertical and a horizontal asymptote.

- (a) Write down the equations of the asymptotes [2]
- (b) Find $f'(x)$, simplifying the answer as much as possible. [2]
- (c) Write down the number of stationary points of the graph. Justify your answer. [2]
- (d) Write down the number of points of inflexion of the graph. [1]

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14. [Maximum mark: 5] **[without GDC]**

A function f has its first derivative given by $f'(x) = (x-3)^3$.

- (a) Find the second derivative. [2]
- (b) Find $f'(3)$ and $f''(3)$. [1]
- (c) Explain why the point P on the graph with x -coordinate 3 is not a point of inflexion. [2]

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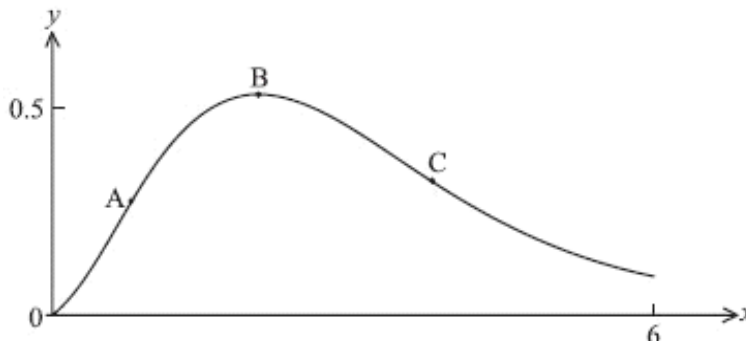
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15. [Maximum mark: 8] **[without GDC]**

The diagram below shows the graph of $f(x) = x^2e^{-x}$ for $0 \leq x \leq 6$. There are points of inflexion at A and C and there is a maximum at B.



- (a) Using the product rule for differentiation, find $f'(x)$. [2]
- (b) Find the **exact** value of the **y-coordinate** of B. [2]
- (c) (i) Show that $f''(x) = (x^2 - 4x + 2)e^{-x}$. [4]
- (ii) **Hence**, find the **exact** value of the **x - coordinate** of C.

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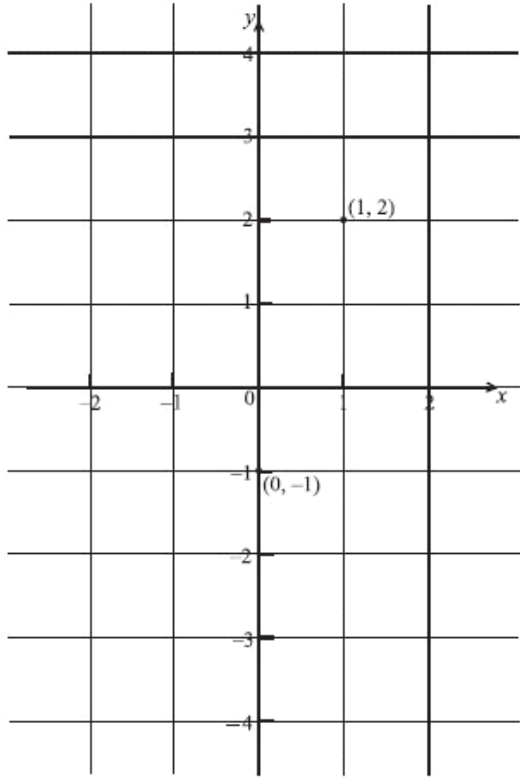
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16. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

On the axes below, sketch a curve $y = f(x)$ which satisfies the following conditions.

x	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$f''(x)$
$-2 \leq x < 0$		negative	positive
0	-1	0	positive
$0 < x < 1$		positive	positive
1	2	positive	0
$1 < x \leq 2$		positive	negative



17. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Let $g(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x^2}$, for $x > 0$.

