

**2015 AP® CALCULUS AB FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

6. Consider the curve given by the equation  $y^3 - xy = 2$ . It can be shown that  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{3y^2 - x}$ .
- (a) Write an equation for the line tangent to the curve at the point  $(-1, 1)$ .
- (b) Find the coordinates of all points on the curve at which the line tangent to the curve at that point is vertical.
- (c) Evaluate  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  at the point on the curve where  $x = -1$  and  $y = 1$ .
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**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

**AP<sup>®</sup> CALCULUS AB  
2015 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 6**

Consider the curve given by the equation  $y^3 - xy = 2$ . It can be shown that  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{3y^2 - x}$ .

- (a) Write an equation for the line tangent to the curve at the point  $(-1, 1)$ .
  - (b) Find the coordinates of all points on the curve at which the line tangent to the curve at that point is vertical.
  - (c) Evaluate  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  at the point on the curve where  $x = -1$  and  $y = 1$ .
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(a)  $\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{(x,y)=(-1,1)} = \frac{1}{3(1)^2 - (-1)} = \frac{1}{4}$

An equation for the tangent line is  $y = \frac{1}{4}(x + 1) + 1$ .

(b)  $3y^2 - x = 0 \Rightarrow x = 3y^2$

So,  $y^3 - xy = 2 \Rightarrow y^3 - (3y^2)(y) = 2 \Rightarrow y = -1$

$(-1)^3 - x(-1) = 2 \Rightarrow x = 3$

The tangent line to the curve is vertical at the point  $(3, -1)$ .

(c) 
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= \frac{(3y^2 - x)\frac{dy}{dx} - y\left(6y\frac{dy}{dx} - 1\right)}{(3y^2 - x)^2} \\ \left. \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right|_{(x,y)=(-1,1)} &= \frac{\left(3 \cdot 1^2 - (-1)\right) \cdot \frac{1}{4} - 1 \cdot \left(6 \cdot 1 \cdot \frac{1}{4} - 1\right)}{\left(3 \cdot 1^2 - (-1)\right)^2} \\ &= \frac{1 - \frac{1}{2}}{16} = \frac{1}{32} \end{aligned}$$

2 :  $\begin{cases} 1 : \text{slope} \\ 1 : \text{equation for tangent line} \end{cases}$

3 :  $\begin{cases} 1 : \text{sets } 3y^2 - x = 0 \\ 1 : \text{equation in one variable} \\ 1 : \text{coordinates} \end{cases}$

4 :  $\begin{cases} 2 : \text{implicit differentiation} \\ 1 : \text{substitution for } \frac{dy}{dx} \\ 1 : \text{answer} \end{cases}$