

Past-paper walk-through

Estimating Derivatives of a Function at a Point ■ 2.3

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2026 Q1
- 2025 Q3
- 2024 Q1
- 2022 Q4
- 2021 Q1
- 2018 Q4
- 2016 Q1
- 2015 Q3

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

2026 ■ Q1

Male birds of a certain species arrive at a nesting area over a thirty-day period. The rate at which the male birds arrive at the nesting area at time t days is modeled by a differentiable function M , where $M(t)$ is measured in number of birds per day. Selected values of $M(t)$ are shown in the table.

t (days)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
$M(t)$ (birds per day)	2	7	16	6	5	2	0

Question 1

(Note: Your calculator should be in radian mode.)

(a) Approximate $M'(7.5)$ using the average rate of change of M over the interval $5 \leq t \leq 10$. Show the work that leads to your answer, and indicate units of measure.

Question 1

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