Polynomial Function Patterns Summary

	Degree and Constant Differences	Concavity & Inflection Points & Extrema & Zeros	Sample Graph	End Behavior if leading coefficient > 0	End Behavior if leading coefficient < 0
Linear	1st degree constant 1st differences	0 concavity 0 inflection points 0 extrema 1 zero	10 8 6 4 2 0 2 6 8 10 x 4 4 4 5 6 7 8 x 10	As $x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$ As $x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$	$As x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$ $As x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$
Quadratic	2nd degree constant 2nd differences	1 concavity 0 inflection points 1 extrema up to 2 zeros	E 2 2 2 4 4 6 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	As $x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$ As $x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$	$As x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$ $As x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$
Cubic	3rd degree constant 3rd differences	2 concavities 1 inflection point 0 or 2 extrema up to 3 zeros	3 - 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 x	As $x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$ As $x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$	$As x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$ $As x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$
Quartic	4th degree constant 4th differences	1 or 3 concavities 0 or 2 inflection points 1 or 3 extrema up to 4 zeros	00 00 00 00 00 00 00	$As x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$ $As x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$	$As x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$ $As x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$
Quintic	5th degree constant 5th differences	2 or 4 concavities 1 or 3 inflection points 0, 2 or 4 extrema up to 5 zeros		$As x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$ $As x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$	$As x \to \infty$ $f(x) \to -\infty$ $As x \to -\infty$ $f(x) \to \infty$