

2.2 Defining the Derivative and Reading Its Notation

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS derivative 导数 • notations 记号 • slope 斜率 • tangent line 切线
• instantaneous 瞬时

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **defining the derivative and using derivative notation**.

You must be able to:

- write the limit definition of the **derivative** 导数
- use the notations $f'(x)$ and $\frac{dy}{dx}$

1 Worked examples

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

■ The derivative

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

is the instantaneous rate of change — the slope of the **tangent line** 切线. Notations:

$$f'(x), \frac{dy}{dx}, \frac{d}{dx}[f(x)].$$

2 Practice

2.1 Write the limit definition of the derivative.

[1]

2.2 State two notations for the derivative.

[1]

2.3 State what $f'(x)$ measures geometrically. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The derivative $f'(x)$ is defined as [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** $f(x)/x$
B $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$
C $f(x) \cdot x$
D $\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$ only

3.2 $\frac{dy}{dx}$ is another notation for the [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** integral
B derivative
C limit only
D area

3.3 Answer each.

(a) $f'(a)$ is the slope of the _____ line. [1]

(b) Name the quantity $f'(x)$. [1]

(c) State what $\frac{dy}{dx}$ reads as. [1]