

# MEI Structured Mathematics

## Module Summary Sheets

### **C2, Concepts for Advanced Mathematics (Version B—reference to new book)**

#### Topic 1: Algebra

1. Logarithms
2. Sequences and Series

#### Topic 2: Trigonometry

1. Trigonometrical Ratios
2. Triangles

#### Topic 3: Calculus

1. Differentiation
2. Integration

#### Topic 4: Curve Sketching

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References:  
Chapter 11  
Pages 319-323

If  $x = a^m$  then  $m = \log_a x$

The following laws are derived from the laws of indices.

1. If  $y = a^n$  then  $n = \log_a y$ , so  $xy = a^{m+n}$   
 $\Rightarrow m + n = \log_a xy \Rightarrow \log_a x + \log_a y = \log_a xy$

Similarly:

2.  $\log x - \log y = \log \frac{x}{y}$

3.  $\log x^n = n \log x$

4.  $\log 1 = 0, \log_a a = 1$

5.  $\log \frac{1}{x} = -\log x$

*In numerical work  $\log x$  usually refers to base 10. In algebraic work the laws of logs are true for any base, and the base is therefore usually unspecified.*

E.g.  $\log 3 + \log 4 = \log 12$

$\log 6 - \log 2 = \log 3$

$\log 4 = \log 2^2 = 2 \log 2$

$\log \frac{1}{2} = -\log 2$

E.g. Evaluate  $\log_2 8$

$\log_2 8 = \log_2 2^3 = 3 \log_2 2 = 3$

E.g. Solve  $2^x = 3$

Take logs:  $\log 2^x = x \log 2 = \log 3$

$\Rightarrow x = \frac{\log 3}{\log 2} = 1.585$

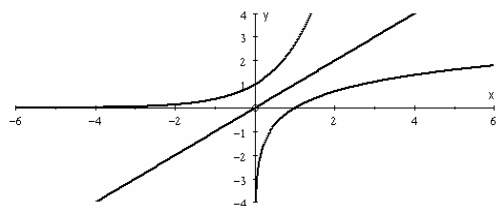
Exercise 11A  
Q. 1(i),  
6, 7(ii)

References:  
Chapter 11  
Page 324

## Exponential functions

If  $y = \log_a x$  then  $x = a^y$ .

The exponential function is the inverse of the log function and so their graphs are reflections in the line  $y = x$ .



Exercise 11A  
Q. 2(i), (vi)

E.g. Find the smallest integer value of  $n$  for which  $1.12^n = 2$

$1.12^n = 2 \Rightarrow n \log 1.12 = \log 2 \Rightarrow n = \frac{\log 2}{\log 1.12} = 6.12 \Rightarrow n = 7$

(N.B. this was done using logs to base 10 - any base would do if you could find the value of the logs.)

E.g. Find values of  $a$  and  $b$  so that the data below fit the graph  $y = ax^b$ .

$x$	1	2	3	4	5
$y$	3.00	4.24	5.20	6.00	6.71

Take logs so that the formula becomes  $\log y = \log a + b \log x$

$\log x$	0	0.30	0.48	0.60	0.70
$\log y$	0.48	0.63	0.72	0.78	0.83

These points lie on a straight line with intercept 0.48.  
 i.e.  $\log a = 0.48$  giving  $a = 10^{0.48} \sim 3$

$$\text{gradient} = \frac{0.83 - 0.48}{0.70 - 0} \sim 0.5 = b \Rightarrow y = 3x^{\frac{1}{2}} = 3\sqrt{x}$$

References:  
Chapter 11  
Pages 326-329

## Reduction to linear form

The straight line  $y = mx + c$  has gradient  $m$  and intercept  $c$ . A straight line graph can be identified and these two values found. A curve cannot be identified so easily.

Some curves can be transformed to straight lines by the use of loges. A set of data thought to fit one of two specific curves can therefore be tested.

If a set of data is thought to obey the rule  $y = ab^x$ , then taking logs gives  $\log y = \log a + x \log b$  ( $Y = Mx + c$ )  
 i.e. plot  $\log y$  against  $x$ , giving line with gradient  $\log b$  and intercept  $\log a$ .

If a set of data is thought to obey the rule  $y = ax^n$  then taking logs gives  $\log y = \log a + n \log x$  ( $Y = MX + C$ )  
 i.e. plot  $\log y$  against  $\log x$ , giving gradient  $n$  and intercept  $\log a$ .

