

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 $t = 4$.
-

END OF EXAMINATION

1998 Calculus BC Scoring Guidelines

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 $t = 4$.

(a) $x(t) = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2t+1}} dt$
 $x(t) = \sqrt{2t+1} + C$
 $x(0) = -4 = 1 + C \Rightarrow C = -5$
 $x(t) = \sqrt{2t+1} - 5$

(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 $(-2, -2)$
 $\frac{dx}{dt} \Big|_{t=4} = \frac{1}{3}$
 $\frac{dy}{dt} \Big|_{t=4} = \frac{3(3-5)^2 - 3}{3} = 3$

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

3 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1: x(t) = \int \frac{dt}{\sqrt{2t+1}} \\ 1: x(t) = \sqrt{2t+1} + C \\ 1: \text{evaluates } C \end{array} \right.$

2: answer

<-1> each error

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

4 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1: \text{position} \\ 1: \text{evaluates } \frac{dx}{dt} \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} \text{ at } t = 4 \\ 1: \text{uses speed formula} \\ 1: \text{answer} \end{array} \right.$