Evaluate:

$$\lim_{x \to -1} \frac{5x^2 - 4x + 7}{x - 8} = \frac{\lim_{x \to -1} 5x^2 - 4x + 7}{\lim_{x \to -1} x - 8}$$

$$= \frac{5 \lim_{x \to -1} x^2 - 4 \lim_{x \to -1} x + \lim_{x \to -1} 7}{\lim_{x \to -1} x - 8}$$

$$= \frac{5(1) - 4(-1) + 7}{-1 - 8} = -1.778$$