Exercise 11B  
Q. 3

E.g. Find values of  $a$  and  $b$  so that the data below fit the graph  $y = ab^x$ .

$x$	0	1	2	3	4
$y$	5.00	1.50	0.45	0.14	0.04

Take logs so that the formula becomes  $\log y = \log a + x \log b$

$x$	0	1	2	3	4
$\log y$	0.70	0.18	-0.35	-0.85	-1.40

These points lie on a straight line with intercept 0.70.  
 i.e.  $\log a = 0.7$  giving  $a = 10^{0.7} \sim 5$

$$\text{gradient} = \frac{-1.40 - 0.70}{4} \sim -0.525 = \log b$$

$$\Rightarrow b = 10^{-0.525} \sim 0.3 \Rightarrow y = 5(0.3)^x$$

C2; Concepts for Advanced Mathematics 2  
 Version B: page 2  
 Competence statements a1, a2, a3, a4, a5,  
 a6, a7

References:  
Chapter 7  
Pages 160-162

**Sequences and Series**

A sequence is a set of numbers in a given order. Each number is called a term. The  $k^{\text{th}}$  term is denoted  $a_k$ . The terms in the sequence may be defined by a law of connection.

A series is a sequence of numbers added together.

E.g. A sequence of numbers: 1, 3, 5, 7, ...  
 $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 3$ , etc

A series of numbers  $S = 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + \dots$ .  
If there are a finite number of terms then the series may be summed to give a value

This is written:

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^{k=n} a_k = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$$

A series may have an infinite number of terms.

E.g. find the rule for the following sequences:

- (i) 1, 3, 5, 7, ...
- (ii) 1, 2, 4, 8, ...
- (iii) 2, 5, 10, 17, ...

(i)  $a_k = a_{k-1} + 2$  with  $a_1 = 1$   
or  $a_k = 1 + 2(k-1) = 2k - 1$

(ii)  $a_k = 2a_{k-1}$  with  $a_1 = 1$   
or  $a_k = 2^{(k-1)}$

(iii)  $a_k = k^2 + 1$

Exercise 7A  
Q. 1(i),(iv),2(i),  
(iv)

E.g. If  $a_k = k(k+2)$  find  $\sum_{k=1}^5 a_k$

$$\sum_{k=1}^5 a_k = 1 \times 3 + 2 \times 4 + 3 \times 5 + 4 \times 6 + 5 \times 7 = 85$$

References:  
Chapter 7  
Pages 162-163  
Pages 169-171

**Arithmetic Sequences and Series**

A sequence of terms where the difference between consecutive terms is constant.

i.e.  $a_{k+1} - a_k = d$ , called the common difference.

If  $a_1 = a$  and the common difference =  $d$

then  $a_k = a + (k-1)d$

The sum to  $n$  terms,  $S_n = \frac{n}{2}(2a + (n-1)d)$

If  $l$  is the last term then  $S_n = \frac{n}{2}(a+l)$

Exercise 7B  
Q. 8

E.g. given the A.P.  $2 + 5 + 8 + \dots$  find (i) the 17th term and (ii) the sum to 20 terms.

$$a_{17} = a + 16d = 2 + 16 \times 3 = 50$$

The sum to 20 terms is  $S_{20}$

$$\text{where } S_{20} = \frac{20}{2}(2 \times 2 + 19 \times 3) = 610$$

References:  
Chapter 7  
Pages 163-164  
Pages 176-180

**Geometric Sequences and Series**

A sequence of terms where the ratio of consecutive terms is constant.

i.e.  $a_{k+1} \div a_k = r$ , called the common ratio.

If  $a_1 = a$  and the common ratio =  $r$

then  $a_k = ar^{n-1}$

The sum to  $n$  terms,  $S_n = \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{(r - 1)} = \frac{a(1 - r^n)}{(1 - r)}$

Exercise 7C  
Q. 3, 4

E.g. given the G.P.  $2 + 6 + 18 + \dots$ . Find (i) the 5th term and (ii) the sum to 7 terms.

$$a = 3, r = 3 \Rightarrow a_5 = ar^{n-1} = 2 \times 3^{4-1} = 54$$

$$\text{The sum to 7 terms, } S_7 = \frac{2(3^7 - 1)}{(3 - 1)} = 2186$$

References:  
Chapter 7  
Page 181

**Infinite G.P.**

If  $|r| < 1$  then the terms converge as  $r^n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

The sum to infinity,  $S = \frac{a}{(1-r)}$

Exercise 7C  
Q. 8, 9

E.g. given the G.P.  $16 + 8 + 4 + \dots$  find the sum to infinity.

$$a = 16, r = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \text{The sum to infinity, } S = \frac{a}{1-r} = \frac{16}{(1-\frac{1}{2})} = 32$$

References:  
Chapter 7  
Page 164

**Periodicity and Oscillations**

A sequence which repeats itself at regular intervals is called **Periodic**.

