Exam Questions – Differential Equations

Q1.

The rate of increase of the number, N, of fish in a lake is modelled by the differential equation

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{(kt-1)(5000-N)}{t} \qquad t > 0, \quad 0 < N < 5000$$

In the given equation, the time t is measured in years from the start of January 2000 and k is a positive constant.

(a) By solving the differential equation, show that

$$N = 5000 - Ate^{-kt}$$

where A is a positive constant.

(5)

After one year, at the start of January 2001, there are 1200 fish in the lake.

After two years, at the start of January 2002, there are 1800 fish in the lake.

(b) Find the exact value of the constant A and the exact value of the constant k.

(4)

(c) Hence find the number of fish in the lake after five years. Give your answer to the nearest hundred fish.

(1)

(Total 10 marks)

Q2.

A spherical mint of radius 5 mm is placed in the mouth and sucked.
Four minutes later, the radius of the mint is 3 mm.

In a simple model, the rate of decrease of the radius of the mint is inversely proportional to the square of the radius.

Using this model and all the information given,

(a) find an equation linking the radius of the mint and the time.

(You should define the variables that you use.)

(5)

(b) Hence find the total time taken for the mint to completely dissolve.

Give your answer in minutes and seconds to the nearest second.

(2)

(c) Suggest a limitation of the model.

(1)

(Total for question = 8 marks)

Q3.

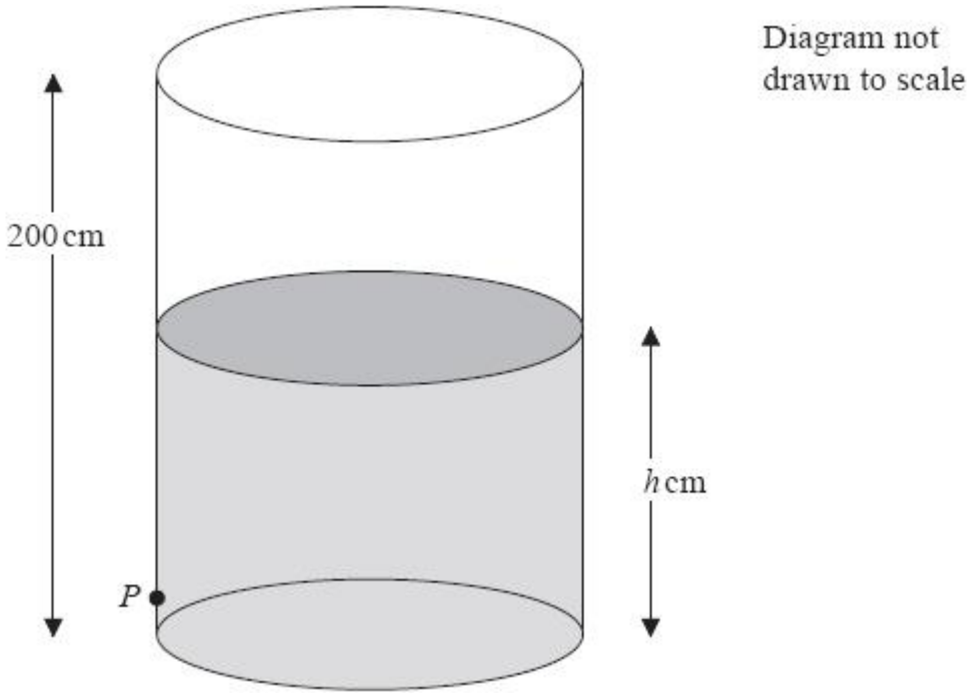

Figure 3

Figure 3 shows a vertical cylindrical tank of height 200 cm containing water.
Water is leaking from a hole P on the side of the tank.

At time t minutes after the leaking starts, the height of water in the tank is h cm.

The height h cm of the water in the tank satisfies the differential equation

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = k(h-9)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \qquad 9 < h \leqslant 200$$

where k is a constant.

Given that, when $h = 130$, the height of the water is falling at a rate of 1.1cm per minute,

(a) find the value of k.

(2)

Given that the tank was full of water when the leaking started,

(b) solve the differential equation with your value of k, to find the value of t when $h = 50$

(6)

(Total for question = 8 marks)

Q4.

(a) Express $\frac{2}{P(P-2)}$ in partial fractions.

(3)

A team of biologists is studying a population of a particular species of animal.

The population is modelled by the differential equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{1}{2}P(P-2)\cos 2t, \quad t \geqslant 0$$

where P is the population in thousands, and t is the time measured in years since the start of the study.

Given that $P = 3$ when $t = 0$,

(b) solve this differential equation to show that

$$P = \frac{6}{3 - e^{\frac{1}{2}\sin 2t}}$$

(7)

(c) find the time taken for the population to reach 4000 for the first time. Give your answer in years to 3 significant figures.

(3)

(Total for question = 13 marks)

Q5.

