Math 344 Quiz 3

Names: _____

1. L_k is the polynomial solution to $\frac{d}{dx} \left[xe^{-x}y' \right] = -ke^{-x}y$ that satisfies $L_k(0) = 1$. Find L_2 .

2. Show that if $k \neq m$, then $\int_0^\infty e^{-x} L_k L_m \, dx = 0$.

3. Given $\int_0^\infty e^{-x} L_k^2 dx = 1$, find a formula for the constant a_i which makes the approximation

$$f(x) \approx a_0 L_0 + \dots + a_i L_i + \dots + a_n L_n$$

as accurate as possible.

4 (Bonus! Only try when done with other problems). Let $p_k(x)$ be the k^{th} Legendre polynomial and let q(x) be a polynomial of degree less than k. Explain why $\int_{-1}^1 q(x) p_k(x) \, dx = 0$.