A sequence in which terms lie above and below a middle term is said to **oscillate**.

E.g. a sequence in which  $a_{k+5} = a_k$  for all integers  $k$  has period 5.

An oscillating sequence may be periodic, but it does not have to be.

E.g. a G.P. with  $a = 81$  and  $r = -\frac{1}{3}$

$$\Rightarrow 81, -27, 9, -3, 1, -\frac{1}{3}, \dots$$

References:  
Chapter 10  
Pages 271-276

**Ratios for any angles**

The value of the ratios for any angles should be known

$$\sin\theta = \frac{y}{r}, \cos\theta = \frac{x}{r} : \tan\theta = \frac{y}{x}$$

E.g.  $\sin 45 = \cos 45 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \tan 45 = 1$

$$\sin 30 = \cos 60 = \frac{1}{2}, \sin 60 = \cos 30 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\tan 30 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \tan 60 = \sqrt{3}$$

Exercise 10A  
Q. 6

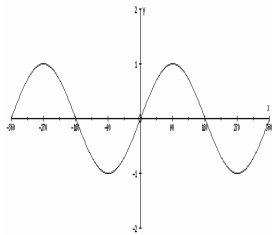
**Special angles**

There are special values for the ratios of the angles  $0^\circ, 30^\circ, 45^\circ, 60^\circ, 90^\circ$  etc. These need to be learnt in surd form as well as in decimals.

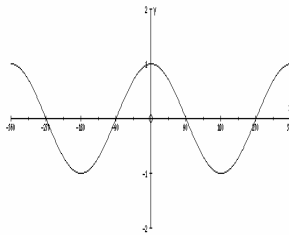
References:  
Chapter 10  
Pages 277-279

**Graphs**

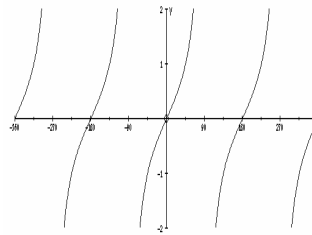
The graphs of  $y = \sin x, y = \cos x$  and  $y = \tan x$  should be known.



$y = \sin x$



$y = \cos x$



$y = \tan x$

E.g. from the graphs it can be seen that  
 $\sin 150 = \sin 30$   
 $\sin 210 = -\sin 30$   
 $\cos 200 = -\cos 20$   
 $\cos(-30) = \cos 30$   
 $\tan 120 = -\tan 60$   
 $\tan 200 = \tan 20$

References:  
Chapter 10  
Pages 280-283

**Solution of equations**

The use of calculators to solve trigonometrical equations will only give one answer (the "Principal angle").

E.g. Find values of  $x$  in the range  $0 \leq x \leq 360$  for which  $\sin x = -0.3$

calculators will give  $x = -17.5$  which is not in the range.

Reference to graphs will confirm two roots,

$$x = 180 + 17.5 = 197.5$$

$$x = 360 - 17.5 = 342.5$$

Exercise 10A  
Q. 2

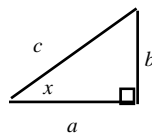
When a specific range is given there may be more than one root or a root that is not the Principal angle, so the result from the calculator needs to be used with the information above to give the full solution.

