Particle Motion

Position Velocity Acceleration

AP Calculus

Free Response Questions Years 2005 – 2013

Hopkins

2. A particle moves along a straight line. For $0 \le t \le 5$, the velocity of the particle is given by $v(t) = -2 + \left(t^2 + 3t\right)^{6/5} - t^3$, and the position of the particle is given by $s(t)$. It is known that $s(0) = 10$.

   (a) Find all values of t in the interval $2 \le t \le 4$ for which the speed of the particle is 2.

   (b) Write an expression involving an integral that gives the position $s(t)$. Use this expression to find the position of the particle at time $t = 5$.

   (c) Find all times t in the interval $0 \le t \le 5$ at which the particle changes direction. Justify your answer.

   (d) Is the speed of the particle increasing or decreasing at time $t = 4$? Give a reason for your answer.

END OF PART A OF SECTION II

6. For $0 \le t \le 12$, a particle moves along the x-axis. The velocity of the particle at time t is given by $v(t) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{6}t\right)$. The particle is at position $x = -2$ at time $t = 0$.

(a) For $0 \le t \le 12$, when is the particle moving to the left?

(b) Write, but do not evaluate, an integral expression that gives the total distance traveled by the particle from time $t = 0$ to time $t = 6$.

(c) Find the acceleration of the particle at time t. Is the speed of the particle increasing, decreasing, or neither at time $t = 4$? Explain your reasoning.

(d) Find the position of the particle at time $t = 4$.

STOP

END OF EXAM

CALCULUS AB
SECTION II, Part A
Time—30 minutes
Number of problems—2

A graphing calculator is required for these problems.

1. For $0 \le t \le 6$, a particle is moving along the x-axis. The particle's position, $x(t)$, is not explicitly given. The velocity of the particle is given by $v(t) = 2\sin\left(e^{t/4}\right) + 1$. The acceleration of the particle is given by $a(t) = \frac{1}{2}e^{t/4}\cos\left(e^{t/4}\right)$ and $x(0) = 2$.

   (a) Is the speed of the particle increasing or decreasing at time $t = 5.5$? Give a reason for your answer.

   (b) Find the average velocity of the particle for the time period $0 \le t \le 6$.

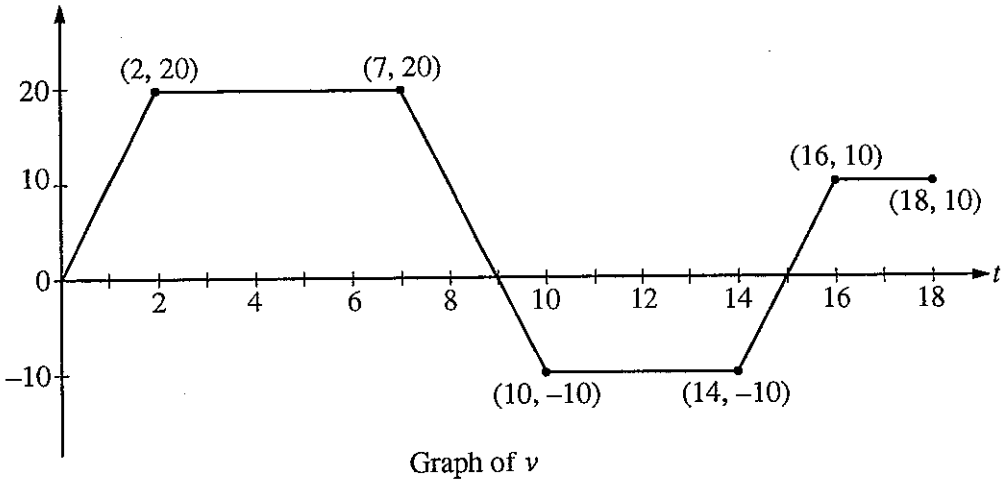
   (c) Find the total distance traveled by the particle from time $t = 0$ to $t = 6$.

   (d) For $0 \le t \le 6$, the particle changes direction exactly once. Find the position of the particle at that time.

WRITE ALL WORK IN THE EXAM BOOKLET.

CALCULUS AB
SECTION II, Part B
Time—45 minutes
Number of problems—3

No calculator is allowed for these problems.



