Unit 7: Differentiation

Subunit 7.3: Applications of differentiation

Topical Question No: 1

1 The function f is defined by $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{3x+2} + x^2$ for $x < -1$.

Determine whether f is an increasing function, a decreasing function or neither. [3]

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Topical Question No: 2

4 A curve has equation $y = x^2 - 2x - 3$. A point is moving along the curve in such a way that at P the y-coordinate is increasing at 4 units per second and the x-coordinate is increasing at 6 units per second.

Find the x-coordinate of P. [4]

Topical Question No: 3

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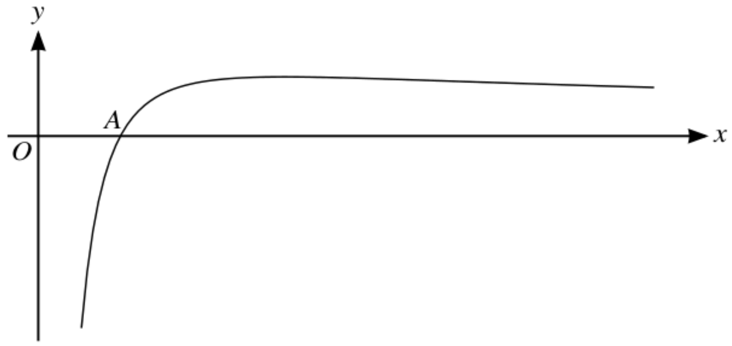

The diagram shows the curve with equation $y = 9\left(x^{-\frac{1}{2}} - 4x^{-\frac{3}{2}}\right)$. The curve crosses the x-axis at the point A.

(a) Find the x-coordinate of A. [2]

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(b) Find the equation of the tangent to the curve at A. [4]

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(c) Find the x-coordinate of the maximum point of the curve. [2]

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6 A curve is such that $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{6}{(3x-2)^3}$ and $A\,(1,\ -3)$ lies on the curve. A point is moving along the curve and at A the y-coordinate of the point is increasing at 3 units per second.

(a) Find the rate of increase at A of the x-coordinate of the point. [3]

(b) Find the equation of the curve. [4]

10 At the point $(4, -1)$ on a curve, the gradient of the curve is $-\frac{3}{2}$. It is given that $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + k$, where k is a constant.

(a) Show that $k = -2$. [1]

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(b) Find the equation of the curve. [4]

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(c) Find the coordinates of the stationary point. [3]

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Topical Question No: 6

3 A curve has equation $y = \frac{1}{60}(3x + 1)^2$ and a point is moving along the curve.

Find the x-coordinate of the point on the curve at which the x- and y-coordinates are increasing at the same rate. [4]

5 A curve has the equation $y = \dfrac{3}{2x^2 - 5}$.

Find the equation of the normal to the curve at the point $(2, 1)$, giving your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers. [6]

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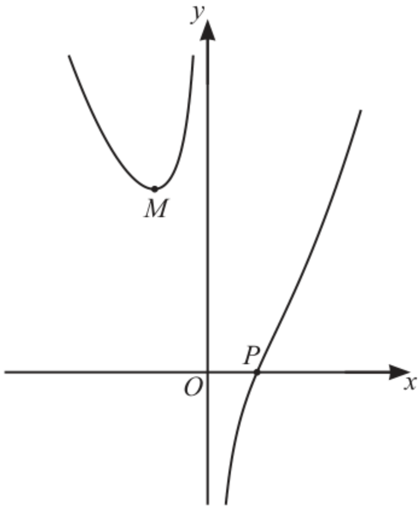

The diagram shows the curve with equation $y = 2x^2 - \frac{5}{x} + 3$. The curve crosses the x-axis at the point $P(1, 0)$ and M is a minimum point.

(a) Find the gradient of the curve at P. [2]

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(b) Find the coordinates of M. Give each coordinate correct to 3 significant figures. [3]

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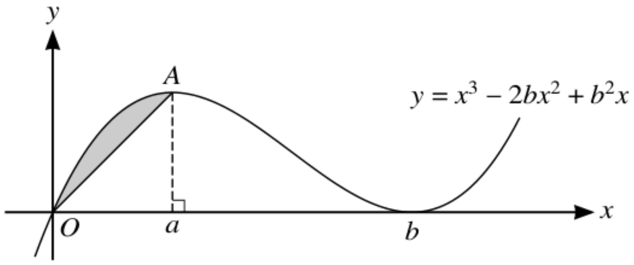

The diagram shows part of the curve with equation $y = x^3 - 2bx^2 + b^2x$ and the line OA, where A is the maximum point on the curve. The x-coordinate of A is a and the curve has a minimum point at $(b, 0)$, where a and b are positive constants.

