

2015 AP[®] CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

6. The Maclaurin series for a function f is given by $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-3)^{n-1}}{n} x^n = x - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + 3x^3 - \dots + \frac{(-3)^{n-1}}{n} x^n + \dots$ and converges to $f(x)$ for $|x| < R$, where R is the radius of convergence of the Maclaurin series.
- (a) Use the ratio test to find R .
- (b) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for f' , the derivative of f . Express f' as a rational function for $|x| < R$.
- (c) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for e^x . Use the Maclaurin series for e^x to write the third-degree Taylor polynomial for $g(x) = e^x f(x)$ about $x = 0$.
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STOP

END OF EXAM

**AP[®] CALCULUS BC
2015 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 6

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- (a) Let a_n be the n th term of the Maclaurin series.

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{(-3)^n x^{n+1}}{n+1} \cdot \frac{n}{(-3)^{n-1} x^n} = \frac{-3n}{n+1} \cdot x$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{-3n}{n+1} \cdot x \right| = 3|x|$$

$$3|x| < 1 \Rightarrow |x| < \frac{1}{3}$$

The radius of convergence is $R = \frac{1}{3}$.

- (b) The first four nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for f' are $1 - 3x + 9x^2 - 27x^3$.

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1 - (-3x)} = \frac{1}{1 + 3x}$$

- (c) The first four nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for e^x are $1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!}$.

The product of the Maclaurin series for e^x and the Maclaurin series for f is

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots\right) \left(x - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + 3x^3 - \dots\right) \\ &= x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 2x^3 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

The third-degree Taylor polynomial for $g(x) = e^x f(x)$

about $x = 0$ is $T_3(x) = x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 2x^3$.

3 : $\begin{cases} 1 : \text{sets up ratio} \\ 1 : \text{computes limit of ratio} \\ 1 : \text{determines radius of convergence} \end{cases}$

3 : $\begin{cases} 2 : \text{first four nonzero terms} \\ 1 : \text{rational function} \end{cases}$

3 : $\begin{cases} 1 : \text{first four nonzero terms} \\ \quad \text{of the Maclaurin series for } e^x \\ 2 : \text{Taylor polynomial} \end{cases}$