Graph of v

4. A squirrel starts at building A at time $t = 0$ and travels along a straight, horizontal wire connected to building B. For $0 \le t \le 18$, the squirrel's velocity is modeled by the piecewise-linear function defined by the graph above.

   (a) At what times in the interval $0 < t < 18$, if any, does the squirrel change direction? Give a reason for your answer.

   (b) At what time in the interval $0 \le t \le 18$ is the squirrel farthest from building A ? How far from building A is the squirrel at that time?

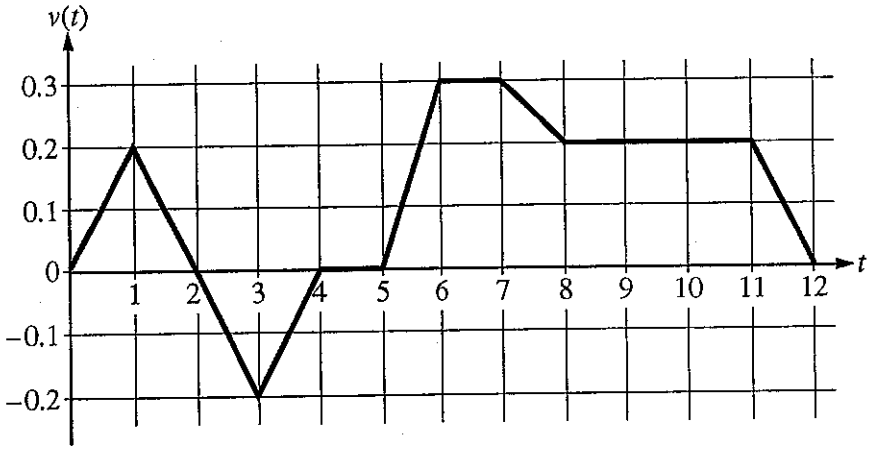
   (c) Find the total distance the squirrel travels during the time interval $0 \le t \le 18$.

   (d) Write expressions for the squirrel's acceleration $a(t)$, velocity $v(t)$, and distance $x(t)$ from building A that are valid for the time interval $7 < t < 10$.

WRITE ALL WORK IN THE EXAM BOOKLET.

CALCULUS AB
SECTION II, Part A
Time—45 minutes
Number of problems—3

A graphing calculator is required for some problems or parts of problems.



1. Caren rides her bicycle along a straight road from home to school, starting at home at time $t = 0$ minutes and arriving at school at time $t = 12$ minutes. During the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ minutes, her velocity $v(t)$, in miles per minute, is modeled by the piecewise-linear function whose graph is shown above.

   (a) Find the acceleration of Caren's bicycle at time $t = 7.5$ minutes. Indicate units of measure.

   (b) Using correct units, explain the meaning of $\int_0^{12} |v(t)|\, dt$ in terms of Caren's trip. Find the value of $\int_0^{12} |v(t)|\, dt$.

   (c) Shortly after leaving home, Caren realizes she left her calculus homework at home, and she returns to get it. At what time does she turn around to go back home? Give a reason for your answer.

   (d) Larry also rides his bicycle along a straight road from home to school in 12 minutes. His velocity is modeled by the function w given by $w(t) = \frac{\pi}{15}\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{12}t\right)$, where $w(t)$ is in miles per minute for $0 \le t \le 12$ minutes. Who lives closer to school: Caren or Larry? Show the work that leads to your answer.

WRITE ALL WORK IN THE PINK EXAM BOOKLET.

t (seconds)	0	8	20	25	32	40
$v(t)$ (meters per second)	3	5	–10	–8	–4	7

6. The velocity of a particle moving along the x-axis is modeled by a differentiable function v, where the position x is measured in meters, and time t is measured in seconds. Selected values of $v(t)$ are given in the table above. The particle is at position $x = 7$ meters when $t = 0$ seconds.

   (a) Estimate the acceleration of the particle at $t = 36$ seconds. Show the computations that lead to your answer. Indicate units of measure.

   (b) Using correct units, explain the meaning of $\int_{20}^{40} v(t)\,dt$ in the context of this problem. Use a trapezoidal sum with the three subintervals indicated by the data in the table to approximate $\int_{20}^{40} v(t)\,dt$.