(a) Show that $b = 3a$. [4]

(b) Show that the area of the shaded region between the line and the curve is ka^4, where k is a fraction to be found. [7]

6 A point P is moving along a curve in such a way that the x-coordinate of P is increasing at a constant rate of 2 units per minute. The equation of the curve is $y = (5x - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$.

(a) Find the rate at which the y-coordinate is increasing when $x = 1$. [4]

(b) Find the value of x when the y-coordinate is increasing at $\frac{5}{8}$ units per minute. [3]

11 The equation of a curve is $y = 2\sqrt{3x+4} - x$.

(a) Find the equation of the normal to the curve at the point (4, 4), giving your answer in the form $y = mx + c$. [5]

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(b) Find the coordinates of the stationary point. [3]

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(c) Determine the nature of the stationary point. [2]

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6 The equation of a curve is $y = (2k - 3)x^2 - kx - (k - 2)$, where k is a constant. The line $y = 3x - 4$ is a tangent to the curve.

Find the value of k. [5]

3 The equation of a curve is $y = (x - 3)\sqrt{x + 1} + 3$. The following points lie on the curve. Non-exact values are rounded to 4 decimal places.

$A\,(2, k)$ $B\,(2.9, 2.8025)$ $C\,(2.99, 2.9800)$ $D\,(2.999, 2.9980)$ $E\,(3, 3)$

(a) Find k, giving your answer correct to 4 decimal places. [1]

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(b) Find the gradient of AE, giving your answer correct to 4 decimal places. [1]

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The gradients of BE, CE and DE, rounded to 4 decimal places, are 1.9748, 1.9975 and 1.9997 respectively.

(c) State, giving a reason for your answer, what the values of the four gradients suggest about the gradient of the curve at the point E. [2]

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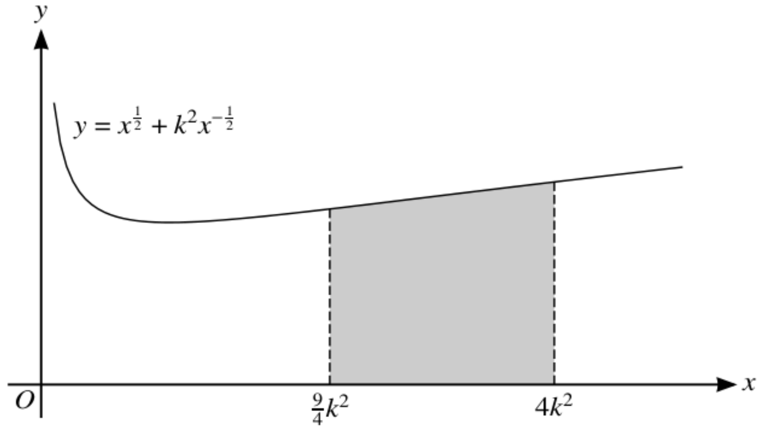

The diagram shows part of the curve with equation $y = x^{\frac{1}{2}} + k^2x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, where k is a positive constant.

(a) Find the coordinates of the minimum point of the curve, giving your answer in terms of k. [4]

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The tangent at the point on the curve where $x = 4k^2$ intersects the y-axis at P.

(b) Find the y-coordinate of P in terms of k. [4]

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2 The function f is defined by $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}(2x - 1)^{\frac{3}{2}} - 2x$ for $\frac{1}{2} < x < a$. It is given that f is a decreasing function.

Find the maximum possible value of the constant a. [4]

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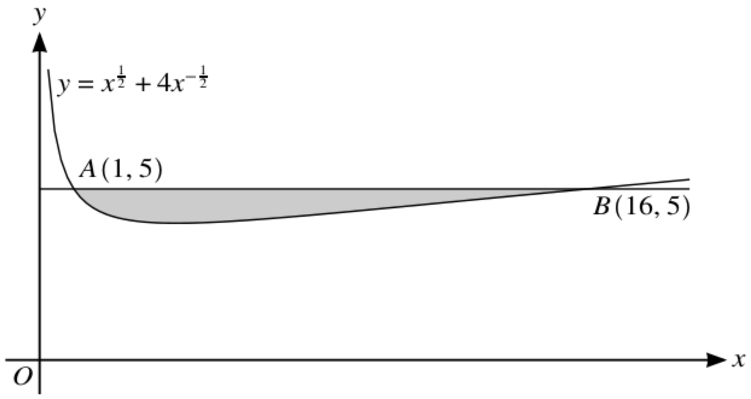

The diagram shows the curve with equation $y = x^{\frac{1}{2}} + 4x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. The line $y = 5$ intersects the curve at the points $A\,(1,\ 5)$ and $B\,(16,\ 5)$.

