2.1 Domains, inverses and composition

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS domain

Objective

Domains, inverses and composition. Original classroom practice for IB SL; not an official IB paper.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Which inputs are allowed?

- A square-root model returns a real output only for some inputs. Its formula alone does not specify a complete function.
- This lesson studies **domain** : The set of allowed inputs to a function.

The method

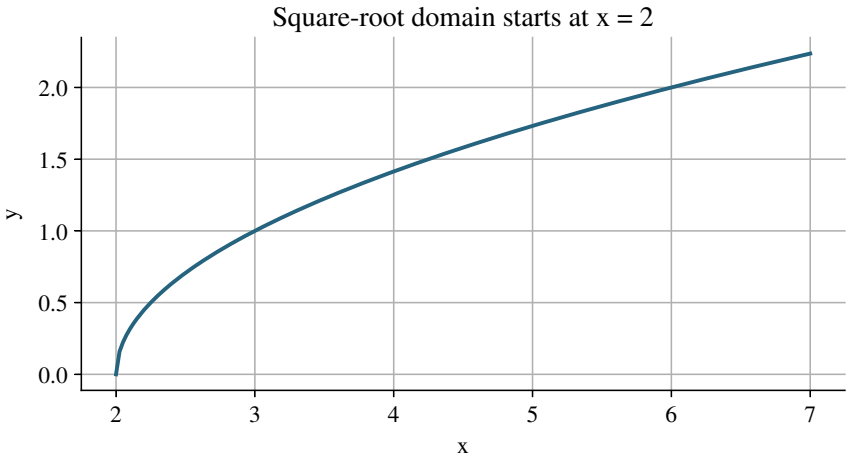
- State the domain and range.
- For an inverse, first ensure the function is one-to-one on its domain.
- Composition fg means apply g first, then f; the intermediate output must be an allowed input to f.

A worked case

$$f(g(x)) = (f \circ g)(x), \qquad f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$$

Example:

For f(x)=√(x-2), x≥2 and the range is y≥0. From y=√(x-2), x=y²+2. Thus f inverse(x)=x²+2 with x≥0. For g(x)=x+3, fg(1)=f(4)=√2.



Where it goes wrong

- Squaring can introduce extraneous solutions.
- Restricting a parabola's domain is essential before claiming an inverse.
- A horizontal translation inside f has the opposite sign to the graph's movement.

Not true: Every quadratic function on all real numbers has an inverse function. A quadratic on all real numbers is many-to-one (f(1)=f(−1) for x²), so its domain must be restricted first.

Applying it

- Check f(f inverse(x))=x on the inverse domain.
- Use a sketch to test whether a horizontal line meets the original graph more than once.

In your course

- Analysis and Approaches SL, the course first assessed in 2021.
- Paper 1 is non-calculator: keep fractions, surds and π exact and show each step. On calculator papers, still write the expression before its value.

Key:

- **Domain**: The set of allowed inputs to a function.
- State the domain and range.
- Watch for: squaring can introduce extraneous solutions.

■ **Write from an inverse value of 5**

- For f(x)=3x-1, find the inverse image of 14.
- A quadratic on all real numbers is not one-to-one, so it needs a restricted domain before it has an inverse.

2 Practice

2.1 For f(x)=2x+3, find f inverse(11). Show the relation, substitution and units. [2]

2.2 For f(x)=2x+3 and g(x)=x^2, find fg(4). Show the relation, substitution and units. [2]

2.3 For f(x)=√(x-2), find f(11). Show the relation, substitution and units. [2]

2.4 Decide whether this claim is true and justify: Every quadratic function on all real numbers has an inverse function. [2]

2.5 Why must f(x)=x^2 have its domain restricted before an inverse is defined? Choose one answer.

- **A** Two different inputs share each output, so the reverse is not a function
- **B** The range of x^2 is empty unless the domain is restricted to $x \geq 0$
- **C** Squaring is undefined for negative inputs, so those inputs must be removed first [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 For f(x)=x^2 on x≥0 and g(x)=x−3, find f(g(x)) and its domain, then find f inverse(16). Explain why the restriction matters. [4]