   (c) For $0 \le t \le 40$, must the particle change direction in any of the subintervals indicated by the data in the table? If so, identify the subintervals and explain your reasoning. If not, explain why not.

   (d) Suppose that the acceleration of the particle is positive for $0 < t < 8$ seconds. Explain why the position of the particle at $t = 8$ seconds must be greater than $x = 30$ meters.

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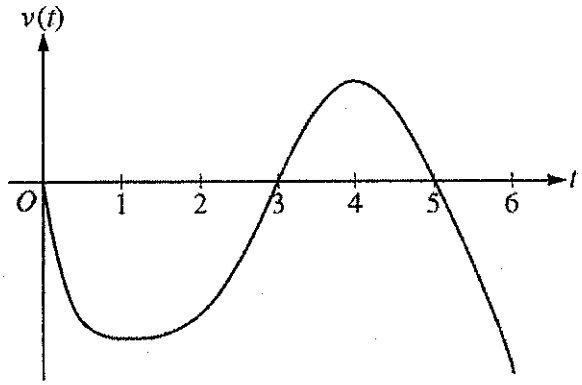
END OF EXAM

CALCULUS AB
SECTION II, Part B
Time—45 minutes
Number of problems—3

No calculator is allowed for these problems.



Graph of v

4. A particle moves along the x-axis so that its velocity at time t, for $0 \le t \le 6$, is given by a differentiable function v whose graph is shown above. The velocity is 0 at $t = 0$, $t = 3$, and $t = 5$, and the graph has horizontal tangents at $t = 1$ and $t = 4$. The areas of the regions bounded by the t-axis and the graph of v on the intervals $[0, 3]$, $[3, 5]$, and $[5, 6]$ are 8, 3, and 2, respectively. At time $t = 0$, the particle is at $x = -2$.

   (a) For $0 \le t \le 6$, find both the time and the position of the particle when the particle is farthest to the left. Justify your answer.

   (b) For how many values of t, where $0 \le t \le 6$, is the particle at $x = -8$? Explain your reasoning.

   (c) On the interval $2 < t < 3$, is the speed of the particle increasing or decreasing? Give a reason for your answer.

   (d) During what time intervals, if any, is the acceleration of the particle negative? Justify your answer.

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CALCULUS AB
SECTION II, Part B
Time—45 minutes
Number of problems—3

No calculator is allowed for these problems.

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4. A particle moves along the x-axis with position at time t given by $x(t) = e^{-t}\sin t$ for $0 \le t \le 2\pi$.

   (a) Find the time t at which the particle is farthest to the left. Justify your answer.

   (b) Find the value of the constant A for which $x(t)$ satisfies the equation $Ax''(t) + x'(t) + x(t) = 0$ for $0 < t < 2\pi$.

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t (minutes)	0	2	5	7	11	12
$r'(t)$ (feet per minute)	5.7	4.0	2.0	1.2	0.6	0.5

5. The volume of a spherical hot air balloon expands as the air inside the balloon is heated. The radius of the balloon, in feet, is modeled by a twice-differentiable function r of time t, where t is measured in minutes. For $0 < t < 12$, the graph of r is concave down. The table above gives selected values of the rate of change, $r'(t)$, of the radius of the balloon over the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$. The radius of the balloon is 30 feet when $t = 5$.

   (Note: The volume of a sphere of radius r is given by $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$.)

   (a) Estimate the radius of the balloon when $t = 5.4$ using the tangent line approximation at $t = 5$. Is your estimate greater than or less than the true value? Give a reason for your answer.

   (b) Find the rate of change of the volume of the balloon with respect to time when $t = 5$. Indicate units of measure.

   (c) Use a right Riemann sum with the five subintervals indicated by the data in the table to approximate $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$. Using correct units, explain the meaning of $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$ in terms of the radius of the balloon.

   (d) Is your approximation in part (c) greater than or less than $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$? Give a reason for your answer.