(a) Find the equation of the tangent to the curve at the point A. [4]

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(b) Calculate the area of the shaded region. [4]

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9 Water is poured into a tank at a constant rate of $500\,\text{cm}^3$ per second. The depth of water in the tank, t seconds after filling starts, is h cm. When the depth of water in the tank is h cm, the volume, $V\,\text{cm}^3$, of water in the tank is given by the formula $V = \frac{4}{3}(25 + h)^3 - \frac{62500}{3}$.

(a) Find the rate at which h is increasing at the instant when $h = 10$ cm. [3]

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(b) At another instant, the rate at which h is increasing is 0.075 cm per second.

Find the value of V at this instant. [3]

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11 The equation of a curve is

$$y = k\sqrt{4x + 1} - x + 5,$$

where k is a positive constant.

(a) Find $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$. [2]

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(b) Find the x-coordinate of the stationary point in terms of k. [2]

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(c) Given that $k = 10.5$, find the equation of the normal to the curve at the point where the tangent to the curve makes an angle of $\tan^{-1}(2)$ with the positive x-axis. [4]

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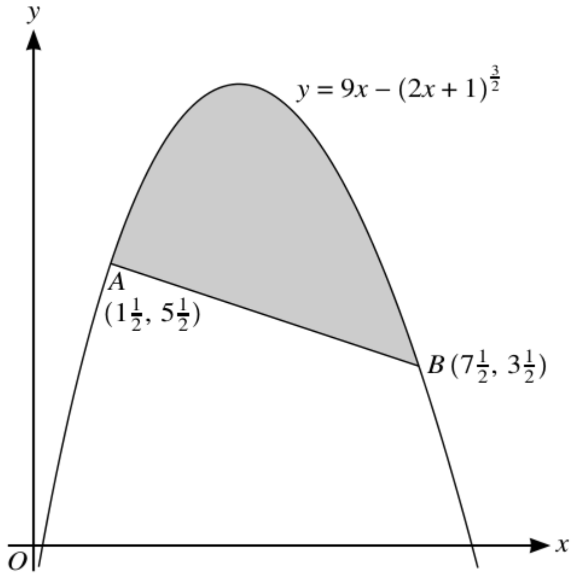

The diagram shows the points $A\left(1\frac{1}{2}, 5\frac{1}{2}\right)$ and $B\left(7\frac{1}{2}, 3\frac{1}{2}\right)$ lying on the curve with equation $y = 9x - (2x+1)^{\frac{3}{2}}$.

(a) Find the coordinates of the maximum point of the curve. [4]

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(b) Verify that the line AB is the normal to the curve at A. [3]

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9 A curve which passes through $(0, 3)$ has equation $y = \mathrm{f}(x)$. It is given that $\mathrm{f}'(x) = 1 - \dfrac{2}{(x-1)^3}$.

(a) Find the equation of the curve. [4]

The tangent to the curve at $(0, 3)$ intersects the curve again at one other point, P.

(b) Show that the x-coordinate of P satisfies the equation $(2x + 1)(x - 1)^2 - 1 = 0$. [4]

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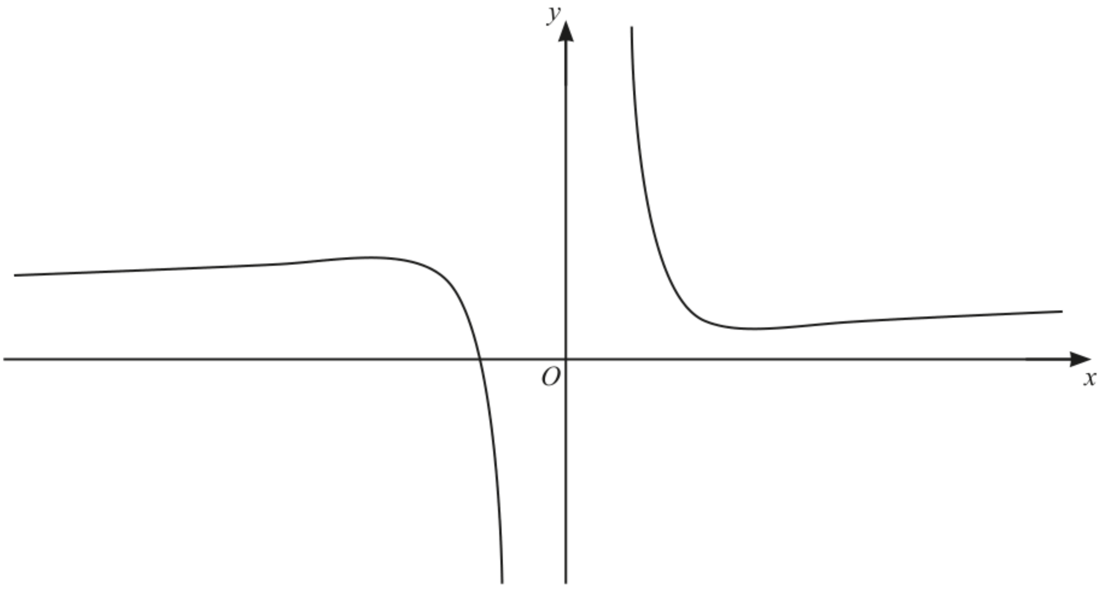

