

2007 AP[®] CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

6. Let f be the function given by $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$.

(a) Write the first four nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for f about $x = 0$.

(b) Use your answer to part (a) to find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - x^2 - f(x)}{x^4}$.

(c) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Taylor series for $\int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt$ about $x = 0$. Use the first two terms of your answer to estimate $\int_0^{1/2} e^{-t^2} dt$.

(d) Explain why the estimate found in part (c) differs from the actual value of $\int_0^{1/2} e^{-t^2} dt$ by less than $\frac{1}{200}$.

WRITE ALL WORK IN THE PINK EXAM BOOKLET.

END OF EXAM

AP[®] CALCULUS BC
2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

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(a) Write the first four nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for f about $x = 0$.

(b) Use your answer to part (a) to find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - x^2 - f(x)}{x^4}$.

(c) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Taylor series for $\int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt$ about $x = 0$. Use the first two terms of your answer to estimate $\int_0^{1/2} e^{-t^2} dt$.

(d) Explain why the estimate found in part (c) differs from the actual value of $\int_0^{1/2} e^{-t^2} dt$ by less than $\frac{1}{200}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad e^{-x^2} &= 1 + \frac{(-x^2)}{1!} + \frac{(-x^2)^2}{2!} + \frac{(-x^2)^3}{3!} + \cdots + \frac{(-x^2)^n}{n!} + \cdots \\ &= 1 - x^2 + \frac{x^4}{2} - \frac{x^6}{6} + \cdots + \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{n!} + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

$$3 : \begin{cases} 1 : \text{two of } 1, -x^2, \frac{x^4}{2}, -\frac{x^6}{6} \\ 1 : \text{remaining terms} \\ 1 : \text{general term} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{(b)} \quad \frac{1 - x^2 - f(x)}{x^4} = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{x^2}{6} + \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{2n-4}}{n!}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1 - x^2 - f(x)}{x^4} \right) = -\frac{1}{2}.$$

1 : answer

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(c)} \quad \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt &= \int_0^x \left(1 - t^2 + \frac{t^4}{2} - \frac{t^6}{6} + \cdots + \frac{(-1)^n t^{2n}}{n!} + \cdots \right) dt \\ &= x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{10} - \frac{x^7}{42} + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

$$3 : \begin{cases} 1 : \text{two terms} \\ 1 : \text{remaining terms} \\ 1 : \text{estimate} \end{cases}$$

Using the first two terms of this series, we estimate that

$$\int_0^{1/2} e^{-t^2} dt \approx \frac{1}{2} - \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) \left(\frac{1}{8} \right) = \frac{11}{24}.$$

$$\text{(d)} \quad \left| \int_0^{1/2} e^{-t^2} dt - \frac{11}{24} \right| < \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^5 \cdot \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{320} < \frac{1}{200}, \text{ since}$$

$$\int_0^{1/2} e^{-t^2} dt = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{2n+1}}{n!(2n+1)}, \text{ which is an alternating series with individual terms that decrease in absolute value to 0.}$$

$$2 : \begin{cases} 1 : \text{uses the third term as the error bound} \\ 1 : \text{explanation} \end{cases}$$