

Dr Oliver Mathematics
Mathematics: Advanced Higher
2026 Paper 2: Calculator
1 hour 30 minutes

The total number of marks available is 80.

You must write down all the stages in your working.

1. Differentiate

(2)

$$f(x) = 3 \sin^{-1} 7x.$$

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) = 3 \sin^{-1} 7x &\Rightarrow f'(x) = 3 \times \frac{7}{\sqrt{1 - (7x)^2}} \\ &\Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{21}{\sqrt{1 - 49x^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

2. Write down the binomial expansion of

(4)

$$\left(x^2 - \frac{5}{x}\right)^4$$

and simplify your answer.

Solution

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(x^2 - \frac{5}{x}\right)^4 \\ = &(x^2)^4 + \binom{4}{1}(x^2)^3 \left(-\frac{5}{x}\right) + \binom{4}{2}(x^2)^2 \left(-\frac{5}{x}\right)^2 + \binom{4}{3}(x^2) \left(-\frac{5}{x}\right)^3 + \left(-\frac{5}{x}\right)^4 \\ = &\underline{\underline{x^8 - 20x^5 + 150x^2 - \frac{500}{x} + \frac{625}{x^4}}}. \end{aligned}$$

3. (a) Find and simplify the Maclaurin expansion, up to and including the term in x^3 , for:
 (i) e^{3x} , (2)

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{3x} &= 1 + (3x) + \frac{1}{2!}(3x)^2 + \frac{1}{3!}(3x)^3 + \dots \\ &= \underline{\underline{1 + 3x + \frac{9}{2}x^2 + \frac{9}{2}x^3 + \dots}} \end{aligned}$$

- (ii) $\ln(1+x)$. (2)

Solution

$$\ln(1+x) = \underline{\underline{x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \dots}}$$

- (b) Hence find and simplify the Maclaurin expansion, up to and including the term in x^3 , for (2)

$$e^{3x} \ln\left(\frac{1}{1+x}\right).$$

Solution

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{3x} \ln\left(\frac{1}{1+x}\right) &= e^{3x} \ln(1+x)^{-1} \\ &= -e^{3x} \ln(1+x) \\ &= -(1 + 3x + \frac{9}{2}x^2 + \frac{9}{2}x^3 + \dots)(x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

$\times$	1	$+3x$	$+\frac{9}{2}x^2$	$+\frac{9}{2}x^3$
x	x	$+3x^2$	$+\frac{9}{2}x^3$	$\dots$
$-\frac{1}{2}x^2$	$-\frac{1}{2}x^2$	$-\frac{3}{2}x^3$	$\dots$	$\dots$
$+\frac{1}{3}x^3$	$+\frac{1}{3}x^3$	$\dots$	$\dots$	$\dots$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -(x + \frac{5}{2}x^2 + \frac{10}{3}x^3 + \dots) \\ &= \underline{\underline{-x - \frac{5}{2}x^2 - \frac{10}{3}x^3 + \dots}} \end{aligned}$$

4. (a) Use the Euclidean algorithm to find d , the greatest common divisor of 1 428 and 567. (1)

Solution

Well,

$$1\,428 = 2 \times 567 + 294$$

$$567 = 1 \times 294 + 273$$

$$294 = 1 \times 273 + 21$$

$$273 = 13 \times 21 + 0,$$

and so the greatest common divisor of 1 428 and 567 is 21.

- (b) Find integers a and b such that (2)

$$1\,428a + 567b = d.$$

Solution

Now,

$$21 = 294 - 273$$

$$= 294 - (567 - 294)$$

$$= 2 \times 294 - 567$$

$$= 2(1\,428 - 2 \times 567) - 567$$

$$= \underline{\underline{2 \times 1\,428 - 5 \times 567}};$$

hence, $a = 2$ and $b = -5$.

5. Given (5)

$$y = x^{4x},$$

use logarithmic differentiation to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

Write your answer in terms of x .

