Chapter 4: Applications of Derivatives

Chapter 4
Questions to Guide Your Review

1. What can be said about the extreme values of a function that is continuous on a closed interval?
2. What does it mean for a function to have a local extreme value on its domain? An absolute extreme value? How are local and absolute extreme values related, if at all? Give examples.
3. How do you find the absolute extrema of a continuous function on a closed interval? Give examples.
4. What are the hypotheses and conclusion of Rolle's Theorem? Are the hypotheses really necessary? Explain.
5. What are the hypotheses and conclusion of the Mean Value Theorem? What physical interpretations might the theorem have?
6. State the Mean Value Theorem's three corollaries.
7. How can you sometimes identify a function $f(x)$ by knowing $f'$ and knowing the value of $f$ at a point $x = x_0$? Give an example.
8. What is the First Derivative Test for Local Extreme Values? Give examples of how it is applied.
9. How do you test a twice-differentiable function to determine where its graph is concave up or concave down? Give examples.
10. What is an inflection point? Give an example. What physical significance do inflection points sometimes have?
11. What is the Second Derivative Test for Local Extreme Values? Give examples of how it is applied.
12. What do the derivatives of a function tell you about the shape of its graph?
13. List the steps you would take to graph a polynomial function. Illustrate with an example.
14. What is a cusp? Give examples.
15. List the steps you would take to graph a rational function. Illustrate with an example.
17. Describe l'Hôpital's Rule. How do you know when to use the rule and when to stop? Give an example.
18. How can you sometimes handle limits that lead to indeterminate forms $\infty/\infty$, $\infty \cdot 0$, and $\infty - \infty$? Give examples.
19. Describe Newton's method for solving equations. Give an example. What is the theory behind the method? What are some of the things to watch out for when you use the method?
20. Can a function have more than one antiderivative? If so, how are the antiderivatives related? Explain.
21. What is an indefinite integral? How do you evaluate one? What general formulas do you know for finding indefinite integrals?
22. How can you sometimes solve a differential equation of the form $dy/dx = f(x)$?
23. What is an initial value problem? How do you solve one? Give an example.
24. If you know the acceleration of a body moving along a coordinate line as a function of time, what more do you need to know to find the body's position function? Give an example.