Past-paper walk-through

Exponential Function Context and Data Modeling ▪ 2.5

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2026 Q2

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 2

2026 ▪ Q2

A person purchased a car at the end of the year 2019 ($t = 0$). The car's value decreases over time. At the end of the year 2020 ($t = 1$), the car was valued at 27.2 thousand dollars. At the end of the year 2025 ($t = 6$), the car was valued at 14.8 thousand dollars.

The value of the car can be modeled by the function V given by $V(t) = ab^t$, where $V(t)$ is the value of the car, in thousands of dollars, at time t, and t is the number of years since the end of 2019.

(a)(i) Use the given data to write two equations that can be used to find the values for constants a and b in the expression for $V(t)$.

(a)(ii) Find the values for a and b as decimal approximations.

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The value of the car can be modeled by the function V given by $V(t) = ab^t$, where $V(t)$ is the value of the car, in thousands of dollars, at time t, and t is the number of years since the end of 2019.

(b)(i) Use the given data to find the average rate of change of the value of the car, in thousands of dollars per year, from $t = 1$ to $t = 6$ years. Express your answer as a decimal approximation. Show the computations that lead to your answer.

(b)(ii) Use the average rate of change found in part B (i) to estimate the value of the car, in thousands of dollars, at $t = 3$ years. Show the work that leads to your answer.

Question 2

(b)(iii) The average rate of change found in part B (i) can be used to determine the secant line for the graph of V on the interval $1 \leq t \leq 6$. Let $A(t)$ represent the estimate of the value of the car, in thousands of dollars, at time t years, using the secant line. For $A(3)$, found in part B (ii), it can be shown that $A(3) > V(3)$.
In general, $A(t) > V(t)$ for all t, where $1 < t < 6$. Use the secant line and the graph of V to explain why this is true.

Question 2

2026 ▪ Q2

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The value of the car can be modeled by the function V given by $V(t) = ab^t$, where $V(t)$ is the value of the car, in thousands of dollars, at time t, and t is the number of years since the end of 2019.

(c) When the value of the car reaches 2 thousand dollars, the car's owner plans to donate it to an auto mechanic school. As a result, the car will immediately lose all of its value. Explain how this information can be used to determine a domain limitation for the model V.