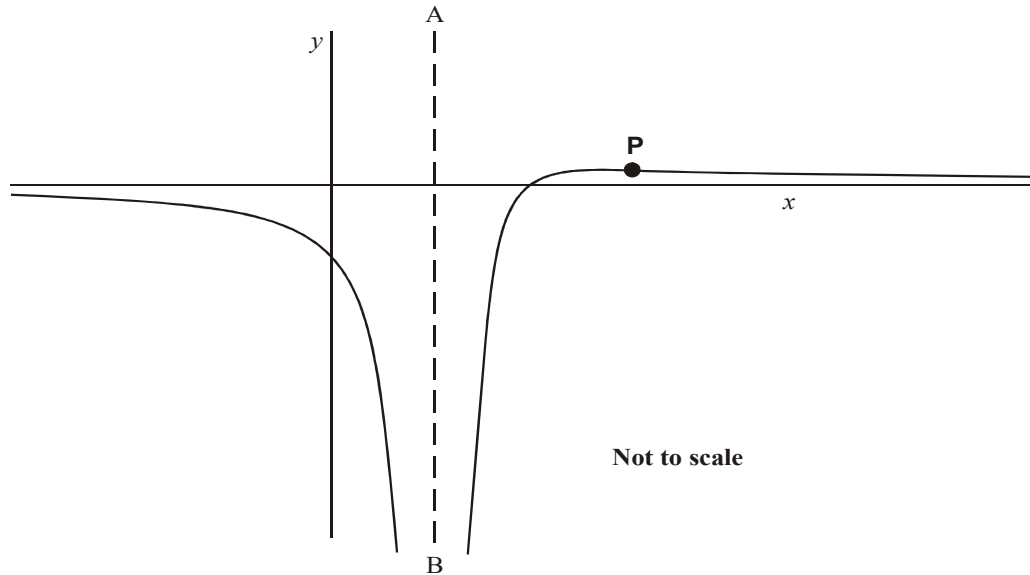
- (a) Use the quotient rule to show that $g'(x) = \frac{1 - 2 \ln x}{x^3}$. [3]
- (b) The graph of g has a maximum point at A. Find the x -coordinate of A. [3]

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18. [Maximum mark: 8] **[without GDC]**

Consider the function $h: x \mapsto \frac{x-2}{(x-1)^2}, x \neq 1$.

A sketch of part of the graph of h is given below.



The line (AB) is a vertical asymptote. The point P is a point of inflexion.

- (a) Write down the **equation** of the vertical asymptote. [1]
- (b) Find $h'(x)$ writing your answer in the form $\frac{a-x}{(x-1)^n}$ [4]
- (c) Given that $h''(x) = \frac{2x-8}{(x-1)^4}$, calculate the coordinates of P. [3]

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19. [Maximum mark: 8] **[without GDC]**

The function $g(x)$ is defined for $-3 < x < 3$. The behaviour of $g'(x)$ and $g''(x)$ is given in the tables below.

x	$-3 < x < -2$	-2	$-2 < x < 1$	1	$1 < x < 3$
$g'(x)$	negative	0	positive	0	negative

x	$-3 < x < -\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2} < x < 3$
$g''(x)$	positive	0	negative

Use the information above to answer the following. In each case, justify your answer.

- (a) Write down the value of x for which g has a maximum. [1]
- (b) On which intervals is the value of g decreasing? [2]
- (c) Write down the value of x for which the graph of g has a point of inflexion [1]
- (d) Given that $g(-3) = 1$, sketch the graph of g . On the sketch, clearly indicate the position of the maximum point, the minimum point, and the point of inflexion. [4]

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20. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

Consider the function

$$f(x) = \frac{e^x - 1}{e^x + 1}$$

(a) Find $f'(x)$ and deduce the monotony of the function. [3]

(b) Explain why $f^{-1}(x)$ exists and find its expression. [4]

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21. [Maximum mark: 7] **[without GDC]**

Let $f(x) = (x - 1)^2(x - 4)^3$. Find the stationary points and determine their nature.

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22. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with GDC]**

Let $f(x) = (x - 1)^2(x - 4)^3$. Find the points of inflexion; justify your answer.

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23. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

Consider $f(x) = x^2 + \frac{p}{x}$, $x \neq 0$, where p is a constant.

