

There will be no Descartes's Rule of Signs on the Test.

### Discussion

Make some notes on the questions, then discuss what you wrote with a partner. Make note of anything that you and your partner disagree on, or that you had difficulty with.

1. Write down in words the things you need to sketch a polynomial.
2. Write down in words the things you need to sketch a rational function.
3. What are the three types of asymptotes? Draw example sketches of each, and include correct limit notation to explain each asymptote.
4. What do you use a sign chart to do? Why?
5. Explain in words how you solve the following types of equations:
  - Equations involving square roots
  - Equations of quadratic type
  - Equations involving absolute values
6. Explain the technique in words to factor  $f(x) = 12x^3 - 16x^2 + 7x - 1$ .
7. Explain what an extraneous solution is.
8. Explain what a hole is, in relation to a rational function.
9. How can you tell if a function changes sign at a zero or vertical asymptote?

### Computation

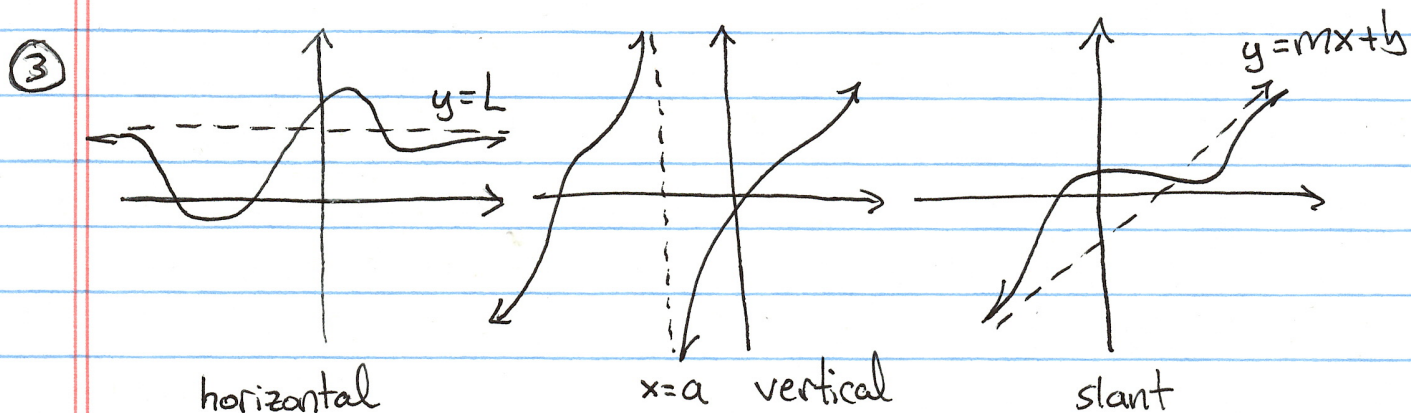
Work out solutions, and discuss with a partner as needed. Make sure your solutions are well organized, complete, and use correct mathematical notation. Make sure any sketch you draw is labelled.

10. Solve  $\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{x^2 - 2} = 7$ .
11. Sketch  $f(x) = \frac{(3x - 1)^2(x + 1)}{(x - 1)^3}$ .
12. Solve  $|2x - x^2| = 2x - 4$ .
13. Solve  $|2x| = 2 - |x|$ .
14. Find all real and complex valued solutions to  $12x^4 - 16x^3 + 36x^2 - 48x = 0$ .
15. Determine, in interval notation, the solution to  $x \leq \frac{1}{(x - 2)^2}$ .
16. Sketch  $g(x) = \frac{(3x - 1)^2 x}{(x - 1)^2}$ .
17. Sketch  $f(x) = 7(2 - x)^3(x^2 - 2x + 1)$ .
18. Solve  $(x^2 + 2x)^2 - (x^2 + 2x) - 2 = 0$ .

~~The largest problem~~

① zeros with multiplicity  
end behaviour

② zeros with multiplicity  
vertical asymptotes with multiplicity  
end behaviour → watch for horizontal & slant asymptotes  
watch for holes!



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [f(x)] = L$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} [f(x)] = -\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [f(x)] = mx+b$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} [f(x)] = L$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} [f(x)] = \infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} [f(x)] = mx+b$$

(f can cross)

(f cannot cross)

④ Sign charts can be solve inequalities. They are necessary since inequalities are difficult to solve algebraically.  
~~when you~~

⑤ square roots: isolate a square root, then square both sides of equation.

