

**Topic:** Rolle's Theorem

**Question:** Which of these is not part of Rolle's Theorem?

**Answer choices:**

- A      The function  $f(x)$  must be continuous on the closed interval  $[a, b]$ .
- B      That the function  $f(x)$  meets the condition  $f(a) = f(b)$  for the closed interval  $[a, b]$ .
- C      The function  $f(x)$  can be integrated over the open interval  $(a, b)$ .
- D      The function  $f(x)$  is differentiable on the open interval  $(a, b)$ .



**Solution: C**

Rolle's Theorem requires three conditions be met in order for its conclusion to be true:

- The function  $f(x)$  must be continuous on the closed interval  $[a, b]$
- The function  $f(x)$  must be differentiable on the open interval  $(a, b)$
- The function  $f(x)$  meets the condition  $f(a) = f(b)$  for the interval  $[a, b]$

If these three conditions are met, Rolle's Theorem states that there must exist a point  $c$  within the interval  $(a, b)$  where  $f'(c) = 0$ .



**Topic:** Rolle's Theorem

**Question:** Does the function meet the criteria of Rolle's Theorem on the interval  $[0,1]$ ?

$$f(x) = x^2 - x + 6$$

**Answer choices:**

- A Yes, it's continuous and differentiable over the interval, and  $f(0) = f(1)$ .
- B Yes, it's continuous and  $f(0) \neq f(1)$ .
- C No, it's not differentiable over the interval.
- D No, it's discontinuous, and  $f(0) \neq f(1)$ .



**Solution: A**

Since this is a polynomial function, and we know that polynomial functions are continuous for all real numbers, we know that the function is continuous and differentiable on the interval  $[0,1]$ .

Confirm that  $f(0) = f(1)$ .

$$f(0) = 0^2 - 0 + 6$$

$$f(0) = 6$$

and

$$f(1) = 1^2 - 1 + 6$$

$$f(1) = 6$$

Since  $f(0) = 6 = f(1)$ , we've confirmed that this function over the given interval meets all three conditions of Rolle's Theorem.



**Topic:** Rolle's Theorem

**Question:** Use Rolle's Theorem to find the point in the interval  $[0,4]$  where the function has a horizontal tangent line.

$$f(x) = -x^2 + 4x + 16$$

**Answer choices:**

- A       $(0,4)$
- B       $(-2,20)$
- C       $(0, -4)$
- D       $(2,20)$



**Solution: D**

Since this is a polynomial function, and we know that polynomial functions are continuous for all real numbers, we know that the function is continuous and differentiable on the interval  $[0,4]$ . Evaluating the function at the endpoints of the interval, we get

$$f(0) = -0^2 + 4(0) + 16$$

$$f(0) = 16$$

and

$$f(4) = -4^2 + 4(4) + 16$$

$$f(4) = 16$$

Since  $f(0) = 16 = f(4)$ , we've confirmed that the function over the given interval meets all three conditions of Rolle's Theorem.

Now we can find the point  $c$  by solving the equation  $f'(c) = 0$ .

$$f'(x) = -2x + 4$$

$$-2c + 4 = 0$$

$$2c = 4$$

$$c = 2$$

To find the coordinate point associated with  $c = 2$ , we'll plug it back into the original function.



$$f(2) = -2^2 + 4(2) + 16$$

$$f(2) = -4 + 8 + 16$$

$$f(2) = 20$$

The conclusion of Rolle's Theorem tells us that the function has a horizontal tangent line at (2,20) inside the interval [0,4].