(a) Find $f'(x)$. [2]

(b) There is a minimum value of $f(x)$ when $x = -2$. Find the value of p . [4]

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24. [Maximum mark: 6] **[without GDC]**

The function f is defined by $f(x) = \frac{2x}{x^2 + 6}$, for $x \geq b$, where $b \in R$.

(a) Show that $f'(x) = \frac{12 - 2x^2}{(x^2 + 6)^2}$. [3]

(b) Hence find the smallest **exact** value of b for which the inverse function f^{-1} exists. Justify your answer. [3]

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25. [Maximum mark: 5] **[without GDC]**

If $f(x) = x - 3x^{\frac{2}{3}}$, $x > 0$,

- (a) find the x -coordinate of the point P where $f'(x) = 0$;
- (b) determine whether P is a maximum or minimum point.

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26. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with / without GDC]**

Find the x -coordinate of the point of inflexion on the graph of $y = xe^x$, $-3 < x \leq 1$.

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27*. [Maximum mark: 7] [without GDC]

Let $f : x \mapsto e^{\sin x}$.

(a) Find $f'(x)$. [2]

(b) Show that an equation that would allow you to find the values of x at the points of

inflexion is $\sin x = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$. [5]

Dotted lines for working area

28. [Maximum mark: 7] **[with GDC]**

Consider the curve with equation $f(x) = e^{-2x^2}$ for $x < 0$.

Find the coordinates of the point of inflexion and justify that it is a point of inflexion.

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29. [Maximum mark: 6] **[with / without GDC]**

The function f is given by $f(x) = \frac{x^5 + 2}{x}$, $x \neq 0$. There is a point of inflexion on the graph of f at the point P. Find the coordinates of P.

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30. [Maximum mark: 6] ***[without GDC]***

The curve $y = \frac{x^3}{3} - x^2 - 3x + 4$ has a local maximum point at P and a local minimum point at Q. Determine the equation of the straight line passing through P and Q, in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where $a, b, c \in R$.

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32. [Maximum mark: 8] **[without GDC]**

A cubic function has a maximum at $A(0,5)$ and a point of inflexion at $B(1,1)$. Find

(a) an expression of the cubic function. [6]

(b) the coordinates of the minimum point; justify that it is a minimum. [2]

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B. Exam style questions (LONG)

33. [Maximum mark: 12] **[with / without GDC]**

The function f is given by $f(x) = \frac{\ln 2x}{x}$, $x > 0$.

(a) (i) Show that $f'(x) = \frac{1 - \ln 2x}{x^2}$.

Hence

(ii) prove that the graph of f can have only one local max or min point;

(iii) find the coordinates of the maximum point on the graph of f . [6]

(b) By showing that the second derivative $f''(x) = \frac{2 \ln 2x - 3}{x^3}$ or otherwise,

find the coordinates of the point of inflexion on the graph of f . [6]

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34. [Maximum mark: 18] ***[without GDC]***

The function f is defined by $f(x) = xe^{2x}$.

- (a) By considering the first and the second derivatives of f , show that there is one minimum point P on the graph of f , and find the coordinates of P. [7]
- (b) Show that f has a point of inflexion Q at $x = -1$. [5]
- (c) Determine the intervals on the domain of f where f is
 - (i) concave up; (ii) concave down. [2]
- (d) Sketch f , clearly showing any intercepts, asymptotes and the points P and Q. [4]

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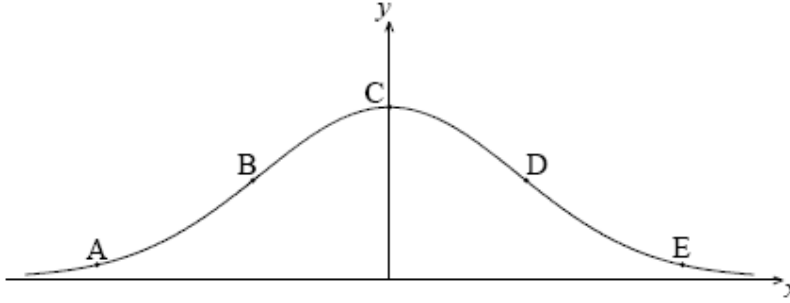
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35. [Maximum mark: 13] **[with / without GDC]**

The following diagram shows the graph of $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$.