References:  
Chapter 10  
Page 276

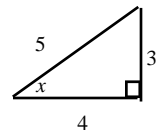
**Pythagoras**

In the triangle  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \Rightarrow \frac{a^2}{c^2} + \frac{b^2}{c^2} = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1$$



E.g.  $\sin x = \frac{3}{5}, \cos x = \frac{4}{5}$



$$\Rightarrow \sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = \frac{9}{25} + \frac{16}{25}$$

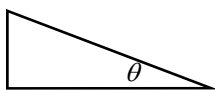
$$= \frac{25}{25} = 1$$

Exercise 10A  
Q. 1

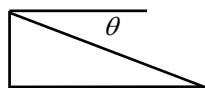
References:  
Chapter 10  
Pages 270-271

**Applications - Draw careful diagrams!!**

**Angles of inclination and depression**



Angle of inclination

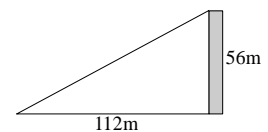


Angle of depression

E.g. Find the angle of inclination of the top of the tower:

$$\tan\theta = \frac{56}{112}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = 26.6^\circ$$



Exercise 10D  
Q. 1

References: Chapter 10 Page 271

**Bearings**

The bearing of one place from another is the compass direction measured as an angle clockwise from North to the line between the two places.

Exercise 10D Q. 3

E.g. A boat B leaves a harbour A. It travels for 4km on a bearing  $200^\circ$ . How far north must it travel before it is due west of A?

$$\sin 70^\circ = \frac{x}{4}$$

$$x = 4 \sin 70^\circ \Rightarrow x = 3.76 \text{ km}$$

References: Chapter 10 Pages 285-297

**General Triangle**

**Cosine rule:**  $a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A$

**Sine rule:**  $\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$

(care should be taken in the 'ambiguous' case: eg.  $\sin x = 0.5 \Rightarrow x = 30^\circ$  or  $150^\circ$ )

**Area** =  $\frac{1}{2} ab \sin C$

Exercise 10B Q. 1(i), 2(i)

Exercise 10C Q. 1(i), 2(i)

E.g. Solve the triangle

$$a^2 = 5^2 + 6^2 - 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cos 60^\circ$$

$$a^2 = 31 \Rightarrow a = 5.57$$

$$\frac{5.57}{\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{6}{\sin C}$$

$$\sin C = \frac{6 \sin 60^\circ}{5.57} \Rightarrow C = 69^\circ$$

$$B = 180 - 60 - 69 = 51^\circ$$

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 6 \times \sin 60^\circ = 13 \text{ units}^2$$

Exercise 10E Q. 1(iv)

**Problem solving**

- Draw a good clear diagram, especially in 3-D problems
- Pick out and redraw any relevant triangles
- Use appropriate trigonometrical formulae

References: Chapter 10 Pages 299-302

**Circular Measure**

Angles are measured in degrees and also in radians. Radians are particularly useful for circular measurement.

1 radian = the angle subtended by an arc length of 1 unit in a circle of radius 1 unit.

1 revolution =  $360^\circ = 2\pi$  radians

Exercise 10F Q. 1(i),(iv),(ix) 2(i),(iv), (ix)

E.g.  $30^\circ = 30 \times \frac{2\pi}{360} = \frac{\pi}{6}$  rad

$$3 \text{ rad} = 3 \times \frac{360}{2\pi} \approx 171.9^\circ$$

E.g.  $\sin \pi = 0$ ,  $\cos \frac{\pi}{3} = 0.5$

References: Chapter 10 Pages 303-304

**Length of arc and area of sector**

Arc length,  $s = r\theta$

Area of sector,  $A = \frac{1}{2} r^2 \theta$

Exercise 10G Q. 5

E.g. Find the arc length and area of the sector of a circle, radius 3 cm and angle  $60^\circ$ .

$$60^\circ = \frac{\pi}{3} \Rightarrow \text{Arc} = 3 \times \frac{\pi}{3} = \pi \text{ cm}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} \times 3^2 \times \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{3\pi}{2} \text{ cm}^2$$

References: Chapter 10 Pages 311-314

**Transformations**

$y = \sin x + a$  represents a translation  $a$  units parallel to the  $y$ -axis.

$y = a \sin x$  represents a one way stretch of scale factor  $a$  parallel to the  $y$ -axis.

$y = \sin ax$  represents a one way stretch of scale factor  $\frac{1}{a}$  parallel to the  $x$ -axis.

Exercise 10H Q. 1(ii),(iv),(v)5

References:  
Chapter 8  
Pages 191-196

The **gradient** of a curve at a point is given by the gradient of the tangent at that point.

The gradient function  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  is defined by  $\lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta y}{\delta x} = \frac{dy}{dx}$

References:  
Chapter 8  
Pages 197-201

**The Gradient function.**

Given a function  $y = f(x)$  we can differentiate to find the *gradient function* or the *derivative*.

If  $y = f(x) = ax^n$  then  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = nax^{n-1}$

The function must be a summation (or difference) of terms before it can be differentiated.

