



**Unit 5: Applications of Differentiation**  
**IB Math AA SL**

*Answer all 15 questions. Show all working. For Paper 1 questions, use analytical algebraic methods. For Paper 2 questions, use your graphic display calculator (GDC) efficiently.*

**1. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Easy, 4 marks]**

The equation of a curve is given by  $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 5$ .

- Find the exact gradient of the curve at  $x = 3$ .
- Hence, find the equation of the tangent to the curve at  $x = 3$ . Give your answer in the form  $y = mx + c$ .

**2. [Paper 2 Style, Calculator Required, Easy, 4 marks]**

Let  $y = 0.5x^3 - 2x + 1$ .

- Use the numerical derivative feature on your graphic display calculator to evaluate the gradient of the curve at  $x = 2$ .
- Hence, find the equation of the normal to the curve at the point where  $x = 2$ , giving your answer in the form  $y = mx + c$ .

**3. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Easy, 5 marks]**

A company's daily profit,  $P$  in dollars, from manufacturing  $x$  items is modelled by the quadratic function  $P(x) = -2x^2 + 120x - 500$ .

- Find the marginal profit function,  $P'(x)$ .
- Determine the exact number of items that must be manufactured to maximise the daily profit.
- Calculate the maximum daily profit.

4. [Paper 2 Style, Calculator Required, Easy, 4 marks]

A farmer wants to build a rectangular sheep pen against an existing long stone wall. No fencing is needed along the wall. He has exactly 100 metres of fencing available for the other three sides. Let  $x$  be the width of the pen in metres.

- (a) Show that the area of the pen,  $A$ , can be written as  $A(x) = 100x - 2x^2$ .
- (b) Use your graphic display calculator to find the width  $x$  that maximises the area of the pen, and state this maximum area.

5. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Medium, 5 marks]

Consider the curve  $y = 2x^2 - 5x$ .

- (a) Find the gradient of the tangent to the curve at  $x = 1$ .
- (b) Find the gradient of the normal to the curve at  $x = 1$ .
- (c) Find the equation of the normal line at  $x = 1$ , giving your answer in the form  $ax + by + d = 0$ , where  $a, b$ , and  $d$  are integers.

6. [Paper 2 Style, Calculator Required, Medium, 6 marks]

An open-topped box is made from a 20 cm  $\times$  20 cm square piece of cardboard by cutting out identical squares of side length  $x$  cm from each of the four corners and folding up the sides.

- (a) Write down an expression for the volume of the box,  $V$ , in terms of  $x$ .
- (b) State the practical domain for  $x$  (the possible values  $x$  can take).
- (c) Use your graphic display calculator to find the value of  $x$  that gives the maximum volume, and state this maximum volume correct to 3 significant figures.

7. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Medium, 5 marks]

The curve  $C$  is given by the equation  $y = -x^3 + 6x^2 - 5x + 4$ .

- (a) Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .
- (b) The tangent to the curve is parallel to the  $x$ -axis at two specific points. Find the exact  $x$ -coordinates of these two points.

8. [Paper 2 Style, Calculator Required, Medium, 6 marks]

A manufacturer needs to design a cylindrical tin can to hold  $1000\pi$  cm<sup>3</sup> of liquid. The radius of the base is  $r$  cm, and the height is  $h$  cm.

- Write down an equation linking  $r$ ,  $h$ , and the volume. Hence, express  $h$  in terms of  $r$ .
- Show that the total surface area of the can,  $SA$ , is given by  $SA = 2\pi r^2 + \frac{2000\pi}{r}$ .
- Graph this function on your calculator and find the radius  $r$  that minimises the surface area. Give your answer to 3 significant figures.

9. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Hard, 5 marks]

The equation of a curve is  $y = x^3 - 4x^2 + kx$ , where  $k$  is a constant. The equation of the tangent to the curve at the point where  $x = 2$  is  $y = -3x + 10$ .

- State the gradient of the tangent line.
- Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  in terms of  $x$  and  $k$ .
- By substituting  $x = 2$  into your derivative, find the exact value of  $k$ .

10. [Paper 2 Style, Calculator Required, Hard, 6 marks]

A function is defined by  $f(x) = px^3 + qx^2 + 5x$ . The curve has a local minimum point at  $x = 1$  and passes through the point  $(1, 2)$ .

- Using the fact that the curve passes through  $(1, 2)$ , write down an equation in terms of  $p$  and  $q$ .
- Find  $f'(x)$ .
- Using the fact that the local minimum occurs at  $x = 1$ , write down a second equation in terms of  $p$  and  $q$ .
- Solve the system of equations to find the exact values of  $p$  and  $q$ .

11. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Hard, 6 marks]

The curve  $C$  has equation  $y = 3x^2 - 6 + \frac{4}{x}$ . The point  $P(1, 1)$  lies on  $C$ .

- Find an expression for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .
- Show that an equation of the normal to  $C$  at point  $P$  is  $x + 2y = 3$ .
- This normal cuts the  $x$ -axis at the point  $Q$ . Find the exact length of the line segment  $PQ$ .

12. [Paper 2 Style, Calculator Required, Hard, 6 marks]

A company produces and sells cricket bats. The daily cost  $C$ , in hundreds of dollars, to produce  $x$  hundred cricket bats is  $C(x) = 6x^3 - 10x^2 + 10x + 4$ . The daily revenue  $R$  from selling  $x$  hundred cricket bats is  $R(x) = 42x$ .

- Determine a function for the profit,  $P(x)$ , in hundreds of dollars.
- Find  $P'(x)$ .
- The production of bats will reach its profit-maximising level when the marginal profit  $P'(x)$  equals zero. Use your GDC to find the profit-maximising production level (number of bats) and the expected maximum profit in dollars.

13. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Very Hard, 6 marks]

Consider the function  $f$  defined by  $f(x) = 90e^{-0.5x}$  for  $x \geq 0$ . The line  $L$  has a gradient of  $-1$  and is a tangent to the graph of  $f$  at the point  $Q$ .

- Find  $f'(x)$ .
- Find the exact coordinates of  $Q$ .
- Show that the equation of  $L$  is  $y = -x + 2 \ln 45 + 2$ .

14. [Paper 2 Style, Calculator Required, Very Hard, 7 marks]

We want to find the shortest distance from the point  $(0, 2)$  to the curve  $y = x^2$ . Let  $D(x)$  be the distance from  $(0, 2)$  to a general point  $(x, x^2)$  on the curve.

- Using the distance formula, show that  $D(x) = \sqrt{x^4 - 3x^2 + 4}$ .
- Graph  $Y = \sqrt{x^4 - 3x^2 + 4}$  on your calculator. Using the minimum feature, find the minimum distance from the point to the curve.
- State the  $x$ -coordinates of the points on the curve  $y = x^2$  that are closest to  $(0, 2)$ .

15. [Paper 1 Style, Non-Calculator, Very Hard, 7 marks]

A small cylindrical drum, closed at the top but open at the bottom, has a radius  $r$  cm and a volume of  $1000 \text{ cm}^3$ . The material to make the top skin of the drum costs 25 cents per  $\text{cm}^2$ , and the curved surface costs 20 cents per  $\text{cm}^2$ . It can be shown that the total cost  $C$ , in cents, of the material is given by  $C(r) = 25\pi r^2 + \frac{40000}{r}$ .

- Find  $\frac{dC}{dr}$ .
- The function  $C(r)$  has a local minimum at the point where  $r = p$ . Find the exact value of  $p$ .
- Find  $\frac{d^2C}{dr^2}$  and hence mathematically justify that the cost is minimised at the radius  $r = p$ .