

# Differentiation

Go to the appropriate Past Paper for the answers

## 2019 Paper 1

The box is a cuboid with a cuboid shaped tunnel through it.

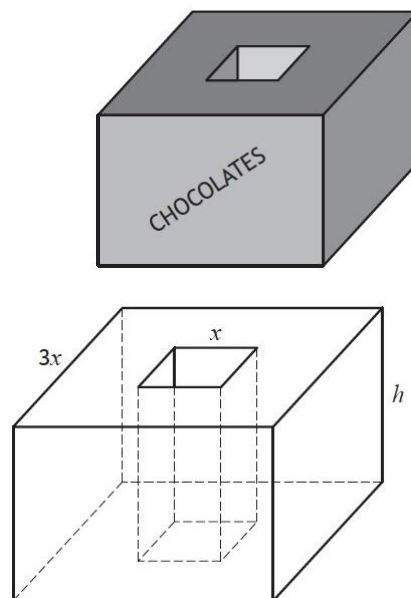
- The height of the box is  $h$  centimetres
- The top of the box is a square of side  $3x$  centimetres
- The end of the tunnel is a square of side  $x$  centimetres
- The volume of the box is  $2000 \text{ cm}^3$

- (a) Show that the total surface area,  $A \text{ cm}^2$ , of the box is given by

$$A = 16x^2 + \frac{4000}{x}.$$

- (b) To minimise the cost of production, the surface area,  $A$ , of the box should be as small as possible.

Find the minimum value of  $A$ .



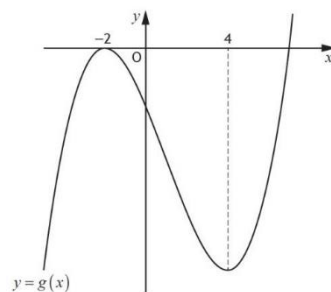
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## 2019 Paper 2

5. The diagram below shows the graph of a cubic function  $y = g(x)$ , with stationary points at  $x = -2$  and  $x = 4$ .

sketch the graph of  $y = g'(x)$ .



2

## 2019 Paper 1

1. Find the  $x$ -coordinates of the stationary points on the curve with equation

$$y = \frac{1}{2}x^4 - 2x^3 + 6.$$

4

## 2018 Paper 2

9. A sector with a particular fixed area has radius  $x \text{ cm}$ .

The perimeter,  $P \text{ cm}$ , of the sector is given by

$$P = 2x + \frac{128}{x}.$$

Find the minimum value of  $P$ .

6

## 2018 Paper 1

15. A cubic function,  $f$ , is defined on the set of real numbers.

- $(x+4)$  is a factor of  $f(x)$
- $x=2$  is a repeated root of  $f(x)$
- $f'(-2)=0$
- $f'(x) > 0$  where the graph with equation  $y=f(x)$  crosses the  $y$ -axis

Sketch a possible graph of  $y=f(x)$

4

## 2018 Paper 1

10. Given that

- $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2 - 3x + 4$ , and
- $y = 14$  when  $x = 2$ ,

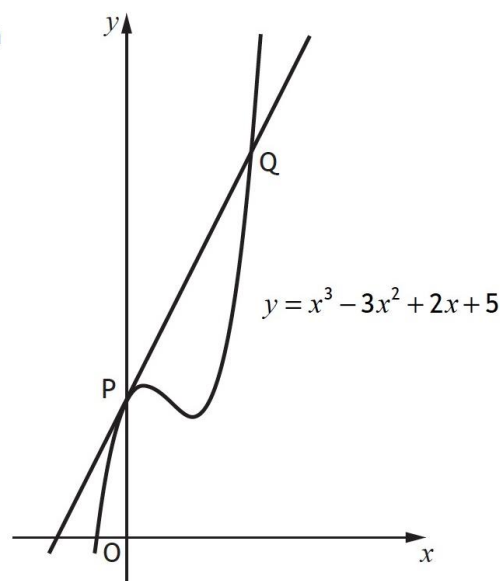
express  $y$  in terms of  $x$ .