Note  $(A+B)^2 = A^2 + B^2 + 2AB$

$$\sqrt{A+B} \neq \sqrt{A} + \sqrt{B}$$

Quadratic Type: Do a substitution,  $u =$  the piece that

Solve for  $u$ .

Put values for  $u$  into and solve for  $x$ .

appears twice.

Absolute Values: Use  $|f(x)| = k > 0$

is equivalent to  $f(x) = k$  or  $f(x) = -k$ .

In all cases: eliminate extraneous solutions.

Be prepared to combine these techniques.

⑥ Get factors of  $-1$

Get factors of  $12$

Take Ratio — this gives you potential rational factors.

Find factors.  $f(c) = 0 \rightarrow x - c$  is a factor of  $f(x)$ .

When you get to quadratic, use quadratic formula

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \rightarrow x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



⑦ Algebraic manipulations introduce a potential solution that is not a solution of the original equation.

⑧ A hole occurs when the same ~~value~~  $x-c$  is a factor of the numerator and denominator in a rational expression.

⑨ If the zero or vertical asymptote has odd multiplicity the function will change sign. Even multiplicity there will not be a sign change.

⑩  $(\sqrt{x^2+1})^2 = (7 - \sqrt{x^2-2})^2$  — AHA! Caught an error!

$$x^2+1 = 49 - 14\sqrt{x^2-2} + (x^2-2)$$

$$2x^2 - 50 = 14\sqrt{x^2-2}$$

$$-46 = -14\sqrt{x^2-2}$$

~~$$(x^2-25)^2 = (7\sqrt{x^2-2})^2$$~~

$$\left(\frac{23}{7}\right)^2 = (\sqrt{x^2-2})^2$$

~~$$x^4 - 50x^2 + 625 = 49(x^2-2)$$~~

$$\frac{529}{49} = x^2 - 2$$

~~$$x^4 - 99x^2 + 723 = 0$$~~

check:

$$\sqrt{\frac{627}{49}+1} + \sqrt{\frac{627}{49}-2} = \frac{26}{7} + \frac{23}{7} = \frac{49}{7} = 7 \checkmark$$

$$x^2 = \frac{627}{49}$$

$$x = \pm \frac{\sqrt{627}}{7}$$

Same for  $-\frac{\sqrt{627}}{7}$ .

Two solutions  $x = \pm \frac{\sqrt{627}}{7}$ .



(ii) Zeros  $x = \frac{1}{3}$  multiplicity 2,  $f$  does not change sign  
 $x = -1$  multiplicity 1,  $f$  changes sign

Vertical

Asymptotes  $x = 1$  multiplicity 3,  $f$  changes sign.

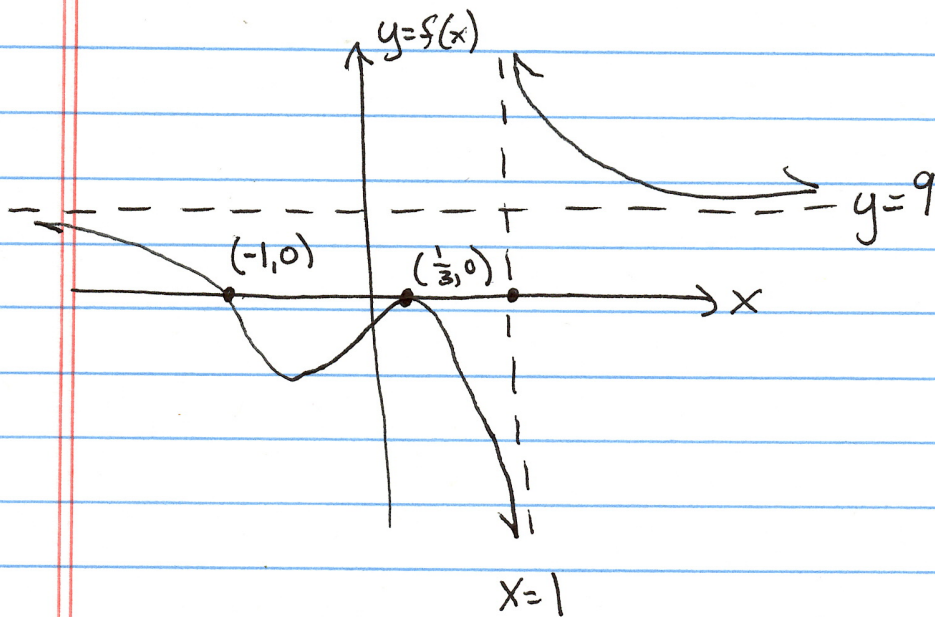
End

Behaviour

$$\text{If } |x| \text{ large, } f(x) \sim \frac{(3x)^2(x)}{(x)^3}$$

$$= 9$$

$\rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} [f(x)] = 9$ . Horizontal Asymptote.



