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The gradient of a curve is given by $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x - 2$. The curve passes through the point (-1, 4). What is the equation of the curve?

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x - 2$$
State Mean:
1.22/2

$$y = 3x^2 - 2x + c$$

Subs in (-1, 4):

$$4 = 3 \times (-1)^2 - 2 \times (-1) + c$$

$$4 = 3 + 2 + c$$

$$c = 4 - 5$$

= -1

 $\therefore \text{ the equation is } y = 3x^2 - 2x - 1$

Board of Studies: Notes from the Marking Centre

The most common error was to substitute x = -1 into $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x - 2$ then find the

equation of the tangent to the curve, instead of finding the equation of the curve itself. Some integrated correctly, but then did not substitute the point (-1, 4) correctly to evaluate the constant of integration. Many substituted 0 for y.

Source: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc_exams/

 $^{^{*}}$ These solutions have been provided by $\underline{\textit{projectmaths}}$ and are not supplied or endorsed by the Board of Studies