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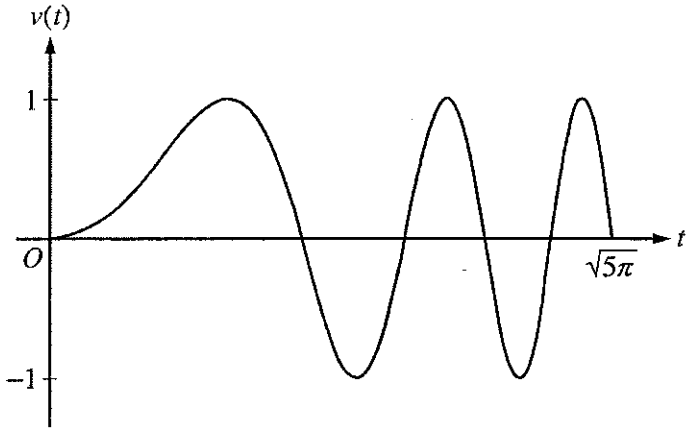


2. A particle moves along the x-axis so that its velocity v at time $t \geq 0$ is given by $v(t) = \sin\left(t^2\right)$. The graph of v is shown above for $0 \leq t \leq \sqrt{5\pi}$. The position of the particle at time t is $x(t)$ and its position at time $t = 0$ is $x(0) = 5$.

   (a) Find the acceleration of the particle at time $t = 3$.

   (b) Find the total distance traveled by the particle from time $t = 0$ to $t = 3$.

   (c) Find the position of the particle at time $t = 3$.

   (d) For $0 \leq t \leq \sqrt{5\pi}$, find the time t at which the particle is farthest to the right. Explain your answer.

WRITE ALL WORK IN THE EXAM BOOKLET.

t (sec)	0	15	25	30	35	50	60
$v(t)$ (ft/sec)	–20	–30	–20	–14	–10	0	10
$a(t)$ $\left(\text{ft/sec}^2\right)$	1	5	2	1	2	4	2

6. A car travels on a straight track. During the time interval $0 \le t \le 60$ seconds, the car's velocity v, measured in feet per second, and acceleration a, measured in feet per second per second, are continuous functions. The table above shows selected values of these functions.

   (a) Using appropriate units, explain the meaning of $\int_{30}^{60} |v(t)|\, dt$ in terms of the car's motion. Approximate $\int_{30}^{60} |v(t)|\, dt$ using a trapezoidal approximation with the three subintervals determined by the table.

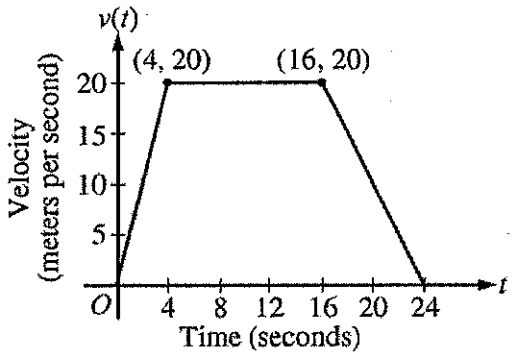
   (b) Using appropriate units, explain the meaning of $\int_{0}^{30} a(t)\, dt$ in terms of the car's motion. Find the exact value of $\int_{0}^{30} a(t)\, dt$.

   (c) For $0 < t < 60$, must there be a time t when $v(t) = -5$? Justify your answer.

   (d) For $0 < t < 60$, must there be a time t when $a(t) = 0$? Justify your answer.

WRITE ALL WORK IN THE EXAM BOOKLET.

END OF EXAM



5. A car is traveling on a straight road. For $0 \le t \le 24$ seconds, the car's velocity $v(t)$, in meters per second, is modeled by the piecewise-linear function defined by the graph above.

   (a) Find $\int_0^{24} v(t)\,dt$. Using correct units, explain the meaning of $\int_0^{24} v(t)\,dt$.

   (b) For each of $v'(4)$ and $v'(20)$, find the value or explain why it does not exist. Indicate units of measure.

   (c) Let $a(t)$ be the car's acceleration at time t, in meters per second per second. For $0 < t < 24$, write a piecewise-defined function for $a(t)$.

   (d) Find the average rate of change of v over the interval $8 \le t \le 20$. Does the Mean Value Theorem guarantee a value of c, for $8 < c < 20$, such that $v'(c)$ is equal to this average rate of change? Why or why not?

WRITE ALL WORK IN THE TEST BOOKLET.