AP Calculus BC

AP Exam Free Response Question Review-Sequences and Series Questions

Question Statistics

AP Exam	Question #	Mean Score	Points Possible	Your Score
2015 BC	6	3.29	9	
2014 BC	6	3.10	9	
2013 BC	6	3.34	9	
2012 BC	6	4.75	9	
2011 BC	6	3.53	9	
2011 BC Form B	6	N/A	9	
2010 BC	6	2.60	9	
2010 BC Form B	6	N/A	9	
2009 BC	6	1.79	9	
2009 BC Form B	6	N/A	9	
2008 BC	3	4.42	9	
2008 BC Form B	6	N/A	9	

6. The Maclaurin series for a function f is given by $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-3)^{n-1}}{n} x^n = x - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + 3x^3 - \cdots + \frac{(-3)^{n-1}}{n}x^n + \cdots$ and converges to $f(x)$ for $|x| < R$, where R is the radius of convergence of the Maclaurin series.

   (a) Use the ratio test to find R.

   (b) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for f', the derivative of f. Express f' as a rational function for $|x| < R$.

   (c) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for e^x. Use the Maclaurin series for e^x to write the third-degree Taylor polynomial for $g(x) = e^x f(x)$ about $x = 0$.

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6. The Taylor series for a function f about $x = 1$ is given by $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}(-1)^{n+1}\frac{2^n}{n}(x-1)^n$ and converges to $f(x)$ for $|x-1| < R$, where R is the radius of convergence of the Taylor series.

(a) Find the value of R.

(b) Find the first three nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for f', the derivative of f, about $x = 1$.

(c) The Taylor series for f' about $x = 1$, found in part (b), is a geometric series. Find the function f' to which the series converges for $|x-1| < R$. Use this function to determine f for $|x-1| < R$.

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6. A function f has derivatives of all orders at $x = 0$. Let $P_n(x)$ denote the nth-degree Taylor polynomial for f about $x = 0$.

   (a) It is known that $f(0) = -4$ and that $P_1\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -3$. Show that $f'(0) = 2$.

   (b) It is known that $f''(0) = -\frac{2}{3}$ and $f'''(0) = \frac{1}{3}$. Find $P_3(x)$.

   (c) The function h has first derivative given by $h'(x) = f(2x)$. It is known that $h(0) = 7$. Find the third-degree Taylor polynomial for h about $x = 0$.

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6. The function g has derivatives of all orders, and the Maclaurin series for g is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+3} = \frac{x}{3} - \frac{x^3}{5} + \frac{x^5}{7} - \cdots.$$

(a) Using the ratio test, determine the interval of convergence of the Maclaurin series for g.

(b) The Maclaurin series for g evaluated at $x = \frac{1}{2}$ is an alternating series whose terms decrease in absolute value to 0. The approximation for $g\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$ using the first two nonzero terms of this series is $\frac{17}{120}$. Show that this approximation differs from $g\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$ by less than $\frac{1}{200}$.

(c) Write the first three nonzero terms and the general term of the Maclaurin series for $g'(x)$.

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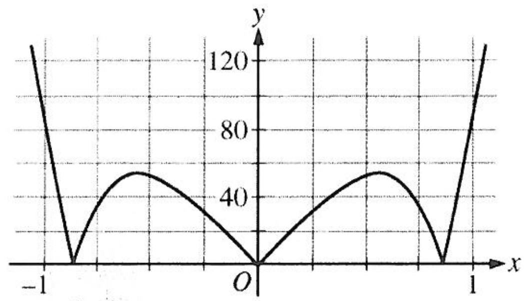

Graph of $y = \left|f^{(5)}(x)\right|$

6. Let $f(x) = \sin\left(x^2\right) + \cos x$. The graph of $y = \left|f^{(5)}(x)\right|$ is shown above.

(a) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Taylor series for $\sin x$ about $x = 0$, and write the first four nonzero terms of the Taylor series for $\sin\left(x^2\right)$ about $x = 0$.

