

$$p^2 - p + 1 = a^3 \Rightarrow p(p-1) = (a-1)(a^2+a+1)$$

$$\Rightarrow p \mid a-1 \text{ or } p \mid a^2+a+1 \quad \textcircled{1} \text{ point}$$

Clearly  $a > 1$

Case 1:  $p \mid a-1$

$\textcircled{2} \text{ points}$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{then } a \geq p+1 \\ \frac{a-1}{p} \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow \frac{p-1}{a^2+a+1} \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow a^2+a+1 \mid p-1 \\ \text{but } a^2+a+1 > p^2+p+1 > p-1 \end{array} \right. \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$   
 No solutions

Case 2:  $p \mid a^2+a+1$

$$\text{then } \frac{a^2+a+1}{p} = \frac{p-1}{a-1} = k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a^2+a+1 = pk \\ p-1 = (a-1)k \end{array} \right. \quad \textcircled{1} \text{ point}$$

$$\Rightarrow a^2+a+1 = ((a-1)k+1)k$$

$$\Rightarrow a^2 + (1-k^2)a + (k^2-k+1) = 0 \quad \textcircled{1} \text{ point}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{\Delta} \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow \sqrt{(1-k^2)^2 - 4(k^2-k+1)} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow k^4 - 6k^2 + 4k - 3 \text{ is a perfect square} \quad \textcircled{1} \text{ point}$$

but when  $k \geq 4$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} k^4 - 6k^2 + 4k - 3 &> (k^2 - 3)^2 \Leftrightarrow 4k - 3 > 9 \Leftrightarrow k > 3 \checkmark \\ k^4 - 6k^2 + 4k - 3 &< (k^2 - 2)^2 \Leftrightarrow 2k^2 - 4k > 1 \Leftrightarrow 2k(k-2) > 1 \checkmark \end{aligned} \quad \textcircled{3} \text{ points}$$

$\textcircled{1} \text{ point}$   $\left\{ \text{checking } k=1, 2, 3 \text{ and finding } k=3 \Rightarrow (p, a) = (19, 7) \right.$