

6.14 Selecting Techniques for Antidifferentiation

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS completing the square 配方法 • antiderivative 原函数

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **selecting antidifferentiation techniques** — choosing the right method quickly.

You must be able to:

- recognise when a **basic rule**, a **substitution**, **long division**, or **completing the square** applies
- match an integrand's shape to the fastest method
- carry the chosen method through to a correct antiderivative

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later — follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

■ The decision guide

- **Basic rule** — a power, e^x , $\sin / \cos$, or $\frac{1}{x}$ on its own.
- **Substitution** — an inside function whose derivative also appears (e.g. $2x$ beside $x^2 + 1$).
- **Long division** — a rational function with numerator degree $\geq$ denominator degree.
- **Completing the square** — an irreducible quadratic $x^2 + bx + c$ in a denominator (arctangent).

■ Spotting a substitution

$\int x^2 e^{x^3} dx$: the x^2 is (up to a constant) the derivative of x^3 — **substitute** $u = x^3$.
Answer $\frac{1}{3}e^{x^3} + C$.

■ Spotting a division

$\int \frac{x^3}{x^2 + 1} dx$: top-heavy, so **divide** first: $x - \frac{x}{x^2 + 1}$, then integrate (the second piece needs $u = x^2 + 1$).

■ Spotting a basic rule

$\int (2x + \cos x) dx$ needs no tricks — just the **basic rules**: $x^2 + \sin x + C$.

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above. For each, name the best method (basic / substitution / division / complete-the-square).

2.1 $\int \frac{1}{x^2 + 4} dx$ [1]

2.2 $\int 5x^4(x^5 + 2)^7 dx$ [1]

2.3 $\int \frac{x^2 + 1}{x} dx$ [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which integral is best done by **substitution**? [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A $\int (x^3 - 2) dx$
 B $\int \frac{1}{x^2 + 9} dx$
 C $\int \cos(x^2) \cdot 2x dx$
 D $\int \frac{x^2}{x + 1} dx$

3.2 Find $\int \frac{x^2+3}{x} dx$ (rewrite the fraction first). [3]

3.3 Find $\int \frac{6x}{x^2+1} dx$. [3]