Solution

Logarithmic differentiation:

$$\begin{aligned}y = x^{4x} &\Rightarrow \ln y = \ln x^{4x} \\&\Rightarrow \ln y = 4x \ln x\end{aligned}$$

quotient rule:

$$\begin{aligned}u = 4x &\Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = 4 \\v = \ln x &\Rightarrow \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} &= (4x) \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) + (4)(\ln x) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} &= 4 + 4 \ln x \\ \Rightarrow \underline{\underline{\frac{dy}{dx}}} &= (4 + 4 \ln x)x^{4x}.\end{aligned}$$

6. (a) An arithmetic sequence has terms

$$u_3 = 6 \text{ and } u_{11} = 10.$$

For this sequence, find the:

- (i) common difference,

(1)

Solution

Let the first term be a and let the common difference be d . Then,

$$a + 2d = 6 \quad (1)$$

$$a + 10d = 10 \quad (2).$$

Do (2) – (1):

$$8d = 4 \Rightarrow \underline{\underline{d = \frac{1}{2}}}.$$

- (ii) first term, and

(1)

Solution

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}d = \frac{1}{2} &\Rightarrow a + 2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 6 \\&\Rightarrow a + 1 = 6 \\&\Rightarrow \underline{a = 5}.\end{aligned}$$

(iii) sum of the first 109 terms.

(1)

Solution

Next,

$$\begin{aligned}S_{109} &= \frac{1}{2}n[2a + (n-1)d] \\&= \frac{1}{2} \times 109 \times [(2 \times 5) + (108 \times \frac{1}{2})] \\&= \frac{109}{2} \times 64 \\&= \underline{3488}.\end{aligned}$$

(b) The terms

$$v_3 = 18 \text{ and } v_4 = 27$$

form part of a geometric sequence.

For this sequence, find:

(i) common ratio,

(1)

Solution

Let the first term be a and let the common ratio be r . Then,

$$ar^2 = 18 \quad (1)$$

$$ar^3 = 27 \quad (2).$$

Do (2) $\div$ (1):

$$r = \frac{ar^3}{ar^2} = \frac{27}{18} = \underline{\underline{\frac{3}{2}}}.$$

(ii) first term, and

(1)

Solution

Next,

$$\begin{aligned} r = \frac{3}{2} &\Rightarrow a\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = 18 \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{9}{4}a = 18 \\ &\Rightarrow \underline{a = 8}. \end{aligned}$$

(iii) an expression, in terms of n , for the sum of the first n terms. (1)

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned} S_n &= \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r - 1} \\ &= \frac{8\left[\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n - 1\right]}{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \underline{\underline{16\left[\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n - 1\right]}}. \end{aligned}$$

(c) Find **algebraically** the least value of n such that the sum of the geometric series exceeds the sum of the first 109 terms in the arithmetic sequence (1)

Solution

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} S_n > 3488 &\Rightarrow 16\left[\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n - 1\right] > 3488 \\ &\Rightarrow \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n - 1 > 218 \\ &\Rightarrow \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n > 219 \\ &\Rightarrow \log_{10}\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n > \log_{10} 219 \\ &\Rightarrow n \log_{10} \frac{3}{2} > \log_{10} 219 \\ &\Rightarrow n > \frac{\log_{10} 219}{\log_{10} \frac{3}{2}} \\ &\Rightarrow n > 13.29 \dots; \end{aligned}$$

hence, $n = 14$.

7. A curve is defined parametrically by

$$x = 3 \ln(2t + 1), \quad y = t - \frac{1}{2}t^2, \quad \text{where } t > 0.$$

- (a) Find an expression for $\frac{dy}{dx}$. (2)
Simplify your answer.

Solution

Well,

$$x = 3 \ln(2t + 1) \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{6}{2t + 1}$$

and

$$y = t - \frac{1}{2}t^2 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dt} = 1 - t.$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \\ &= \frac{1 - t}{\frac{6}{2t+1}} \\ &= \underline{\underline{\frac{1}{6}(2t + 1)(1 - t)}}. \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Find the coordinates of the stationary point on the curve. (2)

Solution

Next,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{6}(2t + 1)(1 - 2t) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 2t + 1 = 0 \text{ or } 1 - t = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow t = -\frac{1}{2} \text{ or } t = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$t = -\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow x = \text{undefined}$$

and

$$t = 1 \Rightarrow x = 3 \ln 3, y = \frac{1}{2};$$

hence, the coordinates of the stationary point on the curve are $(3 \ln 3, \frac{1}{2})$.