The points A, B, C, D and E lie on the graph of f . Two of these are points of inflexion.

- (a) Identify the **two** points of inflexion. [2]
- (b) (i) Find $f'(x)$.
- (ii) Show that $f''(x) = (4x^2 - 2)e^{-x^2}$. [5]
- (c) Find the x -coordinate of each point of inflexion. [4]
- (d) Use the second derivative to show that one of these points is a point of inflexion. [2]

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37. [Maximum mark: 14] ***[with GDC]***

The function f is defined as $f(x) = (2x+1)e^{-x}$, $0 \leq x \leq 3$. The point P(0, 1) lies on the graph of $f(x)$, and there is a maximum point at Q.

- (a) Sketch the graph of $y = f(x)$, labelling the points P and Q. [3]
- (b) (i) Show that $f'(x) = (1-2x)e^{-x}$. [7]
(ii) Find the **exact** coordinates of Q.
- (c) The equation $f(x) = k$, where $k \in \mathbb{R}$, has two solutions. Write down the range of values of k . [2]
- (d) Given that $f''(x) = e^{-x}(-3+2x)$, show that the curve of f has only one point of inflexion. [2]

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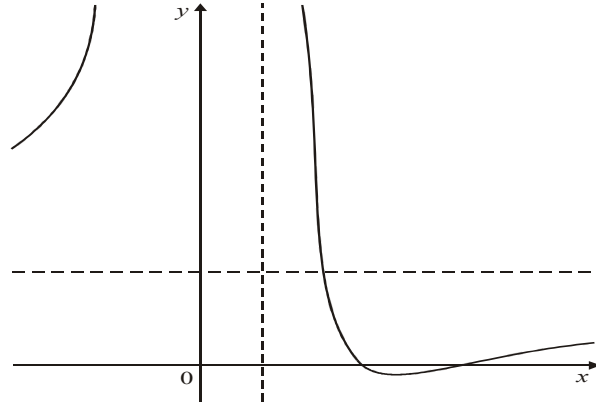
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38. [Maximum mark: 9] **[without GDC]**

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 below (vertical and horizontal asymptotes are shown)



- (a) Write down the **equation** of the vertical asymptote. [1]
- (b) It is given that $f(100) = 1.91$, $f(-100) = 2.09$, $f(1000) = 1.99$, $f(-1000) = 2.01$

Write down the **equation** of the horizontal asymptote. [1]

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

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. Write down the coordinates of this point. [2]

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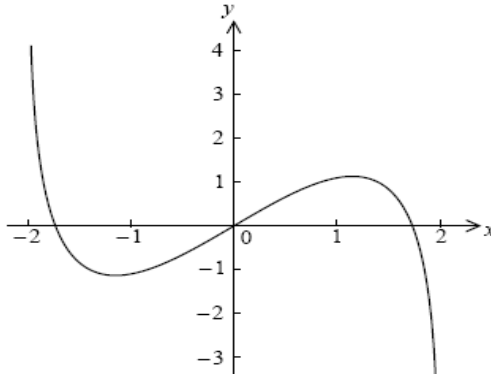
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39. [Maximum mark: 14] **[with GDC]**

Consider $f(x) = x \ln(4 - x^2)$, for $-2 < x < 2$. The graph of f is given below.



- (a) Let P and Q be the stationary points on the curve of f .
- (i) Find the x -coordinate of P and of Q.
- (ii) Write down all values of k for which $f(x) = k$ has exactly two solutions. [5]

Let $g(x) = x^3 \ln(4 - x^2)$, for $-2 < x < 2$.

- (b) Show that $g'(x) = \frac{-2x^4}{4-x^2} + 3x^2 \ln(4-x^2)$. [4]
- (c) Sketch the graph of g' . [2]
- (d) Write down all values of w for which $g'(x) = w$ has exactly two solutions. [3]

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40. [Maximum mark: 17] **[with / without GDC]**

The function f is defined by $f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x^3}$, $x \geq 1$.

