

Class 12 Mathematics – Differential Equations

This guide is designed exactly as you asked—simple language, diagrams, flowcharts, formulas, solved examples, PYQs, revision notes, and exam tricks.

1. THEORY IN SIMPLE WORDS WITH VISUALS

★ 1.1 What is a Differential Equation?

A **Differential Equation (DE)** is an equation that contains:

- A function (like y)
- Its derivatives (dy/dx , d^2y/dx^2 , etc.)

 **Analogy:**

Imagine a recipe that tells you not the final dish directly, but **how the dish is changing** at every step.

That “change rule” = differential equation.

★ 1.2 Order & Degree (Super Important!)

Concept	Meaning	Easy Trick
Order	Highest derivative present	Count highest derivative (dy/dx , d^2y/dx^2 ...)
Degree	Power of highest derivative (after removing roots & fractions)	Only consider powers

 **Example:**

$$(d^2y/dx^2)^3 + (dy/dx)^2 = 5x$$

- Order = 2
 - Degree = 3
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★ 1.3 General & Particular Solutions

Type	Meaning	Example
General Solution	Contains constant C	$y = 2x + C$
Particular Solution	Found using given condition	$y(0) = 5$

 **Think like:**

General = “Family of curves”

Particular = "One member of family"

★ 1.4 Formation of Differential Equation

To form a DE, **differentiate** and **eliminate constants**.

🎨 Steps:

Step 1: Start **with** equation involving constants (C1, C2)

Step 2: Differentiate **as** many times **as** number **of** constants

Step 3: Eliminate constants

→ Result **is** differential equation

★ 1.5 Types of Differential Equations (Class 12)

1. Variable Separable
2. Homogeneous Differential Equations
3. Linear Differential Equations

We solve these three only.

★ 1.6 Variable Separable Method

If you can write:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) g(y)$$

Then separate variables:

$$\frac{dy}{g(y)} = f(x) dx$$

Integrate both sides.

🎨 Visual: Think of splitting two angry kids into separate rooms (x-room & y-room).

★ 1.7 Homogeneous Differential Equation

Form:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$$

Use substitution:

$$y = vx \Rightarrow dy/dx = v + xdv/dx$$

★ 1.8 Linear Differential Equation

Form:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)$$

Solution uses **Integrating Factor (IF)**:

$$IF = e^{\int P(x)dx}$$

Final solution:

$$y(IF) = \int Q(x)(IF)dx + C$$

🧠 Memory Trick:

"IF → Multiply → Integrate → Divide"

🧠 2. KEY CONCEPTS & FORMULAS (EASY TABLES)

★ Table: Summary of All Types

Type of DE	Standard Form	Method
Variable Separable	$dy/dx = f(x) g(y)$	Separate + integrate
Homogeneous	$dy/dx = F(y/x)$	Put $y = vx$
Linear	$dy/dx + P(x)y = Q(x)$	IF method

★ Integrating Factor Formula

$$IF = e^{\int P(x)dx}$$

★ Linear DE Final Formula

$$y \cdot IF = \int (Q \cdot IF)dx + C$$



Mnemonic:

"Multiply → Integrate → Divide → Done!"



3. SOLVED NUMERICAL PROBLEMS



TYPE 1: Variable Separable

Q1. Solve:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xy$$

Step 1: Separate variables

$$\frac{dy}{y} = x dx$$

Step 2: Integrate

$$\ln |y| = \frac{x^2}{2} + C$$

Step 3: Final answer

$$y = C e^{x^2/2}$$



TYPE 2: Homogeneous

Q2. Solve:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{x+y}{x} \\ &= 1 + \frac{y}{x}\end{aligned}$$

Put $y = vx$

$dy/dx = v + x dv/dx$

$$v + x dv/dx = 1 + v$$

Cancel v :

$$x dv/dx = 1$$

Integrate:

$$v = \ln x + C$$

Substitute $v = y/x$:

$$\frac{y}{x} = \ln x + C$$

Final:

$$y = x(\ln x + C)$$

★ TYPE 3: Linear Differential Equation

Q3. Solve:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + y = e^x$$

Here $P(x) = 1$

$$IF = e^{\int 1 dx} = e^x$$

Multiply equation by IF:

$$e^x \frac{dy}{dx} + e^x y = e^{2x}$$

LHS = derivative of ye^x

$$\frac{d}{dx}(ye^x) = e^{2x}$$

Integrate:

$$ye^x = \frac{e^{2x}}{2} + C$$

Final:

$$y = \frac{e^x}{2} + Ce^{-x}$$



4. PREVIOUS YEARS' BOARD QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

★ PYQ 1:

Solve:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{x}$$

Separable:

$$\frac{dy}{y} = \frac{dx}{x}$$

Integrate:

$$\ln y = \ln x + C$$

$$y = Cx$$

★ PYQ 2:

Solve the linear DE:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 1$$

$$\text{IF} = e^{2x}$$

$$ye^{2x} = \frac{e^{2x}}{2} + C$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2} + Ce^{-2x}$$

★ PYQ 3:

Solve:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2}{y}$$

Separable:

$$y \, dy = x^2 \, dx$$

Integrate:

$$\frac{y^2}{2} = \frac{x^3}{3} + C$$

★ PYQ 4: Form the differential equation of

$$y = Ae^{2x} + B$$

Differentiate twice → eliminate A, B.

Final answer:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4y = 0$$

⚡ 5. QUICK REVISION NOTES (1–2 Pages)

★ Must-Know Quick Concepts

- DE = equation with derivatives
 - Order = highest derivative
 - Degree = power of highest derivative
 - Variable separable → split x & y
 - Homogeneous → substitute $y = vx$
 - Linear → IF method
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★ Formula Flashcards

- 📌 IF = $e^{\int P \, dx}$
 - 📌 Linear DE: $y' + P y = Q$
 - 📌 Homogeneous: $y = vx$
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★ Exam-Ready Flowchart

Given DE →

Check if separable?

Yes → separate & integrate

No → check if homogeneous?

Yes → $y = vx$

No → check if linear?

Yes → IF method

Else → Not in Class 12 syllabus

🌟 6. PREDICTED / LIKELY BOARD QUESTIONS

2–3 Mark Questions

- Solve separable DE like $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2 + y^2}{xy}$
- Homogeneous DE manipulation
- Simple forming DE from given family

5–6 Mark Questions

- Linear DE with IF
- Homogeneous + initial condition
- Formation of DE by eliminating constants (order 2 mostly)

Diagram-Based

- Identify type from graph / pattern
- Show family of curves



7. EXAM TIPS & TRICKS

★ Magic Trick 1: Identify Type in 5 Seconds

Look for patterns:

Clue	Type
Multiplying x & y terms	Separable
y/x appears	Homogeneous
$dy/dx + P(x)y$	Linear

★ Magic Trick 2: Always Write IF Formula

Even if you forget, you get partial marks.

★ Magic Trick 3: Don't forget "+ C"

5–10% marks lost by this mistake!

★ Magic Trick 4: Use substitution neatly

Better handwriting = better marks in DE.



8. VISUAL & KID-FRIENDLY MEMORY AIDS



Separable = Two rooms (x -room & y -room).



Homogeneous = Replace y by vx (v rides on x 's shoulder!)

- 🧠 Linear = Magic IF lamp (rub \rightarrow solution appears).
- 🧠 Order = How many floors (derivatives)
- 🧠 Degree = How many power-ups (powers).