8. The volume, V cubic metres, of water held in a reservoir is given by (4)

$$V = 18(2 + \sqrt{h})^6 - 1\,152,$$

where h metres is the depth of water.

Water is pumped out of the reservoir at a constant rate of $0.6 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Find the rate of change of the depth of water in the reservoir when the depth is 9 metres.

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned} V &= 18(2 + \sqrt{h})^6 - 1152 \Rightarrow V = 18(2 + h^{\frac{1}{2}})^6 - 1152 \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dV}{dh} &= 108(2 + h^{\frac{1}{2}})^5 \times \frac{1}{2}h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dV}{dh} &= 54h^{-\frac{1}{2}}(2 + h^{\frac{1}{2}})^5 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = -0.6.$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV}{dt} &= \frac{dV}{dh} \times \frac{dh}{dt} \Rightarrow -0.6 = 54h^{-\frac{1}{2}}(2 + h^{\frac{1}{2}})^5 \times \frac{dh}{dt} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dh}{dt} &= \frac{-0.6}{54h^{-\frac{1}{2}}(2 + h^{\frac{1}{2}})^5}. \end{aligned}$$

Next,

$$\begin{aligned} h = 9 \Rightarrow \frac{dh}{dt} &= -\frac{0.6}{54(\frac{1}{3})(2 + 3)^5} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dh}{dt} &= \underline{\underline{-\frac{1}{93750} \text{ m s}^{-1}}}. \end{aligned}$$

9. Express

$$3442_5$$

(3)

in base 9.

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned}3\,442_5 &= (3 \times 5^3) + (4 \times 5^2) + (4 \times 5) + 2 \\&= 375 + 100 + 20 + 2 \\&= 497_{10},\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}497_{10} &= (6 \times 9^2) + 11 \\&= (6 \times 9^2) + (1 \times 9) + 2 \\&= \underline{\underline{612_9}}.\end{aligned}$$

10. A curve is defined by the equation

$$x^2 e^{6y} + x^2 + y^5 = 50.$$

(a) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of x and y .

(4)

Solution

Implicit differentiation:

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 e^{6y} + x^2 + y^5 &= 50 \\ \Rightarrow (2x)(e^{6y}) + (x^2) \left(6e^{6y} \frac{dy}{dx} \right) + 2x + 5y^4 \frac{dy}{dx} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 6x^2 e^{6y} \frac{dy}{dx} + 5y^4 \frac{dy}{dx} &= -2x - 2xe^{6y} \\ \Rightarrow (6x^2 e^{6y} + 5y^4) \frac{dy}{dx} &= -2x(1 + e^{6y}) \\ \Rightarrow \underline{\underline{\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x(1 + e^{6y})}{6x^2 e^{6y} + 5y^4}}}}.\end{aligned}$$

(b) Given $x > 0$, explain why the derivative is never zero.

(1)

Solution

Well, $e^{6y} > 0$ and $5y^4 \geq 0$ so the denominator is always positive.
Hence, the derivative is never zero.

11. Find

(4)

$$\int \left(\frac{2x+4}{x^2+4} \right) dx.$$

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned} \int \left(\frac{2x+4}{x^2+4} \right) dx &= \int \left(\frac{2x}{x^2+4} \right) dx + \int \left(\frac{4}{x^2+4} \right) dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{2x}{x^2+4} \right) dx + 4 \int \left(\frac{1}{x^2+2^2} \right) dx \\ &= \underline{\underline{\ln|x^2+4| + 2 \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}x\right) + c.}} \end{aligned}$$

12. Prove by induction that

(5)

$$7^n + 2$$

is divisible by 3 for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Solution

$n = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} 7^1 + 2 &= 7 + 2 \\ &= 9 \\ &= 3 \times 3, \end{aligned}$$

so the result is true of $n = 1$.

