

1.12 Confirming Continuity over an Interval

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS interval 区间 • continuous on an interval 在区间上连续 • exponential 指数
• continuous 连续 • rational function 有理函数

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **confirming continuity over an interval**.

You must be able to:

- state what it means for a function to be continuous on an **interval** 区间
- know where standard functions are continuous

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ Continuity over an interval

f is continuous on an interval if it is continuous at **every** point in it.

- polynomials, exponentials, sin, cos are continuous **everywhere**;
- a rational function is continuous except where its denominator is 0.

■ Example

$f(x) = \frac{1}{x-3}$ is continuous everywhere except at $x = 3$.

2 Practice

2.1 State what continuity over an interval means. [1]

2.2 State where a polynomial is continuous. [1]

2.3 State where a rational function may be discontinuous. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A function is continuous on an interval if it is continuous [1]

A	B
C	D

- A** at one point
- B** at every point of the interval
- C** at the endpoints only
- D** nowhere

3.2 Polynomials are continuous [1]

A	B
C	D

- A** nowhere
- B** everywhere
- C** only at 0
- D** only for $x > 0$

3.3 $f(x) = \frac{1}{x-3}$.

- (a) Where is it discontinuous? [1]
- (b) Is it continuous on $[0, 2]$? [1]
- (c) Is it continuous on $[0, 4]$? [1]