

**1998 Calculus BC Free-Response Questions**

6. A particle moves along the curve defined by the equation  $y = x^3 - 3x$ . The  $x$ -coordinate of the particle,  $x(t)$ , satisfies the equation  $\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2t+1}}$ , for  $t \geq 0$  with initial condition  $x(0) = -4$ .
- (a) Find  $x(t)$  in terms of  $t$ .
- (b) Find  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  in terms of  $t$ .
- (c) Find the location and speed of the particle at time  $t = 4$ .
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END OF EXAMINATION

## 1998 Calculus BC Scoring Guidelines

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(a) Find  $x(t)$  in terms of  $t$ .

(b) Find  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  in terms of  $t$ .

(c) Find the location and speed of the particle at time  $t = 4$ .

(a)  $x(t) = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2t+1}} dt$

$$x(t) = \sqrt{2t+1} + C$$

$$x(0) = -4 = 1 + C \implies C = -5$$

$$x(t) = \sqrt{2t+1} - 5$$

(b)  $y = x^3 - 3x$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 3x^2 \frac{dx}{dt} - 3 \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$= (3x^2 - 3) \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$= \left[ 3(\sqrt{2t+1} - 5)^2 - 3 \right] \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2t+1}} \right]$$

(c)  $x(4) = \sqrt{9} - 5 = -2$

$$y(4) = (-2)^3 - 3(-2) = -2$$

Location at  $t = 4$  is  $(-2, -2)$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} \Big|_{t=4} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} \Big|_{t=4} = \frac{3(3-5)^2 - 3}{3} = 3$$

$$\text{Speed} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{\frac{82}{9}} = 3.018$$

**3**  $\begin{cases} 1: x(t) = \int \frac{dt}{\sqrt{2t+1}} \\ 1: x(t) = \sqrt{2t+1} + C \\ 1: \text{evaluates } C \end{cases}$

**2:** answer

<-1> each error

Note: failure to express  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  solely in terms of  $t$  is a single error

**4**  $\begin{cases} 1: \text{position} \\ 1: \text{evaluates } \frac{dx}{dt} \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} \text{ at } t = 4 \\ 1: \text{uses speed formula} \\ 1: \text{answer} \end{cases}$