AS Mathematics Exam Questions by Topic
Chapter 10b: Differentiation - Practical Problems

These questions are taken from the Specimen Exam materials and the real 2018 papers for the new syllabus AS and A-level mathematics courses and arranged by chapter of the textbooks by Goldie et al (available here: `https://amzn.to/39umfr5` and `https://amzn.to/3hE8kBL`). There are a mixture of questions from OCR A, OCR B (MEI) and Edexcel. Although the style of questions varies a little across the exam boards the content of the syllabus is almost identical so these are suitable for students preparing for any exam board.

Free problem sets for all other chapters, as well as video solutions, full past papers and other content for GCSE and A-level maths can be found at:

`https://mathsaurus.com/`

Edexcel Sample Paper 2 Question 14:

14. A company decides to manufacture a soft drinks can with a capacity of 500 ml.

The company models the can in the shape of a right circular cylinder with radius r cm and height h cm.

In the model they assume that the can is made from a metal of negligible thickness.

(a) Prove that the total surface area, S cm^2, of the can is given by

$$S = 2\pi r^2 + \frac{1000}{r}$$

(3)

Given that r can vary,

(b) find the dimensions of a can that has minimum surface area.

(5)

(c) With reference to the shape of the can, suggest a reason why the company may choose not to manufacture a can with minimum surface area.

(1)

Edexcel AS 2018 Paper 1 Question 8:

8. A lorry is driven between London and Newcastle.

In a simple model, the cost of the journey £C when the lorry is driven at a steady speed of v kilometres per hour is

$$C = \frac{1500}{v} + \frac{2v}{11} + 60$$

(a) Find, according to this model,

(i) the value of v that minimises the cost of the journey,

(ii) the minimum cost of the journey.

(*Solutions based entirely on graphical or numerical methods are not acceptable.*)

(6)

(b) Prove by using $\frac{d^2C}{dv^2}$ that the cost is minimised at the speed found in (a)(i).

(2)

(c) State one limitation of this model.

(1)

Edexcel AS Sample Paper 1 Question 16:

16.

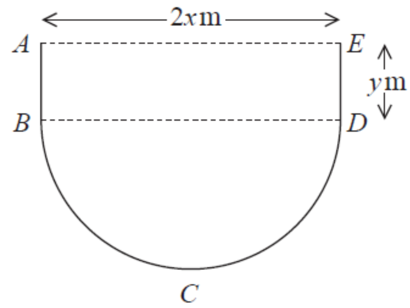

Figure 4

Figure 4 shows the plan view of the design for a swimming pool.

The shape of this pool *ABCDEA* consists of a rectangular section *ABDE* joined to a semicircular section *BCD* as shown in Figure 4.

Given that $AE = 2x$ metres, $ED = y$ metres and the area of the pool is $250\,\text{m}^2$,

(a) show that the perimeter, P metres, of the pool is given by

$$P = 2x + \frac{250}{x} + \frac{\pi x}{2}$$

(4)

(b) Explain why $0 < x < \sqrt{\frac{500}{\pi}}$

(2)

(c) Find the minimum perimeter of the pool, giving your answer to 3 significant figures.

(4)