

2019 AP[®] CALCULUS AB FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

6. Functions f , g , and h are twice-differentiable functions with $g(2) = h(2) = 4$. The line $y = 4 + \frac{2}{3}(x - 2)$ is tangent to both the graph of g at $x = 2$ and the graph of h at $x = 2$.

(a) Find $h'(2)$.

(b) Let a be the function given by $a(x) = 3x^3h(x)$. Write an expression for $a'(x)$. Find $a'(2)$.

(c) The function h satisfies $h(x) = \frac{x^2 - 4}{1 - (f(x))^3}$ for $x \neq 2$. It is known that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x)$ can be evaluated using

L'Hospital's Rule. Use $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x)$ to find $f(2)$ and $f'(2)$. Show the work that leads to your answers.

(d) It is known that $g(x) \leq h(x)$ for $1 < x < 3$. Let k be a function satisfying $g(x) \leq k(x) \leq h(x)$ for $1 < x < 3$. Is k continuous at $x = 2$? Justify your answer.

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Question 6

(a) $h'(2) = \frac{2}{3}$

1 : answer

(b) $a'(x) = 9x^2h(x) + 3x^3h'(x)$

$$a'(2) = 9 \cdot 2^2 h(2) + 3 \cdot 2^3 h'(2) = 36 \cdot 4 + 24 \cdot \frac{2}{3} = 160$$

3 : $\begin{cases} 1 : \text{form of product rule} \\ 1 : a'(x) \\ 1 : a'(2) \end{cases}$

(c) Because h is differentiable, h is continuous, so $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x) = h(2) = 4$.

Also, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4}{1 - (f(x))^3}$, so $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4}{1 - (f(x))^3} = 4$.

Because $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x^2 - 4) = 0$, we must also have $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (1 - (f(x))^3) = 0$.

Thus $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = 1$.

Because f is differentiable, f is continuous, so $f(2) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = 1$.

Also, because f is twice differentiable, f' is continuous, so

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f'(x) = f'(2)$ exists.

Using L'Hospital's Rule,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4}{1 - (f(x))^3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{2x}{-3(f(x))^2 f'(x)} = \frac{4}{-3(1)^2 \cdot f'(2)} = 4.$$

Thus $f'(2) = -\frac{1}{3}$.

4 : $\begin{cases} 1 : \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4}{1 - (f(x))^3} = 4 \\ 1 : f(2) \\ 1 : \text{L'Hospital's Rule} \\ 1 : f'(2) \end{cases}$

(d) Because g and h are differentiable, g and h are continuous, so

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x) = g(2) = 4 \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x) = h(2) = 4.$$

Because $g(x) \leq k(x) \leq h(x)$ for $1 < x < 3$, it follows from the squeeze theorem that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} k(x) = 4$.

Also, $4 = g(2) \leq k(2) \leq h(2) = 4$, so $k(2) = 4$.

Thus k is continuous at $x = 2$.

1 : continuous with justification