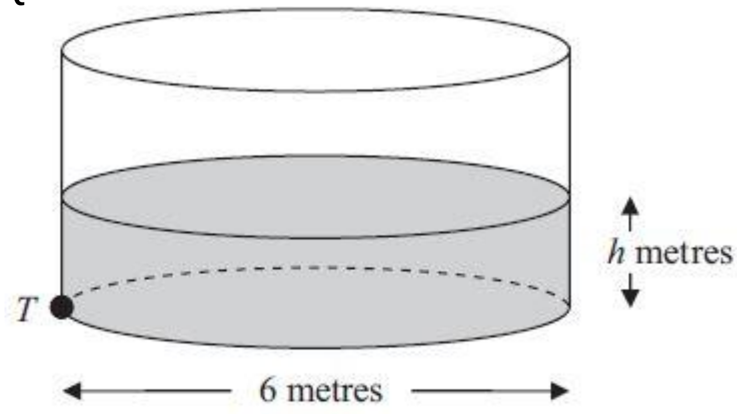

Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a cylindrical water tank. The diameter of a circular cross-section of the tank is 6 m. Water is flowing into the tank at a constant rate of 0.48π m^3 min^{-1}. At time t minutes, the depth of the water in the tank is h metres. There is a tap at a point T at the bottom of the tank. When the tap is open, water leaves the tank at a rate of $0.6\pi h$ m^3 min^{-1}.

(a) Show that t minutes after the tap has been opened

$$75\frac{dh}{dt} = (4 - 5h)$$

(5)

When $t = 0$, $h = 0.2$

(b) Find the value of t when $h = 0.5$

(6)
(Total 11 marks)

Q6.

Liquid is pouring into a large vertical circular cylinder at a constant rate of 1600 cm^3 s^{-1} and is leaking out of a hole in the base, at a rate proportional to the square root of the height of the liquid already in the cylinder. The area of the circular cross section of the cylinder is 4000 cm^2.

(a) Show that at time t seconds, the height h cm of liquid in the cylinder satisfies the differential equation

$\frac{dh}{dt} = 0.4 - k\sqrt{h}$, where k is a positive constant.

(3)

When $h = 25$, water is leaking out of the hole at 400 cm^3 s^{-1}.

(b) Show that $k = 0.02$

(1)

(c) Separate the variables of the differential equation

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = 0.4 - 0.02\sqrt{h},$$

to show that the time taken to fill the cylinder from empty to a height of 100 cm is given by

$$\int_0^{100} \frac{50}{20 - \sqrt{h}}\, dh.$$

(2)

Using the substitution $h = (20 - x)^2$, or otherwise,

(d) find the exact value of $\int_0^{100} \frac{50}{20 - \sqrt{h}}\, dh.$

(6)

(e) Hence find the time taken to fill the cylinder from empty to a height of 100 cm, giving your answer in minutes and seconds to the nearest second.

(1)

(Total 13 marks)

Q7.

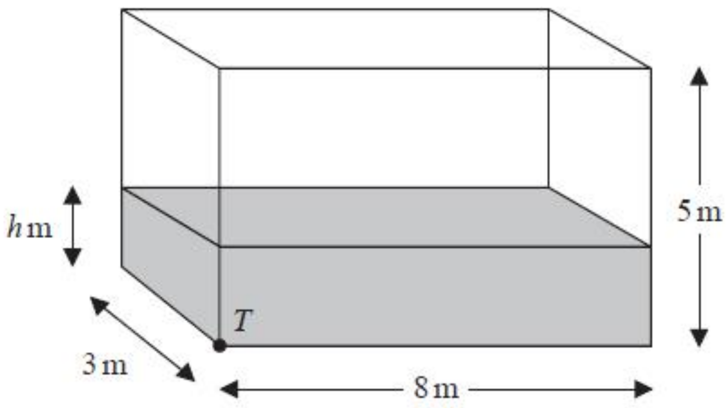

Figure 5

Water flows at a constant rate into a large tank.

The tank is a cuboid, with all sides of negligible thickness.

The base of the tank measures 8 m by 3 m and the height of the tank is 5 m.

There is a tap at a point *T* at the bottom of the tank, as shown in Figure 5.

At time *t* minutes after the tap has been opened

- the depth of water in the tank is *h* metres
- water is flowing into the tank at a constant rate of 0.48 m^3 per minute
- water is modelled as leaving the tank through the tap at a rate of $0.1h$ m^3 per minute

(a) Show that, according to the model,

$$1200\frac{dh}{dt} = 24 - 5h$$

(4)

Given that when the tap was opened, the depth of water in the tank was 2 m,

(b) show that, according to the model,

$$h = A + B\,e^{-kt}$$

where *A*, *B* and *k* are constants to be found.

(6)

Given that the tap remains open,

(c) determine, according to the model, whether the tank will ever become full, giving a reason for your answer.

(2)

(Total for question = 12 marks)