

Here are some conceptual problems for you to contemplate as you prepare for the first exam.

1. In words, explain the meaning of absolute value in the equation $|x - 3| = 7$.
 - (a) On the number line show what values of x would satisfy $|x - 3| = 7$.
 - (b) Explain what $|x - 3| < 7$ means in terms of distance. (That is, the distance from the number x to 3 is less than 7). Illustrate this on a number line.
 - (c) On the number line, show which values of x would satisfy $|x - 3| \geq 7$.
2. What numbers would be solutions to $|x| + |y| \geq 4$. Illustrate this on a graph.
3. Explain how you would prove that a triangle with vertices located at $(0, 0)$, $(1, 5)$ and $(2, 0)$ is an isosceles triangle.
4. Graph the following functions using what you know about translations.

(a) $f(x) = -\frac{1}{2}(x - 4)^2 + 1$

(b) $f(x) = -2 \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - 3$

5. Suppose you wanted to graph the equation $x^2 + y^2 - 4x - 5 = 0$. How would you get it into standard form? Draw its graph.
6. Suppose you know that $f(x)$ is an even function and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7^-} f(x) = 2$.
 - (a) What can you say about $\lim_{x \rightarrow -7^-} f(x) = 2$?
 - (b) Draw a graph to illustrate your point.
 - (c) Now, suppose the function were odd?
7. Why is the period of $y = \sin(4x)$ shorter than $y = \sin(x)$?
8. For each of the following problems, first try to find the limits by substitution, and explain what you would do after substitution.

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\sqrt{x - 3}}{x - 4}$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 + 9}{x + 3}$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4}$

(d) $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x + h - 2} - \sqrt{x - 2}}{h}$

9. Find the derivatives of the following functions from first principles.

(a) $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x + 3}}$

(b) $y = x^2 + 6x$

10. What does it mean if I say $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} f(x) = 2$?

11. If you know that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} f(x)$ exists, can you find its value by calculating $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7^-} f(x)$. Explain.
12. Suppose you know that a function is continuous at $x = a$. Which of the following are true?
 - (a) The function is differentiable at $x = a$
 - (b) The function has a limit at $x = a$
 - (c) The function has a left and right hand limit at $x = a$
 - (d) The function has a defined value at $x = a$
 - (e) All of the above
13. How could I use the IVT (intermediate value theorem) to help me find a root of an equation? (Hint: show that the function $f(x) = x^3 - 15x + 1 = 0$ has at least one solution in the interval $[-4, 4]$).
14. Draw four graphs of functions for which the derivative fails to exist at a point. (For each graph, the derivative should fail to exist for a different reason.)
15. Can you use the product rule to find the derivative of the function $y = -3x$? If so, what happens?
16. What would the derivative of $y(x) = u(x)v(x)w(x)$ be? Prove it.