$$(12) \quad |2x - x^2| = 2x - 4$$

$$2x - x^2 = 2x - 4 \quad \text{or} \quad 2x - x^2 = -(2x - 4)$$

$$-x^2 = -4$$

$$x^2 = 4$$

$$x = \pm 2.$$

$$-x^2 + 4x - 4 = 0$$

$$x^2 - 4x + 4 = 0$$

$$(x-2)^2 = 0$$

$$x = 2.$$

Check  $|2(2) - (2)^2| = 2(2) - 4$

$$0 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$|2(-2) - (-2)^2| = 2(-2) - 4$$

$$|-8| = -8$$

$$8 = -8 \quad \otimes$$

One solution,

$$x = 2.$$

$x = -2$  is extraneous.

$$(13) \quad |2x| = 2 - |x|$$

$$2x = 2 - |x| \quad \text{or}$$

$$2x = -(2 - |x|)$$

$$|x| = 2 - 2x$$

$$2x = -2 + |x|$$

$$|x| = 2x + 2$$

$$x = 2 - 2x \quad \text{or} \quad x = -(2 - 2x) \quad \text{or} \quad x = 2x + 2 \quad \text{or} \quad x = -(2x + 2)$$

$$3x = 2$$

$$-x = -2$$

$$-x = -2$$

$$3x = -2$$

$$x = 2/3$$

$$x = 2$$

$$x = 2$$

$$x = -2/3$$

check:  $|2 \cdot 2/3| = 2 - |2/3|$        $|2 \cdot 2| = 2 - |2|$        $|2 \cdot (-2/3)| = 2 - |-2/3|$

$$4/3 = 2 - 2/3$$

$$4 = 2 - 2$$

$$4/3 = 2 - 2/3$$

$$4/3 = 4/3 \quad \checkmark$$

$$4 = 0 \quad \otimes$$

$$4/3 = 4/3 \quad \checkmark$$

Two solutions  $x = \pm 2/3$ .

Note: This process works for more complicated problems,  
but in this case  $|2x| = 2 - |x| \rightarrow 3|x| = 2 \rightarrow |x| = 2/3$   
 $x = \pm 2/3$ .



$$\textcircled{14} \quad f(x) = 12x^4 - 16x^3 + 36x^2 - 48x$$

$$= x(12x^3 - 16x^2 + 36x - 48)$$

Factors 48:  $\pm(1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 24, 48)$

Factors 12:  $\pm(1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12)$

There a multitude of potential rational zeros!

But... I could have been smarter.

~~f(x) = 12x^3 - 16x^2 + 36x - 48~~

$$f(x) = 4x(3x^3 - 4x^2 + 9x - 12)$$

Factors of -12:  $\pm(1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12)$

Factors of 3:  $\pm(1, 3)$

Possible Rational zeros:  $\pm(1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{4}{3})$

$$f\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) = 4\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) \left(3\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^3 - 4\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2 + 9\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) - 12\right)$$

$$= 0.$$

So  $x - \frac{4}{3}$  is a factor,  $\rightarrow$   $3x - 4$  is a factor.

$$\begin{array}{r} \phantom{3x-4} \quad \quad \quad x^2 + 3 \\ 3x-4 \overline{) 3x^3 - 4x^2 + 9x - 12} \\ \underline{3x^3 - 4x^2} \phantom{+ 9x - 12} \quad \quad \text{subtract} \\ \phantom{3x-4} \quad \quad \quad 9x - 12 \\ \underline{\phantom{3x-4} \quad \quad 9x - 12} \phantom{+ 9x - 12} \quad \quad \text{subtract} \\ \phantom{3x-4} \quad \quad \quad \phantom{9x - 12} \quad \quad \quad 0 \end{array}$$

$$f(x) = 4x(3x-4)(x^2+3)$$

$$x=0$$

$$x=\frac{4}{3}$$

$$x^2+3=0 \rightarrow x=\pm\sqrt{3}i$$

$$(15) \quad x \leq \frac{1}{(x-2)^2}$$

$$x - \frac{1}{(x-2)^2} \leq 0$$

$$\frac{x(x-2)^2 - 1}{(x-2)^2} \leq 0$$

$$\frac{x(x^2 - 4x + 4) - 1}{(x-2)^2} \leq 0$$

$$\frac{x^3 - 4x^2 + 4x - 1}{(x-2)^2} \leq 0$$

Factor numerator.