If  $y = f(x) + g(x)$  then  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) + g'(x)$

Exercise 8B  
Q. 1(i),(ix)

References:  
Chapter 12  
Pages 339-340

Exercise 12A  
Q. 1(i), (viii)

References:  
Chapter 8  
Pages 206-207

**Tangents and Normals**

The gradient of the tangent at a point on the curve is the gradient of the curve.

The normal to the curve at a point is perpendicular to the tangent.

Hence the equation of the tangent at the point  $(x_1, y_1)$  is  $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$  where  $m$  is the gradient of the curve at the point found above.

The equation of the normal is  $y - y_1 = m'(x - x_1)$  where  $mm' = -1$ .

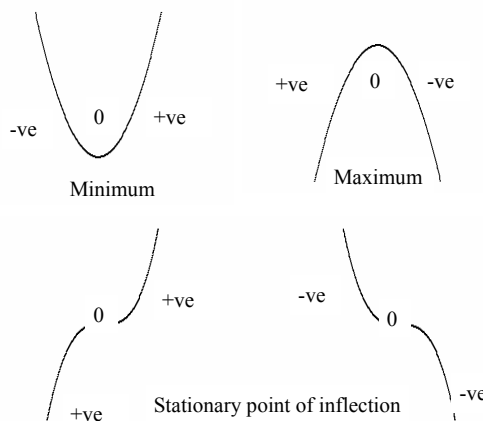
Exercise 8D  
Q. 5

References:  
Chapter 8  
Pages 210-215  
Pages 217-220

**Stationary points**

At stationary points, (maxima, minima or points of inflexion) the gradient = 0.

The nature of a stationary point can be determined by looking at the sign of the gradient just either side of it.



Exercise 8E  
Q. 2, 11

Exercise 8F  
Q. 2

References:  
Chapter 8  
Pages 221-226

**2nd derivatives**

The gradient of a curve is itself a function and so has a gradient.

This is denoted  $f''(x) = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$

Exercise 8G  
Q. 1

E.g. Find the gradient function of the following:

(i)  $y = x^3$

(ii)  $y = 3x^2 + 4x - 2 + \frac{2}{x}$

(i)  $y = x^3 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2$

(ii)  $y = 3x^2 + 4x - 2 + \frac{2}{x} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 6x + 4 - \frac{2}{x^2}$

(Note that the gradient function of  $kx$  is  $k$  and of a constant is 0.)

E.g. Find the gradient of the tangent to the curve  $y = x^2 + 1$  at the point (2, 5).

$y = x^2 + 1 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$

When  $x = 2$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2 \times 2 = 4$

E.g. Find the stationary points on the curve  $y = x^3 - 6x^2 + 9x - 4$  and determine which is a maximum and which is a minimum.

$y = x^3 - 6x^2 + 9x - 4 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 12x + 9$

= 0 when  $3(x^2 - 4x + 3) = 0 \Rightarrow 3(x-3)(x-1) = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow x = 1, 3$ . When  $x = 1, y = 0$ ; When  $x = 3, y = -4$

$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3(x-3)(x-1)$ ;

For the point (1, 0); When  $x < 1, \frac{dy}{dx} = -ve$ . -ve = +ve

and when  $x > 1, \frac{dy}{dx} = +ve$ . +ve = -ve, giving maximum.

For the point (3, -4); When  $x < 3, \frac{dy}{dx} = -ve$ . +ve = -ve

and when  $x > 3, \frac{dy}{dx} = +ve$ . +ve = +ve, giving minimum.

E.g. Find the equation of the tangent and normal to the curve  $y = x^2 - 5x + 3$  at the point (1, -1).

$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - 5$ . When  $x = 1, \frac{dy}{dx} = -3$

$\Rightarrow$  Gradient of tangent = -3, Gradient of normal =  $\frac{1}{3}$

$\Rightarrow$  Tangent :  $y + 1 = -3(x - 1) \Rightarrow y + 3x = 2$

Normal :  $y + 1 = \frac{1}{3}(x - 1) \Rightarrow 3y - x = -4$

**For the use of 2nd derivatives to identify the nature of stationary points, see Page 8.**

C2; Concepts for Advanced Mathematics 2  
Version B: page 6

Competence statements c1, c2, c3, c4, c5, c6, c7, c8

References:  
Chapter 9  
Pages 234-236

Exercise 9A  
Q. 2

Exercise 9B  
Q. 1(i)