4

## 2018 Paper 1

7. The curve with equation  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x + 5$  is shown

- Write down the coordinates of P, the point where the curve crosses the  $y$ -axis.
- Determine the equation of the tangent to the curve at P.
- Find the coordinates of Q, the point where this tangent meets the curve again.



1

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## 2018 Paper 2

6. (a) Express  $3x^2 + 24x + 50$  in the form  $a(x+b)^2 + c$ .

(b) Given that  $f(x) = x^3 + 12x^2 + 50x - 11$ , find  $f'(x)$ .

(c) Hence, or otherwise, explain why the curve with equation  $y=f(x)$  is strictly increasing for all values of  $x$ .

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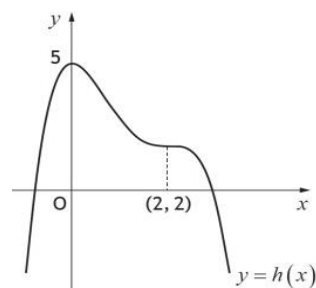
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## Specimen 5 Paper 2

7. The diagram below shows the graph of a quartic  $y = h(x)$ , with stationary points at  $(0, 5)$  and  $(2, 2)$ .

sketch the graphs of:  $y = h'(x)$ .

When checking the answers look at part (b)



3

## Specimen Paper 1

13. The curve  $y = f(x)$  is such that  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4x - 6x^2$ . The curve passes through the point  $(-1, 9)$ . Express  $y$  in terms of  $x$ .

4

## 2017 Paper 2

4. (a) Express  $3x^2 + 24x + 50$  in the form  $a(x+b)^2 + c$ .  
(b) Given that  $f(x) = x^3 + 12x^2 + 50x - 11$ , find  $f'(x)$ .  
(c) Hence, or otherwise, explain why the curve with equation  $y = f(x)$  is strictly increasing for all values of  $x$ .

3

2

2

## 2017 Paper 2

7. (a) Find the  $x$ -coordinate of the stationary point on the curve with equation  $y = 6x - 2\sqrt{x^3}$ .  
(b) Hence, determine the greatest and least values of  $y$  in the interval  $1 \leq x \leq 9$ .

4

3

## 2017 Paper 1

3. Given  $y = (4x - 1)^{12}$ , find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

2

## 2017 Paper 1

8. Calculate the rate of change of  $d(t) = \frac{1}{2t}$ ,  $t \neq 0$ , when  $t = 5$ .

3

## 2016 Paper 1

2. Given that  $y = 12x^3 + 8\sqrt{x}$ , where  $x > 0$ , find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

3

## 2016 Paper 1

9. (a) Find the  $x$ -coordinates of the stationary points on the graph with equation  $y = f(x)$ , where  $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 24x$ . 4
- (b) Hence determine the range of values of  $x$  for which the function  $f$  is strictly increasing. 2

## 2016 Paper 2

7. A council is setting aside an area of land to create six fenced plots where local residents can grow their own food.

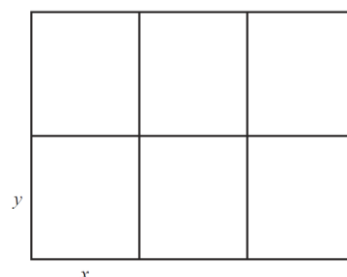
Each plot will be a rectangle measuring  $x$  metres by  $y$  metres as shown in the diagram.

- (a) The area of land being set aside is  $108 \text{ m}^2$ .

Show that the total length of fencing,  $L$  metres, is given by

$$L(x) = 9x + \frac{144}{x}.$$

- (b) Find the value of  $x$  that minimises the length of fencing required.



## New 2015 Paper 1

2. Find the equation of the tangent to the curve  $y = 2x^3 + 3$  at the point where  $x = -2$ . 4

## New 2015 Paper 1

7. A function  $f$  is defined on a suitable domain by  $f(x) = \sqrt{x} \left( 3x - \frac{2}{x\sqrt{x}} \right)$ . 4

Find  $f'(4)$ .