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 - 3x + 1 \\ x-1 \overline{) x^3 - 4x^2 + 4x - 1} \\ \underline{x^3 - x^2} \phantom{- 1} \\ -3x^2 + 4x \phantom{- 1} \\ \underline{-3x^2 + 3x} \phantom{- 1} \\ x-1 \phantom{- 1} \\ \underline{x-1} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

~~$$f(x) = \frac{x^3 - 4x^2 + 4x - 1}{(x-2)^2} \leq 0$$~~

$$f(x) = \frac{(x-1)(x^2 - 3x + 1)}{(x-2)^2} \leq 0$$

Zeros  $x=1$  mult 1,  $f$  changes sign.

$$x^2 - 3x + 1 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$= \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{9 - 4(1)(1)}}{2(1)}$$

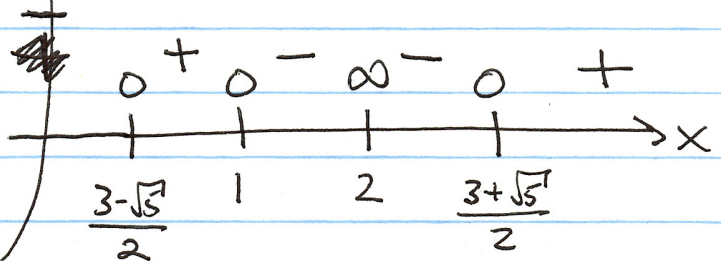
$$= \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2} \text{ multiplicity 1, } f \text{ changes sign.}$$

Vertical Asymptotes  $x=2$  mult. 2,  $f$  does not change sign.

End Behaviour If  $|x|$  large,  $f(x) \sim \frac{(x)(x^2)}{(x)^2} = x$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [f(x)] = \infty \text{ (positive)}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} [f(x)] = -\infty \text{ (negative)}$$



$$x \in (-\infty, \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}] \cup [1, 2) \cup$$

$$[2, \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2}]$$



(16)  $g(x) = \frac{(3x-1)^2 x}{(x-1)^2}$

zeros  $x = 1/3$ , mult 2, f does not change sign.

$x = 0$ , mult 1, f changes sign.

Vertical Asymptotes  $x = 1$ , mult 2, f does not change sign.

End Behaviour

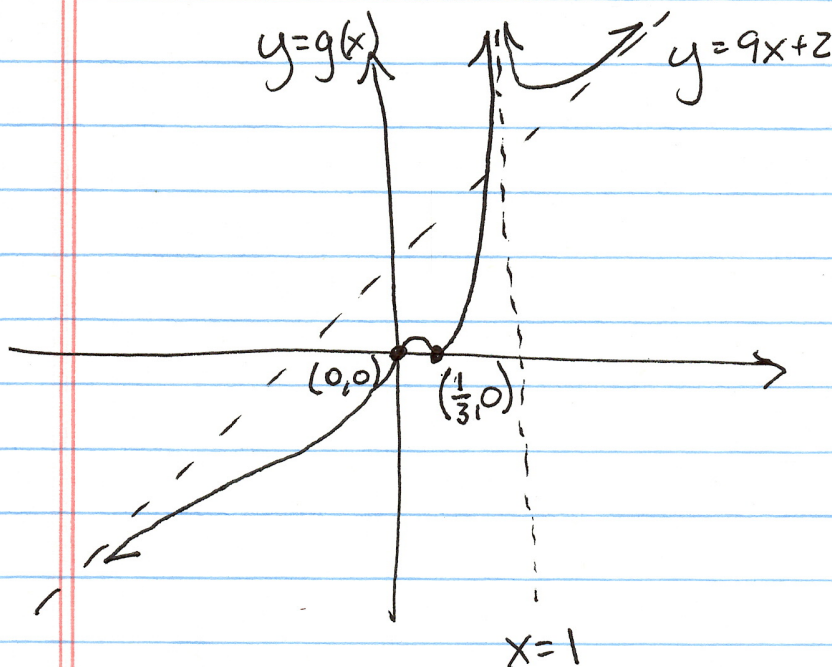
If  $|x|$  is large,  $g(x) \sim \frac{(3x)^2 x}{x^2} = 9x$  slant asymptote!