References:  
Chapter 12  
Pages 347-349

Exercise 12B  
Q. 1(i), (viii)

References:  
Chapter 9  
Pages 239-246  
Pages 250-251

Exercise 9B  
Q. 2(i), (ix), 5

Exercise 9C  
Q. 1(ii),(viii)

References:  
Chapter 9  
Pages 260-264

Exercise 9F  
Q. 6

**Integration** is the reverse process of differentiation.

$$\int kx^n dx = \frac{kx^{n+1}}{n+1} + c \text{ providing } n \neq -1$$

$c$  is the constant of integration.

$$\int [f(x) + g(x)] dx = \int f(x) dx + \int g(x) dx$$

$$\int af(x) dx = a \int f(x) dx$$

**Evaluating  $c$ .**

We must be given corresponding values of  $x$  and  $y$ . These may be a point on the curve  $y = f(x)$  or they may be from initial values of a problem.

We substitute these values in to the equation, and then find  $c$ .

**Definite integration**

If  $\frac{d}{dx}(F(x)) = f(x)$  then the definite integral from  $a$  to  $b$  of  $f(x)$  is given by

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = [F(x)]_a^b = F(b) - F(a)$$

**The area under a graph**

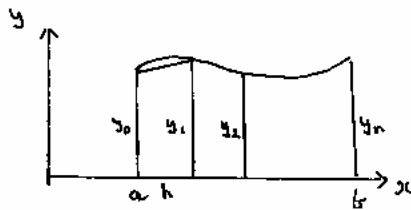
The area under a graph can be found as the limit of a sum of areas of rectangles.

$$\text{Area} = \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \sum_a^b y \delta x = \int_a^b y dx$$

Note that the area under the  $x$ -axis will be negative.

**Numerical integration—Trapezium Rule**

The area is estimated by trapezia:



$$\int_a^b y dx \sim \frac{h}{2} [y_0 + 2(y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_{n-1}) + y_n] \text{ where } h = \frac{b-a}{n}$$

E.g.  $\int (2x^3 + 3x^2 - x + 1 + \frac{1}{x^3}) dx$

$$= \int 2x^3 dx + \int 3x^2 dx - \int x dx + \int 1 dx + \int \frac{1}{x^3} dx$$

$$= 2 \int x^3 dx + 3 \int x^2 dx - \int x dx + \int 1 dx + \int x^{-3} dx$$

$$= \frac{x^4}{2} + x^3 - \frac{x^2}{2} + x - \frac{1}{2x^2} + c$$

E.g. Find the equation of the curve

through  $(3, 4)$  for which  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 - 3$ .

$$y = \int (x^2 - 3) dx \Rightarrow y = \frac{x^3}{3} - 3x + c$$

When  $x = 3, y = 4 \Rightarrow y = 9 - 9 + c \Rightarrow c = 4$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{x^3}{3} - 3x + 4$$

E.g. Evaluate  $\int_1^2 (x^2 - x + 1) dx$

$$\int_1^2 (x^2 - x + 1) dx = \left[ \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^2}{2} + x \right]_1^2$$

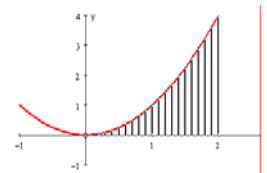
$$= \left( \frac{8}{3} - 2 + 2 \right) - \left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} + 1 \right) = \frac{8}{3} - \frac{5}{6} = \frac{11}{6}$$

E.g. Find the area bounded by the curve

$y = x^2$ , the lines  $x = 0, x = 2$  and the  $x$ -axis.

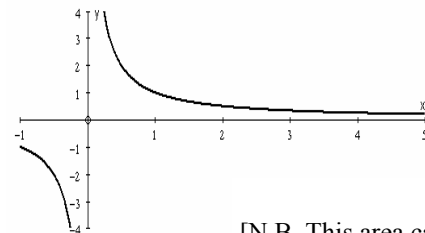
$$\text{Area} = \int_0^2 x^2 dx = \left[ \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^2$$

$$= \left( \frac{8}{3} \right) - (0) = \frac{8}{3}$$



E.g. Estimate the area under the curve  $y = \frac{1}{x}$

between  $x = 1$  and  $x = 4$ .