A function is defined by $f(x) = \frac{4}{x^3} - \frac{3}{x} + 2$ for $x \neq 0$. The graph of $y = f(x)$ is shown in the diagram.

(a) Find the set of values of x for which $f(x)$ is decreasing. [5]

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(b) A triangle is bounded by the y-axis, the normal to the curve at the point where $x = 1$ and the tangent to the curve at the point where $x = -1$.

Find the area of the triangle. Give your answer correct to 3 significant figures. [8]

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10 The equation of a curve is $y = (5-2x)^{\frac{3}{2}} + 5$ for $x < \frac{5}{2}$.

(a) A point P is moving along the curve in such a way that the y-coordinate of point P is decreasing at 5 units per second.

Find the rate at which the x-coordinate of point P is increasing when $y = 32$. [4]

(b) Point A on the curve has y-coordinate 32. Point B on the curve is such that the gradient of the curve at B is -3.

Find the equation of the perpendicular bisector of AB. Give your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$, where a, b and c are integers. [6]

9 A function f is such that $f'(x) = 6(2x-3)^2 - 6x$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

(a) Determine the set of values of x for which $f(x)$ is decreasing. [4]

(b) Given that $f(1) = -1$, find $f(x)$. [4]

6 A curve passes through the point $\left(\frac{4}{5}, -3\right)$ and is such that $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-20}{(5x-3)^2}$.

(a) Find the equation of the curve. [4]

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(b) The curve is transformed by a stretch in the x-direction with scale factor $\frac{1}{2}$ followed by a translation of $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$.

Find the equation of the new curve. [3]

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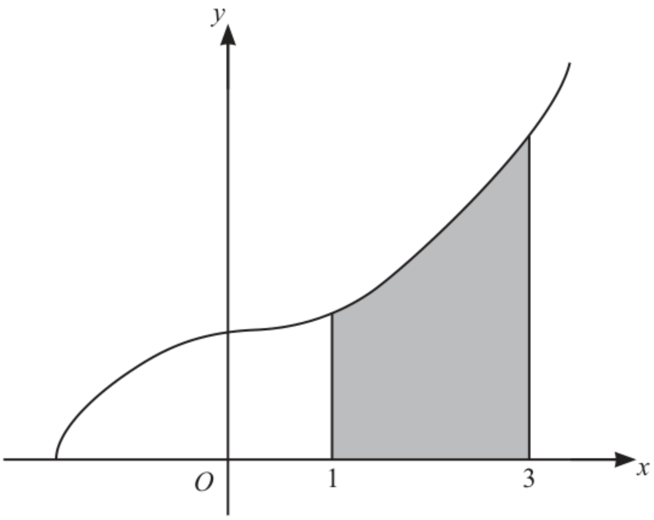

The diagram shows the curve with equation $y = \sqrt{2x^3 + 10}$.

(a) Find the equation of the tangent to the curve at the point where $x = 3$. Give your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$ where a, b and c are integers. [5]

(b) The region shaded in the diagram is enclosed by the curve and the straight lines $x = 1$, $x = 3$ and $y = 0$.

Find the volume of the solid obtained when the shaded region is rotated through 360° about the x-axis. [3]

2 The equation of a curve is such that $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4(2x-5)^3 - 9x^{\frac{1}{2}}$. The curve passes through the point $A\left(4, -\frac{11}{2}\right)$.

(a) Find the gradient of the normal to the curve at the point A. [2]

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(b) Find the equation of the curve. [4]

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7 The equation of a curve is $y = 4x^2 + \frac{9}{x^2} - 8$.

(a) A point P is moving along the curve in such a way that its y-coordinate is decreasing at 5 units per second.

Find the rate at which the x-coordinate of point P is changing when $x = 2$. [4]

(b) Find the coordinates of the stationary points of the curve and determine their nature. [5]