Suppose the result is true for some $n = k$, i.e.,

$$7^k + 2 = 3m,$$

for some integer m . Now,

$$7^k + 2 = 3m \Rightarrow 7^k = 3m - 2$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}7^{k+1} + 2 &= 7 \times 7^k + 2 \\&= 7(3m - 2) + 2 \\&= 21m - 14 + 2 \\&= 21m - 12 \\&= 3(7m - 4),\end{aligned}$$

and $7^{k+1} + 2$ is divisible by 3.

Hence, by mathematical induction, $7^n + 2$ is divisible by 3 for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

13. (a) Express using partial fractions

(2)

$$\frac{x+3}{(x+7)(x+5)}.$$

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{A}{(x+7)} + \frac{B}{(x+5)} &\equiv \frac{A(x+5)}{(x+7)(x+5)} + \frac{B(x+7)}{(x+7)(x+5)} \\&\equiv \frac{Ax + 5A + Bx + 7B}{(x+7)(x+5)} \\&\equiv \frac{(A+B)x + (5A+7B)}{(x+7)(x+5)},\end{aligned}$$

so

$$A + B = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$5A + 7B = 3 \quad (2).$$

Now,

$$A + B = 1 \Rightarrow B = 1 - A \quad (3)$$

and insert in to (2):

$$\begin{aligned}5A + 7B = 3 &\Rightarrow 5A + 7(1 - A) = 3 \\&\Rightarrow 5A + 7 - 7A = 3 \\&\Rightarrow -2A = -4 \\&\Rightarrow A = 2 \\&\Rightarrow B = -1;\end{aligned}$$

hence,

$$\frac{x+3}{(x+7)(x+5)} = \frac{2}{(x+7)} - \frac{1}{(x+5)}.$$

(b) Hence find the particular solution of the differential equation

(7)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \left(\frac{2}{x+3}\right)y = \frac{1}{(x+7)(x+5)(x+3)}, \text{ where } x \geq 0,$$

given that $y = 0$ when $x = 3$.

Solution

Integrating factor:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IF} &= e^{\int \frac{2}{x+3} dx} \\ &= e^{2\ln(x+3)} \\ &= e^{\ln(x+3)^2} \\ &= (x+3)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} + \left(\frac{2}{x+3}\right)y &= \frac{1}{(x+7)(x+5)(x+3)} \\ \Rightarrow (x+3)^2 \left[\frac{dy}{dx} + \left(\frac{2}{x+3}\right)y \right] &= \frac{x+3}{(x+7)(x+5)} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} [y(x+3)^2] &= \frac{x+3}{(x+7)(x+5)} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} [y(x+3)^2] &= \frac{2}{(x+7)} - \frac{1}{(x+5)} \\ \Rightarrow y(x+3)^2 &= \int \left(\frac{2}{(x+7)} - \frac{1}{(x+5)} \right) dx \\ \Rightarrow y(x+3)^2 &= 2\ln(x+7) - \ln(x+5) + c. \end{aligned}$$

Next,

$$\begin{aligned} x=3, y=0 &\Rightarrow 0 = 2\ln 10 - \ln 8 + c \\ &\Rightarrow -\ln 100 + \ln 8 = c \\ &\Rightarrow \ln \frac{2}{25} = c. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} y(x+3)^2 &= 2\ln(x+7) - \ln(x+5) + \ln \frac{2}{25} \\ \Rightarrow y &= \frac{2\ln(x+7) - \ln(x+5) + \ln \frac{2}{25}}{(x+3)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

14. The plane π contains the points $P(2, 3, -4)$, $Q(3, 5, 1)$, and $R(6, 0, -6)$.

(a) Determine the Cartesian equation of π .

(4)

Solution

Well,

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \overrightarrow{PR} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \overrightarrow{PQ} \times \overrightarrow{PR} &= \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & 2 & 5 \\ 4 & -3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 11\mathbf{i} + 22\mathbf{j} - 11\mathbf{k} \\ &= 11(\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}), \end{aligned}$$

so, $\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ is a normal vector.