## New 2015 Paper 2

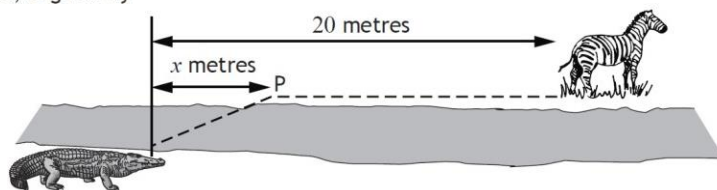
8. A crocodile is stalking prey located 20 metres further upstream on the opposite bank of a river.

Crocodiles travel at different speeds on land and in water.

The time taken for the crocodile to reach its prey can be minimised if it swims to a particular point, P,  $x$  metres upstream on the other side of the river as shown in the diagram.

The time taken,  $T$ , measured in tenths of a second, is given by

$$T(x) = 5\sqrt{36 + x^2} + 4(20 - x)$$



- (a) (i) Calculate the time taken if the crocodile does not travel on land. 1
- (ii) Calculate the time taken if the crocodile swims the shortest distance possible. 1
- (b) Between these two extremes there is one value of  $x$  which minimises the time taken. Find this value of  $x$  and hence calculate the minimum possible time. 8

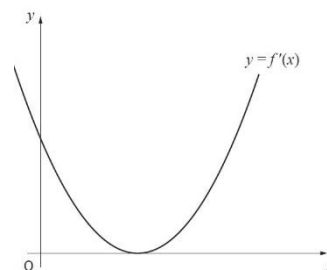
## Specimen 4 Paper 1

11. The diagram shows the graph of  $y = f'(x)$ . The  $x$ -axis is a tangent to this graph.

(a) Explain why the function  $f(x)$  is never decreasing.

(b) On a graph of  $y = f(x)$ , the  $y$ -coordinate of the stationary point is negative.

Sketch a possible graph for  $y = f(x)$ .



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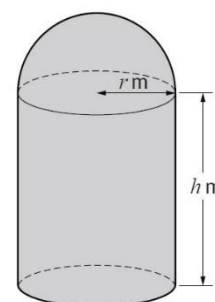
## Specimen 4 Paper 2

8. A design for a new grain container is in the shape of a cylinder with a hemispherical roof and a flat circular base. The radius of the cylinder is  $r$  metres, and the height is  $h$  metres.

The volume of the cylindrical part of the container needs to be 100 cubic metres.

(a) Given that the curved surface area of a hemisphere of radius  $r$  is  $2\pi r^2$  show that the surface area of metal needed to build the grain container is given by:

$$A = \frac{200}{r} + 3\pi r^2 \text{ square metres}$$



3

(b) Determine the value of  $r$  which minimises the amount of metal needed to build the container.

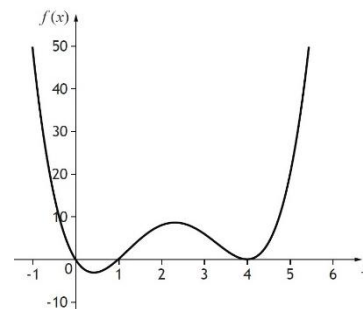
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## Specimen 4 Paper 2

3. The diagram shows the graph of  $f(x) = x(x-p)(x-q)^2$ .

(a) Determine the values of  $p$  and  $q$ .

(b) Find the equation of the tangent to the curve when  $x = 1$ .



1

4

## Exemplar Paper 2

9. A manufacturer is asked to design an open-ended shelter, as shown:

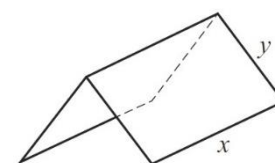
The frame of the shelter is to be made of rods of two different lengths:

- $x$  metres for top and bottom edges;
- $y$  metres for each sloping edge.

The total length,  $L$  metres, of the rods used in a shelter is given by  $L = 3x + \frac{48}{x}$

To minimise production costs, the total length of rods used for a frame should be as small as possible.

(a) Find the value of  $x$  for which  $L$  is a minimum.



