

1.16 Working with the Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS intermediate value theorem 介值定理 • change 变化 • continuous 连续

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **the Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)**.

You must be able to:

- state the **Intermediate Value Theorem** 介值定理
- use it to show a value (e.g. a zero) is attained

1 Worked examples

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

■ The IVT

If f is **continuous** on $[a, b]$ and N is any value between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then there is at least one c in (a, b) with $f(c) = N$.

A sign change ($f(a)$ and $f(b)$ opposite signs) guarantees a **zero** in between.

■ Example

If f is continuous with $f(1) = -2$ and $f(3) = 4$, the IVT guarantees a zero in $(1, 3)$.

2 Practice

2.1 State the IVT.

[1]

2.2 State the condition f must satisfy for the IVT.

[1]

2.3 If $f(1) = -2$, $f(3) = 4$, and f is continuous, must f have a zero in $(1, 3)$? [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The IVT requires f to be [1]

A	B
C	D

A differentiable

B continuous on $[a, b]$

C linear

D a polynomial

3.2 If $f(2) = -1$ and $f(5) = 3$ (continuous), the IVT guarantees a c with [1]

A	B
C	D

A $f(c) = 10$

B $f(c) = 0$ for some c in $(2, 5)$

C $f(c) = \infty$

D no such c

3.3 f is continuous, $f(0) = -5$, $f(4) = 3$.

(a) State $f(0)$ and $f(4)$. [1]

(b) Note the sign change. [1]

(c) State what the IVT guarantees. [1]