(a) Find $f'(x)$ and $f''(x)$, simplifying your answers. [6]

(b) (i) Find the **exact** value of the x -coordinate of the maximum point and justify that this is a maximum.

(ii) Solve $f''(x) = 0$, and show that at this value of x , there is a point of inflexion on the graph of f .

(iii) Sketch the graph of f , indicating the maximum point and the point of inflexion. [11]

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41. [Maximum mark: 14] **[with / without GDC]**

Let $f(x) = x^3 - 4x + 1$.

- (a) Find $f'(x)$ [2]
- (b) The tangent to the curve of f at the point $P(1, -2)$ is parallel to the tangent at a point Q . Find the coordinates of Q . [4]
- (c) The graph of f is decreasing for $p < x < q$. Find the value of p and of q . [3]
- (d) Write down the range of values for the gradient of f . [2]
- (e) Find the coordinates of the point of inflexion of the graph of f . [3]

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42. [Maximum mark: 15] **[without GDC]**

Let $f(x) = 3 + \frac{20}{x^2 - 4}$, for $x \neq \pm 2$. The graph of f is given below.

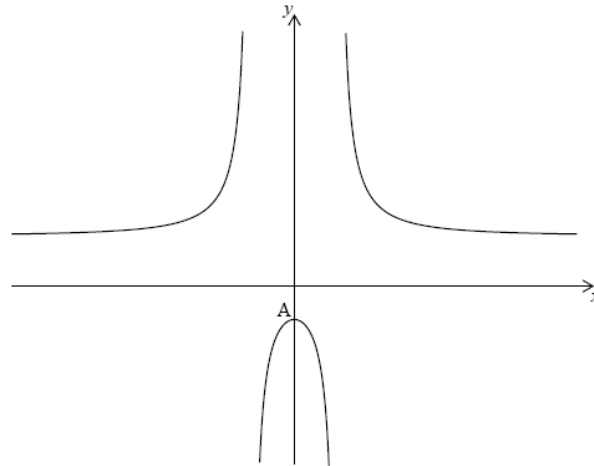


diagram not to scale

The y -intercept is at the point A.

(a) (i) Find the coordinates of A (ii) Show that $f'(x) = 0$ at A. [6]

(b) The second derivative $f''(x) = \frac{40(3x^2 + 4)}{(x^2 - 4)^3}$. Use this to

(i) justify that the graph of f has a local maximum at A; [6]
 (ii) explain why the graph of f does **not** have a point of inflexion.

(c) Describe the behaviour of the graph of f for large $|x|$. [1]

(d) Write down the range of f . [2]

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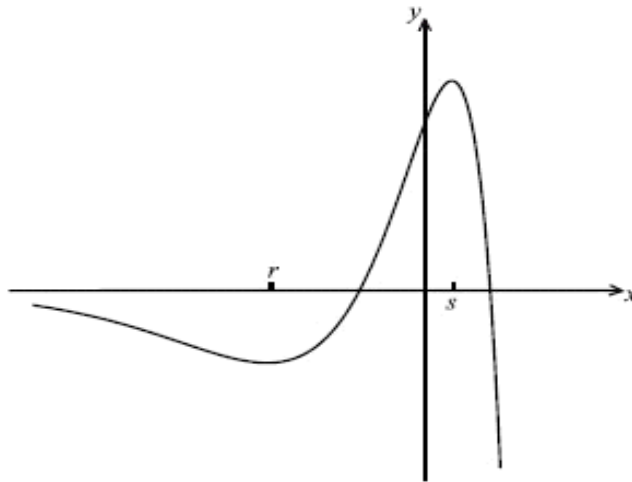
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43. [Maximum mark: 14] **[with GDC]**

Let $f(x) = e^x(1 - x^2)$.

(a) Show that $f'(x) = e^x(1 - 2x - x^2)$. [3]

Part of the graph of $y = f(x)$, for $-6 \leq x \leq 2$, is shown below. The x -coordinates of the local minimum and maximum points are r and s respectively.



