

1.

Ans.

$$f(x) = (x^2 - 1)^n$$

we need to

$$\text{So, } P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n$$

By the definition of Legendre polynomial,

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{r=0}^M (-1)^r \frac{(2n-2r)!}{2^n r! (n-r)! (n-2r)!} x^{n-2r}$$

where M

$$M = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor = \begin{cases} n/2, & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ (n-1)/2, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

By binomial Thm.

$$(x^2 - 1)^n = \sum_{r=0}^n {}^nC_r (x^2)^{n-r} (-1)^r = \sum_{r=0}^n {}^nC_r (-1)^r x^{2n-2r}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \sum_{r=0}^n {}^nC_r (-1)^r \frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^{2n-2r}$$

But

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^m = 0 \text{ if } m < n \text{ and } \frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^m = \frac{m!}{(m-n)!} x^{m-n}, \text{ if } m \geq n.$$

$$\therefore \frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^{2n-2r} = 0 \text{ if } 2n-2r < n \text{ i.e. } r > \frac{n}{2}.$$

we will have to replace $\sum_{r=0}^n$ by $\sum_{r=0}^{n/2}$ if n is even &by $\sum_{r=0}^{(n-1)/2}$ if n is odd.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2-1)^n &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \sum_{r=0}^{[n/2]} n(r) (-1)^r \frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^{2n-2r} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \sum_{r=0}^{[n/2]} n(r) (-1)^r \frac{(2n-2r)!}{(2n-2r-n)!} x^{2n-2r-n} \\
 &= \sum_{r=0}^{[n/2]} \frac{n! (-1)^r}{r! (n-r)!} \cdot \frac{(2n-2r)!}{(n-2r)!} x^{n-2r} \\
 &= P_n(x)
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, Proved that n th order derivative of $f^n(x) = (x^2-1)^n$ satisfies Legendre's diff. eqⁿ.

Also,

$$f^{(n)}(x) = C P_n(x).$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x^2-1)^n &= \sum_{r=0}^n n(r) (x^2)^{n-r} (-1)^r \\
 &= \sum_{r=0}^n n(r) (-1)^r x^{2n-2r}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2-1)^n = \sum_{r=0}^n n(r) (-1)^r \frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^{2n-2r}.$$

But, $\frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^m = 0$ if $m < n$ & $\frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^m = \frac{m!}{(m-n)!} x^{m-n}$, if $m \geq n$.

$$\frac{d^n}{da^n} x^{2n-2r} = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad 2n-2r < n \quad \text{i.e.} \quad r > \frac{n}{2}$$

we replace \sum

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so, } \frac{d^n}{da^n} (a^2-1)^n &= \sum_{r=0}^n \frac{n(n-1)\dots(2n-2r)!}{(n-2r)!} a^{n-2r} \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \frac{n(n-1)\dots(2n-2r)!}{r!(n-r)!(n-2r)!} a^{n-2r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d^n}{da^n} (a^2-1)^n = n! 2^n P_n(a)$$

$$f^n(a) = 2^n n! P_n(a)$$

So, the n^{th} derivative of $f(a) = (a^2-1)^n$ satisfies Legendre's diff. eqⁿ because $P_n(a)$ is Legendre's polynomial.

$$(1-a^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n+1)y = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{2^n n!} [(1-a^2)(f^n(a))'' - 2a(f^n(a))' + n(n+1)f^n(a)] = 0$$

$$\therefore f^n(a) = C P_n(a)$$

$$\therefore \boxed{C = 2^n n!}$$

Rodrigue's formula is - $P_n(a) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{da^n} (a^2-1)^n$
 $2^n n! P_n(a) = f^n(a)$

HENCE PROVED.