5

The rods used for the frame cost £8.25 per metre.

The manufacturer claims that the minimum cost of a frame is less than £195.

(b) Is this claim correct? Justify your answer.

2

## 2014 Paper 2

2. A curve has equation  $y = x^4 - 2x^3 + 5$ .

4

Find the equation of the tangent to this curve at the point where  $x = 2$ .

## 2014 Paper 1

21. A curve has equation  $y = 3x^2 - x^3$ .

(a) Find the coordinates of the stationary points on this curve and determine their nature.

6

(b) State the coordinates of the points where the curve meets the coordinate axes and sketch the curve.

2

## 2013 Paper 2

3. (a) Given that  $(x - 1)$  is a factor of  $x^3 + 3x^2 + x - 5$ , factorise this cubic fully.

4

(b) Show that the curve with equation

$$y = x^4 + 4x^3 + 2x^2 - 20x + 3$$

has only one stationary point.

5

Find the  $x$ -coordinate and determine the nature of this point.

## 2013 Paper 1

2. The point P (5, 12) lies on the curve with equation  $y = x^2 - 4x + 7$ .

2

What is the gradient of the tangent to this curve at P?

## 2012 Paper 1

8. The volume of a sphere is given by the formula  $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ .

2

What is the rate of change of  $V$  with respect to  $r$ , at  $r = 2$ ?

## 2012 Paper 1

2. What is the gradient of the tangent to the curve with equation  $y = x^3 - 6x + 1$  at the point where  $x = -2$ ?

2

## 2012 Paper 1

6. If  $y = 3x^{-2} + 2x^{\frac{3}{2}}$ ,  $x > 0$ , determine  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

2



## 2012 Paper 1

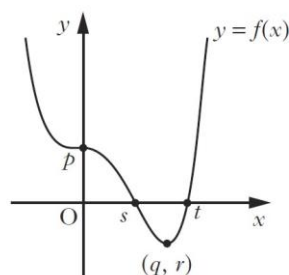
18. The graph of  $y = f(x)$  shown has stationary points at  $(0, p)$  and  $(q, r)$ .

Here are two statements about  $f(x)$ :

- (1)  $f(x) < 0$  for  $s < x < t$ ;  
(2)  $f'(x) < 0$  for  $x < q$ .

Which of the following is true?

- A Neither statement is correct.  
B Only statement (1) is correct.  
C Only statement (2) is correct.  
D Both statements are correct.



2

## 2012 Paper 2

3. A function  $f$  is defined on the domain  $0 \leq x \leq 3$  by  $f(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 - 4x + 6$ .

Determine the maximum and minimum values of  $f$ .

7

## 2011 Paper 1

4. A tangent to the curve with equation  $y = x^3 - 2x$  is drawn at the point  $(2, 4)$ .

What is the gradient of this tangent?

2

## 2011 Paper 1

22. A function  $f$  is defined on the set of real numbers by  $f(x) = (x - 2)(x^2 + 1)$ .

(a) Find where the graph of  $y = f(x)$  cuts:

- (i) the  $x$ -axis;  
(ii) the  $y$ -axis.

2

(b) Find the coordinates of the stationary points on the curve with equation  $y = f(x)$  and determine their nature.

8

(c) On separate diagrams sketch the graphs of:

- (i)  $y = f(x)$ ;  
(ii)  $y = -f(x)$ .

3

## 2010 Paper 1

15. The derivative of a function  $f$  is given by  $f'(x) = x^2 - 9$ .

Here are two statements about  $f$ :

- (1)  $f$  is increasing at  $x = 1$ ;  
(2)  $f$  is stationary at  $x = -3$ .

Which of the following is true?

- A Neither statement is correct.  
B Only statement (1) is correct.  
C Only statement (2) is correct.  
D Both statements are correct.