(b) Write down the **equation** of the horizontal asymptote. [1]

(c) Write down the value of r and of s . [4]

(d) Show that the normal L to the curve of f at $P(0, 1)$ has equation $x + y = 1$. [4]

(e) Find the coordinates of the points where the curve and the line L intersect. [2]

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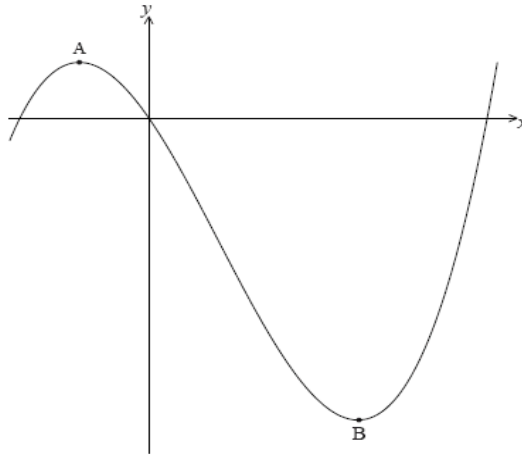
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44. [Maximum mark: 12] **[without GDC]**

Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 - x^2 - 3x$. Part of the graph of f is shown below.



There is a maximum point at A and a minimum point at $B(3, -9)$.

(a) Find the coordinates of A. [6]

(b) Write down the coordinates of

- (i) the image of B after reflection in the y -axis;
- (ii) the image of B after translation by the vector $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$;
- (iii) the image of B after reflection in the x -axis followed by a horizontal stretch with scale factor $\frac{1}{2}$. [6]

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45. [Maximum mark: 12] **[without GDC]**

Let $f(x) = \frac{\cos x}{\sin x}$, for $\sin x \neq 0$.

(a) Use the quotient rule to show that $f'(x) = \frac{-1}{\sin^2 x}$. [4]

(b) Find $f''(x)$. [3]

In the following table, $f'\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = p$ and $f''\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = q$. The table also gives approximate

values of $f'(x)$ and $f''(x)$ near $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

x	$\frac{\pi}{2} - 0.1$	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	$\frac{\pi}{2} + 0.1$
$f'(x)$	-1.01	p	-1.01
$f''(x)$	0.203	q	-0.203

(c) Find the value of p and of q . [3]

(d) Use information from the table to explain why there is a point of inflexion on the graph of f where $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$. [2]

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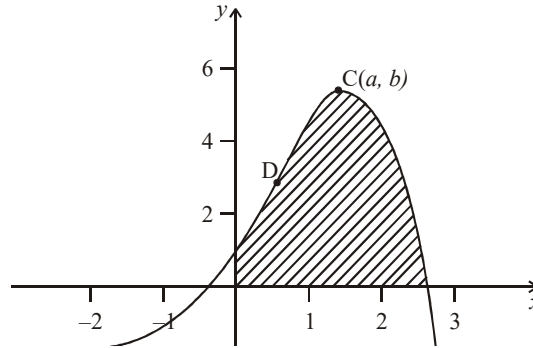
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46. [Maximum mark: 12] [without GDC]

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 .



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

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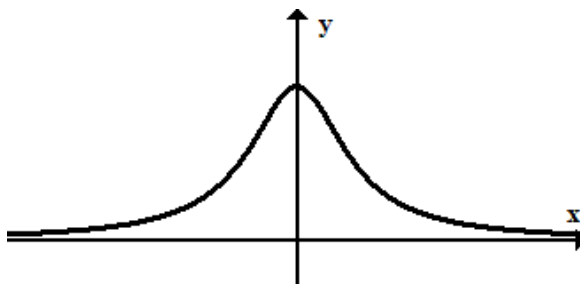
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47. [Maximum mark: 12] [without GDC]

Part of the graph of $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$ is shown below.



- (a) Write down the equation of the horizontal asymptote of the graph of f . [1]
- (b) Find $f'(x)$. [3]
- (c) Show that the second derivative is given by $f''(x) = \frac{6x^2 - 2}{(1+x^2)^3}$. [4]
- (d) 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]

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