Next,

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y - z &= 2 + 2(3) - (-4) \\ &= 12; \end{aligned}$$

hence, the Cartesian equation of π is

$$\underline{\underline{x + 2y - z = 12.}}$$

The line L has symmetric equations

$$\frac{x-8}{2} = \frac{y+2}{-1} = \frac{z+2}{3}.$$

L intersects π at the point S .

(b) Find the coordinates of S .

(3)

Solution

Well,

$$\frac{x-8}{2} = \frac{y+2}{-1} = \frac{z+2}{3} = \lambda$$

and that gives us

$$\frac{x-8}{2} = \lambda \Rightarrow x-8 = 2\lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 2\lambda + 8,$$

$$\frac{y+2}{-1} = \lambda \Rightarrow y+2 = -\lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow y = -\lambda - 2,$$

$$\frac{z+2}{3} = \lambda \Rightarrow z+2 = 3\lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow z = 3\lambda - 2.$$

Substitute into π :

$$x + 2y - z = 12 \Rightarrow (2\lambda + 8) + 2(-\lambda - 2) - (3\lambda - 2) = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\lambda + 8 - 2\lambda - 4 - 3\lambda + 2 = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow -3\lambda = 6$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = -2.$$

Hence, the coordinates of $S(4, 0, -8)$.

(c) Calculate the size of the acute angle between L and π .

(3)

Solution

The direction vector is

$$\mathbf{d} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{d} &= 2 - 2 - 3 \\ &= -3, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{n}| &= \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + (-1)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{6}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{d}| &= \sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2 + 3^2} \\ &= \sqrt{14}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{-3}{\sqrt{6} \times \sqrt{14}} \Rightarrow \theta = 109.106\,605\,4 \text{ (FCD)}.$$

But it says “the size of the acute angle”:

$$\begin{aligned} 109.106\dots - 90 &= 19.106\,605\,4 \text{ (FCD)} \\ &= \underline{\underline{19.1^\circ \text{ (3 sf)}}}. \end{aligned}$$

15. Let r be a positive real number and consider the following statement:

If r is irrational, then $\sqrt{r}$ is irrational.

(a) Write down the contrapositive of the statement. (1)

Solution

If $\sqrt{r}$ is rational, the r is rational.

(b) Hence prove that the statement is true. (3)

Solution

Suppose that $\sqrt{r}$ is rational. Then,

$$\sqrt{r} = \frac{p}{q},$$

where $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$. Now,

$$r = \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2},$$

so r is rational.

Hence,

if r is irrational, then $\sqrt{r}$ is irrational.

16. (a) Given (2)

$$y = \ln(\cos x), \quad 0 \leq x < \frac{1}{2}\pi,$$

show that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\tan x.$$

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{1}{\cos x} \times (-\sin x) \\ &= -\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \\ &= \underline{\underline{-\tan x}},\end{aligned}$$

as required.

For a function $g(x)$, it is known that

$$\int x g(x) dx = 2x \tan 2x - \int 2 \tan 2x dx.$$

(b) (i) Determine the exact value of

(2)

$$\int_0^{\frac{1}{6}\pi} x g(x) dx.$$

Solution

Well,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^{\frac{1}{6}\pi} x g(x) dx &= [2x \tan 2x]_{x=0}^{\frac{1}{6}\pi} - \int_0^{\frac{1}{6}\pi} 2 \tan 2x dx \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{3}\pi \times \sqrt{3} - 0\right) - [-\ln(\cos 2x)]_{x=0}^{\frac{1}{6}\pi} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\pi - (-\ln \frac{1}{2} + 0) \\ &= \underline{\underline{\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\pi + \ln \frac{1}{2}}}.\end{aligned}$$

(ii) Find an expression for $g(x)$ in terms of x .

(1)

Solution

Think about

$$\int uv' = uv - \int u'v.$$

So

$$u = x \text{ and } v = 2 \tan 2x.$$

Finally,

$$v = 2 \tan 2x \Rightarrow v' = 4 \sec^2 2x;$$

hence,

$$\underline{\underline{g(x) = 4 \sec^2 2x.}}$$