2

## 2010 Paper 1

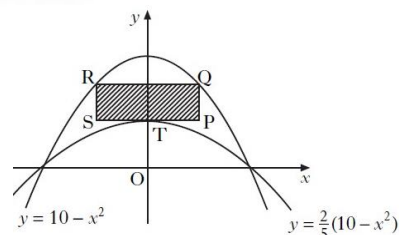
17. If  $s(t) = t^2 - 5t + 8$ , what is the rate of change of  $s$  with respect to  $t$  when  $t = 3$ ? 2

## 2010 Paper 2

5. The parabolas with equations  $y = 10 - x^2$  and  $y = \frac{2}{5}(10 - x^2)$  are shown in the diagram below.

A rectangle PQRS is placed between the two parabolas as shown, so that:

- Q and R lie on the upper parabola;
- RQ and SP are parallel to the  $x$ -axis;
- T, the turning point of the lower parabola, lies on SP.



- (a) (i) If  $TP = x$  units, find an expression for the length of PQ.

- (ii) Hence show that the area,  $A$ , of rectangle PQRS is given by

$$A(x) = 12x - 2x^3.$$

- (b) Find the maximum area of this rectangle.

## 2009 Paper 1

4. A curve has equation  $y = 5x^3 - 12x$ .

What is the gradient of the tangent at the point  $(1, -7)$ ?

## 2009 Paper 1

8. What is the derivative of  $\frac{1}{4x^3}$ ,  $x \neq 0$ ?

## 2009 Paper 1

20.  $A = 2\pi r^2 + 6\pi r$ .

What is the rate of change of  $A$  with respect to  $r$  when  $r = 2$ ?

## 2009 Paper 2

1. Find the coordinates of the turning points of the curve with equation  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x + 12$  and determine their nature.

## 2009 Paper 2

2. Functions  $f$  and  $g$  are given by  $f(x) = 3x + 1$  and  $g(x) = x^2 - 2$ .

- (a) (i) Find  $p(x)$  where  $p(x) = f(g(x))$ .

- (ii) Find  $q(x)$  where  $q(x) = g(f(x))$ .

- (b) Solve  $p'(x) = q'(x)$ .



## 2008 Paper 1

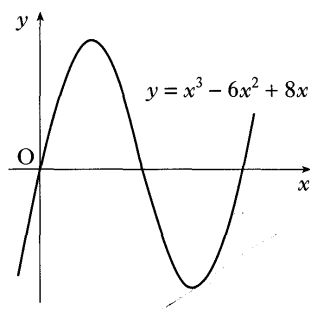
21. A function  $f$  is defined on the set of real numbers by  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 2$ .

- Find the coordinates of the stationary points on the curve  $y = f(x)$  and determine their nature. 6
- Show that  $(x - 1)$  is a factor of  $x^3 - 3x + 2$ . 5
  - Hence or otherwise factorise  $x^3 - 3x + 2$  fully. 4
- State the coordinates of the points where the curve with equation  $y = f(x)$  meets both the axes and hence sketch the curve. 4

## 2008 Paper 1

22. The diagram shows a sketch of the curve with equation  $y = x^3 - 6x^2 + 8x$ .

- Find the coordinates of the points on the curve where the gradient of the tangent is  $-1$ . 5
- The line  $y = 4 - x$  is a tangent to this curve at a point A. Find the coordinates of A. 2

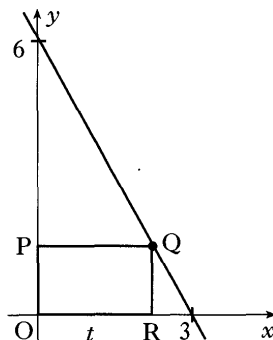


## 2008 Paper 2

6. In the diagram, Q lies on the line joining  $(0, 6)$  and  $(3, 0)$ .

OPQR is a rectangle, where P and R lie on the axes and  $OR = t$ .

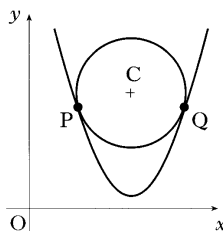
- Show that  $QR = 6 - 2t$ . 3
- Find the coordinates of Q for which the rectangle has a maximum area. 6



## 2007 Paper 2

5. A circle centre C is situated so that it touches the parabola with equation  $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 8x + 34$  at P and Q.