(b) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Taylor series for $\cos x$ about $x = 0$. Use this series and the series for $\sin\left(x^2\right)$, found in part (a), to write the first four nonzero terms of the Taylor series for f about $x = 0$.

(c) Find the value of $f^{(6)}(0)$.

(d) Let $P_4(x)$ be the fourth-degree Taylor polynomial for f about $x = 0$. Using information from the graph of $y = \left|f^{(5)}(x)\right|$ shown above, show that $\left|P_4\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) - f\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)\right| < \frac{1}{3000}$.

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6. Let $f(x) = \ln\left(1 + x^3\right)$.

(a) The Maclaurin series for $\ln(1 + x)$ is $x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \cdots + (-1)^{n+1} \cdot \frac{x^n}{n} + \cdots$. Use the series to write the first four nonzero terms and the general term of the Maclaurin series for f.

(b) The radius of convergence of the Maclaurin series for f is 1. Determine the interval of convergence. Show the work that leads to your answer.

(c) Write the first four nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for $f'\left(t^2\right)$. If $g(x) = \int_0^x f'\left(t^2\right) dt$, use the first two nonzero terms of the Maclaurin series for g to approximate $g(1)$.

(d) The Maclaurin series for g, evaluated at $x = 1$, is a convergent alternating series with individual terms that decrease in absolute value to 0. Show that your approximation in part (c) must differ from $g(1)$ by less than $\frac{1}{5}$.

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5. Consider the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1 - y$. Let $y = f(x)$ be the particular solution to this differential equation with the initial condition $f(1) = 0$. For this particular solution, $f(x) < 1$ for all values of x.

(a) Use Euler's method, starting at $x = 1$ with two steps of equal size, to approximate $f(0)$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

(b) Find $\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{f(x)}{x^3 - 1}$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

(c) Find the particular solution $y = f(x)$ to the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1 - y$ with the initial condition $f(1) = 0$.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\cos x - 1}{x^2} & \text{for } x \neq 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \text{for } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

6. The function f, defined above, has derivatives of all orders. Let g be the function defined by $g(x) = 1 + \int_0^x f(t)\,dt$.

(a) Write the first three nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for $\cos x$ about $x = 0$. Use this series to write the first three nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for f about $x = 0$.

(b) Use the Taylor series for f about $x = 0$ found in part (a) to determine whether f has a relative maximum, relative minimum, or neither at $x = 0$. Give a reason for your answer.

(c) Write the fifth-degree Taylor polynomial for g about $x = 0$.

(d) The Taylor series for g about $x = 0$, evaluated at $x = 1$, is an alternating series with individual terms that decrease in absolute value to 0. Use the third-degree Taylor polynomial for g about $x = 0$ to estimate the value of $g(1)$. Explain why this estimate differs from the actual value of $g(1)$ by less than $\frac{1}{6!}$.

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5. Let f and g be the functions defined by $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ and $g(x) = \frac{4x}{1 + 4x^2}$, for all $x > 0$.

(a) Find the absolute maximum value of g on the open interval $(0, \infty)$ if the maximum exists. Find the absolute minimum value of g on the open interval $(0, \infty)$ if the minimum exists. Justify your answers.

(b) Find the area of the unbounded region in the first quadrant to the right of the vertical line $x = 1$, below the graph of f, and above the graph of g.

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6. The Maclaurin series for the function f is given by $f(x) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2x)^n}{n - 1}$ on its interval of convergence.

(a) Find the interval of convergence for the Maclaurin series of f. Justify your answer.

(b) Show that $y = f(x)$ is a solution to the differential equation $xy' - y = \frac{4x^2}{1 + 2x}$ for $|x| < R$, where R is the radius of convergence from part (a).

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x	2	3	5	8	13
$f(x)$	1	4	–2	3	6

5. Let f be a function that is twice differentiable for all real numbers. The table above gives values of f for selected points in the closed interval $2 \le x \le 13$.