$x$	1	2	3	4
$y$	1	0.5	0.33	0.25

[N.B. This area can be found directly by integration - the topic appears in C3.]

$$h = \frac{4-1}{3} = 1$$

$$\int_1^4 \frac{1}{x} dx \approx \frac{1}{2} [1 + 2(0.5 + 0.33) + 0.25] = \frac{1}{2} \times 2.91 = 1.46$$

**See C1: Topic 5 “Curve Sketching”**

**Plotting a curve** gives an indication of some precision. Points  $(x, y)$  are calculated (and perhaps a table of values is constructed).

**Sketching a curve** gives an indication of shape. In C1 this included the points where it crosses the axes and the behaviour for large  $x$ .

In addition it is helpful to know the position and nature of the stationary points and any asymptotes.

When you sketch a curve:

- Find where it crosses the axes  
i.e. find  $f(0)$  and also the value(s) of  $x$  for which  $f(x) = 0$
- Check for any discontinuities.  
If  $f(x)$  contains a fraction involving  $x$  and if there is a value of  $x$  that makes the denominator zero, then there is a discontinuity at that value of  $x$ .

E.g.  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - x}$  has two discontinuities, at  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$

- Examine the behaviour as  $x \Rightarrow \pm \infty$
- Look for any stationary points.

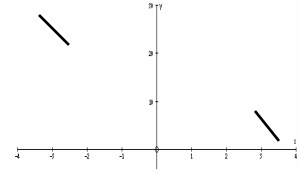
E.g. Sketch the curve  $y = 6 + 12x + 3x^2 - 2x^3$ .

$x = 0$  gives  $y = 6$

There are no discontinuities

As  $x \rightarrow \infty, y \rightarrow -\infty$

As  $x \rightarrow -\infty, y \rightarrow \infty$



$$y = 6 + 12x + 3x^2 - 2x^3$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 12 + 6x - 6x^2 = 0 \text{ when } x^2 - x - 2 = 0$$

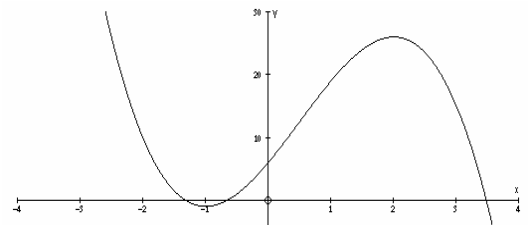
$$\Rightarrow (x - 2)(x + 1) = 0 \text{ i.e. } x = -1, 2$$

Stationary points:  $(-1, -1), (2, 26)$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6 - 12x;$$

When  $x = -1, \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} > 0 \Rightarrow$  minimum

When  $x = 2, \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} < 0 \Rightarrow$  maximum



E.g. The equation of a curve is given by

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

- Show that there is only one turning point and find the coordinates.
- By treating the expression  $x^4 + x^2 - 20$  as a quadratic in  $x^2$ , find where the curve cuts the  $x$ -axis.
- Sketch the curve.

$$(i) \frac{dy}{dx} = 4x^3 + 2x = 0 \text{ when } x(4x^2 + 2) = 0$$

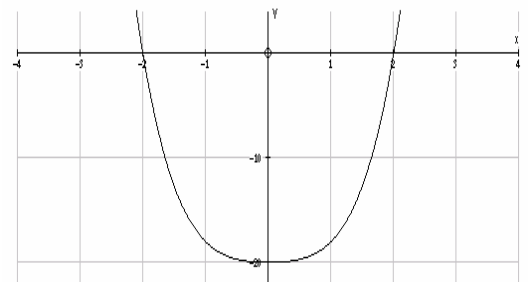
This is so only at  $x = 0 \Rightarrow y = -20$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 12x^2 + 2 > 0 \text{ when } x = 0 \text{ so minimum.}$$

$$(ii) x^4 + x^2 - 20 = 0 \Rightarrow (x^2 - 4)(x^2 + 5) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 = 4 \Rightarrow (2, 0) \text{ and } (-2, 0)$$

(iii)



References:  
Chapter 8  
Pages 222-226

Exercise 8G  
Q. 10

Exercise 8H  
Q. 6

**2nd derivatives**

$\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$  gives a stationary point.

$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} > 0$  gives a minimum.

$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} < 0$  gives a maximum.

You can visualise this by seeing that the gradient function is a changing function. If the gradient is negative just before the stationary value, zero at the value and positive after the stationary value then it is an increasing function giving a minimum (See the diagrams on page 6)