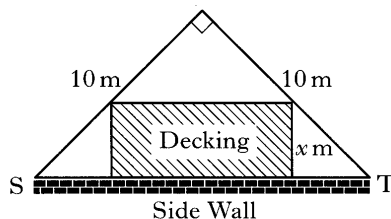
- The gradient of the tangent to the parabola at Q is 4. Find the coordinates of Q. 5
- Find the coordinates of P. 2
- Find the coordinates of C, the centre of the circle. 2



## 2007 Paper 2

6. A householder has a garden in the shape of a right-angled isosceles triangle.

It is intended to put down a section of rectangular wooden decking at the side of the house, as shown in the diagram.



- (a) (i) Find the exact value of ST.  
(ii) Given that the breadth of the decking is  $x$  metres, show that the area of the decking,  $A$  square metres, is given by

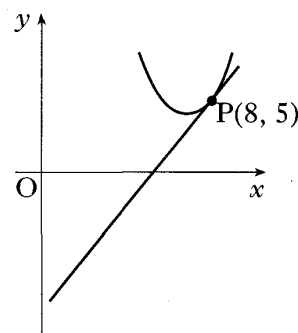
$$A = (10\sqrt{2})x - 2x^2.$$

- (b) Find the dimensions of the decking which maximises its area.

## 2006 Paper 2

3. The parabola with equation  $y = x^2 - 14x + 53$  has a tangent at the point  $P(8, 5)$ .

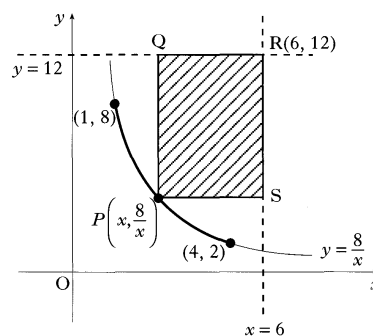
- (a) Find the equation of this tangent.



## 2006 Paper 2

12. PQRS is a rectangle formed according to the following conditions:

- it is bounded by the lines  $x = 6$  and  $y = 12$
- P lies on the curve with equation  $y = \frac{8}{x}$  between  $(1, 8)$  and  $(4, 2)$
- R is the point  $(6, 12)$ .



- (a) (i) Express the lengths of PS and RS in terms of  $x$ , the  $x$ -coordinate of P.  
(ii) Hence show that the area,  $A$  square units, of PQRS is given by

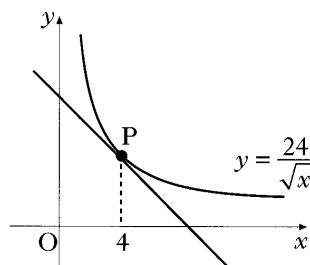
$$A = 80 - 12x - \frac{48}{x}.$$

- (b) Find the greatest and least possible values of  $A$  and the corresponding values of  $x$  for which they occur.

## 2005 Paper 2

6. The diagram shows the graph of  $y = \frac{24}{\sqrt{x}}$ ,  $x > 0$ .

Find the equation of the tangent at P, where  $x = 4$ .



## 2004 Paper 2

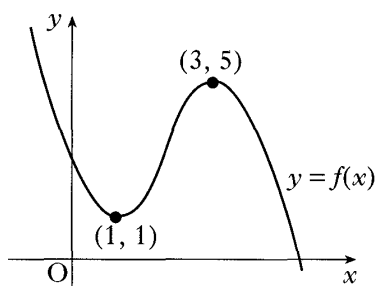
5. The point  $P(x, y)$  lies on the curve with equation  $y = 6x^2 - x^3$ .
- (a) Find the value of  $x$  for which the gradient of the tangent at  $P$  is 12.
- (b) Hence find the equation of the tangent at  $P$ .

5

2

## 2004 Paper 2

7. The graph of the cubic function  $y = f(x)$  is shown in the diagram. There are turning points at  $(1, 1)$  and  $(3, 5)$ . Sketch the graph of  $y = f'(x)$ .



3