

4.6 Approximating Values Using Local Linearity and Linearization

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS linearization 线性化 • local linearity 局部线性

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **local linearity and linearization**.

You must be able to:

- write the **linearization** 线性化 $L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$
- use it to approximate a value

1 Worked examples

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

■ Linearization

Near $x = a$,

$$f(x) \approx L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

— the tangent line at a .

■ Example

$f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $a = 4$: $f(4) = 2$, $f'(4) = \frac{1}{4}$, so $L(x) = 2 + \frac{1}{4}(x - 4)$ and $\sqrt{4.1} \approx 2.025$.

2 Practice

2.1 Write the linearization formula. [1]

2.2 For $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $a = 4$, state $f(4)$ and $f'(4)$. [2]

2.3 State what $L(x)$ approximates. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The linearization of f at a is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A $f(a)$
B $f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$
C $f'(a)(x - a)$
D $f(x) \cdot a$

3.2 Linearization uses the _____ line. [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A secant
B tangent
C normal
D horizontal

3.3 $f(x) = x^2$, $a = 3$, so $f(3) = 9$, $f'(3) = 6$.

- (a) Write $L(x)$. [1]
(b) Use it for $x = 3.1$. [1]
(c) State $L(3.1)$. [1]