Get equation of slant asymptote:  $g(x) = \frac{(9x^2 - 6x + 1)x}{x^2 - 2x + 1}$

$$= \frac{9x^3 - 6x^2 + x}{x^2 - 2x + 1}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 9x + 12 \\ x^2 - 2x + 1 \overline{) 9x^3 - 6x^2 + x + 0} \\ \underline{9x^3 - 18x^2 + 9x} \phantom{+ 0} \\ 12x^2 - 8x \phantom{+ 0} \end{array}$$

we can stop long division once we have  $y = mx + b$ !

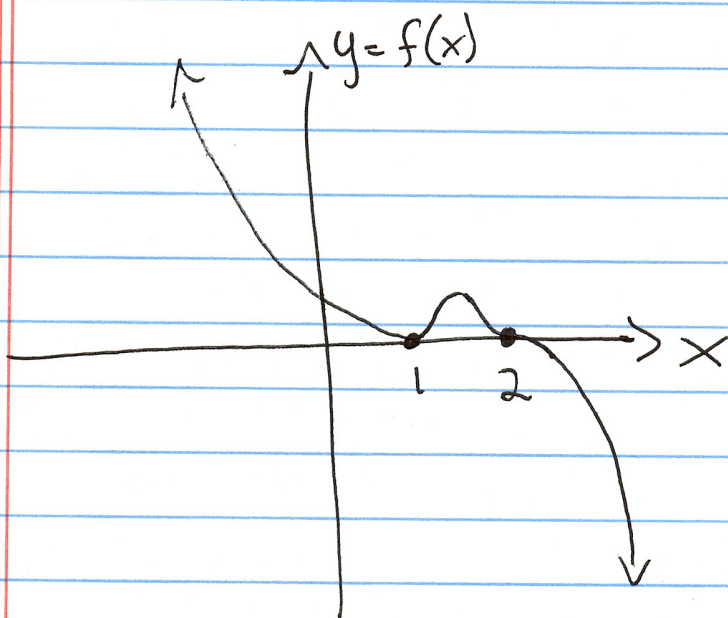
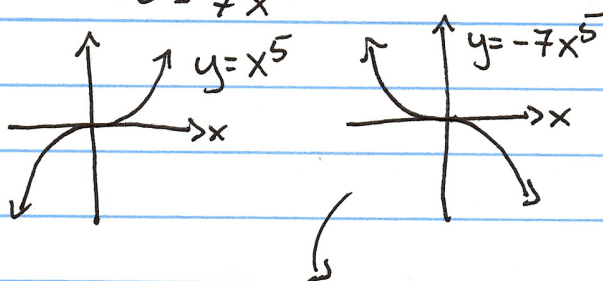


$$\textcircled{17} \quad f(x) = 7(2-x)^3(x^2-2x+1)$$

$$= 7(2-x)^3(x-1)^2$$

zeros  $x=2$ , mult 3,  $f$  changes sign mult  $> 1$ , so  $f$  is horizontal at  $x=2$   
 $x=1$ , mult 2,  $f$  ~~change~~ does not change sign.

End Behaviour If  $|x|$  is large,  $f(x) \sim 7(-x)^3(x^2)$   
 $\sim -7x^5$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [f(x)] = -\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} [f(x)] = \infty$$



(18) Let  $u = x^2 + 2x$

$$u^2 - u - 2 = 0$$

$$(u+1)(u-2) = 0$$

$$u = -1 \quad \text{or} \quad u = 2$$

$$x^2 + 2x = -1$$

$$x^2 + 2x = 2$$

$$x^2 + 2x + 1 = 0$$

$$x^2 + 2x - 2 = 0$$

$$(x+1)^2 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x = -1$$

$$= \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4(1)(-2)}}{2(1)}$$

$$= \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{12}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{-2 \pm 2\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$= -1 \pm \sqrt{3}$$

All  $x = -1, -1 \pm \sqrt{3}$  solve original equation.