

# Differential equations [155 marks]

Consider the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right), x > 0$$

- 1a. Use the substitution  $y = vx$  to show that  $\int \frac{dv}{f(v)-v} = \ln x + C$  where  $C$  [3 marks]  
is an arbitrary constant.

The curve  $y = f(x)$  for  $x > 0$  has a gradient function given by

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^2 + 3xy + 2x^2}{x^2}.$$

The curve passes through the point  $(1, -1)$ .

- 1b. By using the result from part (a) or otherwise, solve the differential equation and hence show that the curve has equation  $y = x(\tan(\ln x) - 1)$ . [9 marks]

- 1c. The curve has a point of inflexion at  $(x_1, y_1)$  where  $e^{-\frac{\pi}{2}} < x_1 < e^{\frac{\pi}{2}}$ . [6 marks]  
Determine the coordinates of this point of inflexion.

- 1d. Use the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^2 + 3xy + 2x^2}{x^2}$  to show that the points of zero gradient on the curve lie on two straight lines of the form  $y = mx$  where the values of  $m$  are to be determined. [4 marks]

Consider the differential equation  $x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = y^2 - 2x^2$  for  $x > 0$  and  $y > 2x$ . It is given that  $y = 3$  when  $x = 1$ .

- 2a. Use Euler's method, with a step length of 0.1, to find an approximate value of  $y$  when  $x = 1.5$ . [4 marks]

- 2b. Use the substitution  $y = vx$  to show that  $x \frac{dv}{dx} = v^2 - v - 2$ . [3 marks]

2c. By solving the differential equation, show that  $y = \frac{8x+x^4}{4-x^3}$ . [10 marks]

2d. Find the actual value of  $y$  when  $x = 1.5$ . [1 mark]

2e. Using the graph of  $y = \frac{8x+x^4}{4-x^3}$ , suggest a reason why the approximation given by Euler's method in part (a) is not a good estimate to the actual value of  $y$  at  $x = 1.5$ . [1 mark]

3. Solve the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\ln 2x}{x^2} - \frac{2y}{x}$ ,  $x > 0$ , given that  $y = 4$  at  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ . [7 marks]

Give your answer in the form  $y = f(x)$ .

The function  $f$  has a derivative given by  $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x(k-x)}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x \neq 0$ ,  $x \neq k$  where  $k$  is a positive constant.

4a. The expression for  $f'(x)$  can be written in the form  $\frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{k-x}$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ . Find  $a$  and  $b$  in terms of  $k$ . [3 marks]

4b. Hence, find an expression for  $f(x)$ . [3 marks]

Consider  $P$ , the population of a colony of ants, which has an initial value of 1200. The rate of change of the population can be modelled by the differential equation  $\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{P(k-P)}{5k}$ , where  $t$  is the time measured in days,  $t \geq 0$ , and  $k$  is the upper bound for the population.

4c. By solving the differential equation, show that  $P = \frac{1200k}{(k-1200)e^{-\frac{t}{5}} + 1200}$ . [8 marks]

At  $t = 10$  the population of the colony has doubled in size from its initial value.

4d. Find the value of  $k$ , giving your answer correct to four significant figures. [3 marks]

4e. Find the value of  $t$  when the rate of change of the population is at its maximum. [3 marks]

Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y-x}{y+x}$ , where  $x, y > 0$ .

It is given that  $y = 2$  when  $x = 1$ .

5a. Solve the differential equation, giving your answer in the form  $f(x, y) = 0$ . [9 marks]

5b. The graph of  $y$  against  $x$  has a local maximum between  $x = 2$  and  $x = 3$  [4 marks]  
. Determine the coordinates of this local maximum.

5c. Show that there are no points of inflexion on the graph of  $y$  against  $x$ . [4 marks]

Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4x^2 + y^2 - xy}{x^2}$ , with  $y = 2$  when  $x = 1$ .

6a. Use Euler's method, with step length  $h = 0.1$ , to find an approximate value of  $y$  when  $x = 1.4$ . [5 marks]

6b. Express  $m^2 - 2m + 4$  in the form  $(m - a)^2 + b$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . [1 mark]

6c. Solve the differential equation, for  $x > 0$ , giving your answer in the form  $y = f(x)$ . [10 marks]

6d. Sketch the graph of  $y = f(x)$  for  $1 \leq x \leq 1.4$ . [1 mark]

6e. With reference to the curvature of your sketch in part (c)(iii), and without further calculation, explain whether you conjecture  $f(1.4)$  will be less than, equal to, or greater than your answer in part (a). [2 marks]

Consider the differential equation  $2xy \frac{dy}{dx} = y^2 - x^2$ , where  $x > 0$ .

7a. Solve the differential equation and show that a general solution is  $x^2 + y^2 = cx$  where  $c$  is a positive constant. [11 marks]

7b. Prove that there are two horizontal tangents to the general solution curve and state their equations, in terms of  $c$ . [5 marks]

Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1 + \frac{y}{x}$ , where  $x \neq 0$ .

8a. Given that  $y(1) = 1$ , use Euler's method with step length  $h = 0.25$  to find an approximation for  $y(2)$ . Give your answer to two significant figures. [4 marks]

8b. Solve the equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1 + \frac{y}{x}$  for  $y(1) = 1$ . [6 marks]

8c. Find the percentage error when  $y(2)$  is approximated by the final rounded value found in part (a). Give your answer to two significant figures. [3 marks]

Consider the differential equation  $x \frac{dy}{dx} - y = x^p + 1$  where  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x \neq 0$  and  $p$  is a positive integer,  $p > 1$ .

9a. Solve the differential equation given that  $y = -1$  when  $x = 1$ . Give your answer in the form  $y = f(x)$ . [8 marks]

9b. Show that the  $x$ -coordinate(s) of the points on the curve  $y = f(x)$  where  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$  satisfy the equation  $x^{p-1} = \frac{1}{p}$ . [2 marks]

9c. Deduce the set of values for  $p$  such that there are two points on the curve  $y = f(x)$  where  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ . Give a reason for your answer. [2 marks]

Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{x}{x^2+1}y = x$  where  $y = 1$  when  $x = 0$ .

10a. Show that  $\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$  is an integrating factor for this differential equation. [4 marks]

10b. Solve the differential equation giving your answer in the form  $y = f(x)$ . [6 marks]