   (a) Estimate $f'(4)$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

   (b) Evaluate $\int_2^{13} (3 - 5f'(x))\, dx$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

   (c) Use a left Riemann sum with subintervals indicated by the data in the table to approximate $\int_2^{13} f(x)\, dx$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

   (d) Suppose $f'(5) = 3$ and $f''(x) < 0$ for all x in the closed interval $5 \le x \le 8$. Use the line tangent to the graph of f at $x = 5$ to show that $f(7) \le 4$. Use the secant line for the graph of f on $5 \le x \le 8$ to show that $f(7) \ge \frac{4}{3}$.

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6. The Maclaurin series for e^x is $e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \cdots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \cdots$. The continuous function f is defined by $f(x) = \frac{e^{(x-1)^2} - 1}{(x-1)^2}$ for $x \ne 1$ and $f(1) = 1$. The function f has derivatives of all orders at $x = 1$.

   (a) Write the first four nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for $e^{(x-1)^2}$ about $x = 1$.

   (b) Use the Taylor series found in part (a) to write the first four nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for f about $x = 1$.

   (c) Use the ratio test to find the interval of convergence for the Taylor series found in part (b).

   (d) Use the Taylor series for f about $x = 1$ to determine whether the graph of f has any points of inflection.

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6. The function f is defined by the power series

$$f(x) = 1 + (x + 1) + (x + 1)^2 + \cdots + (x + 1)^n + \cdots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (x + 1)^n$$

for all real numbers x for which the series converges.

(a) Find the interval of convergence of the power series for f. Justify your answer.

(b) The power series above is the Taylor series for f about $x = -1$. Find the sum of the series for f.

(c) Let g be the function defined by $g(x) = \int_{-1}^{x} f(t)\,dt$. Find the value of $g\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$, if it exists, or explain why $g\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$ cannot be determined.

(d) Let h be the function defined by $h(x) = f\left(x^2 - 1\right)$. Find the first three nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for h about $x = 0$, and find the value of $h\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$.

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x	$h(x)$	$h'(x)$	$h''(x)$	$h'''(x)$	$h^{(4)}(x)$
1	11	30	42	99	18
2	80	128	$\frac{488}{3}$	$\frac{448}{3}$	$\frac{584}{9}$
3	317	$\frac{753}{2}$	$\frac{1383}{4}$	$\frac{3483}{16}$	$\frac{1125}{16}$

3. Let h be a function having derivatives of all orders for $x > 0$. Selected values of h and its first four derivatives are indicated in the table above. The function h and these four derivatives are increasing on the interval $1 \le x \le 3$.

(a) Write the first-degree Taylor polynomial for h about $x = 2$ and use it to approximate $h(1.9)$. Is this approximation greater than or less than $h(1.9)$? Explain your reasoning.

(b) Write the third-degree Taylor polynomial for h about $x = 2$ and use it to approximate $h(1.9)$.

(c) Use the Lagrange error bound to show that the third-degree Taylor polynomial for h about $x = 2$ approximates $h(1.9)$ with error less than 3×10^{-4}.

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END OF PART A OF SECTION II

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6. Let f be the function given by $f(x) = \dfrac{2x}{1 + x^2}$.

(a) Write the first four nonzero terms and the general term of the Taylor series for f about $x = 0$.

(b) Does the series found in part (a), when evaluated at $x = 1$, converge to $f(1)$? Explain why or why not.

(c) The derivative of $\ln\left(1 + x^2\right)$ is $\dfrac{2x}{1 + x^2}$. Write the first four nonzero terms of the Taylor series for $\ln\left(1 + x^2\right)$ about $x = 0$.

(d) Use the series found in part (c) to find a rational number A such that $\left|A - \ln\left(\dfrac{5}{4}\right)\right| < \dfrac{1}{100}$. Justify your answer.

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