AP® CALCULUS AB
2015 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

Consider the curve given by the equation $y^3 - xy = 2$. It can be shown that $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{3y^2 - x}$.

(a) Write an equation for the line tangent to the curve at the point $(-1, 1)$.

(b) Find the coordinates of all points on the curve at which the line tangent to the curve at that point is vertical.

(c) Evaluate $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ at the point on the curve where $x = -1$ and $y = 1$.

(a) $\left.\frac{dy}{dx}\right|_{(x,\,y)=(-1,\,1)} = \frac{1}{3(1)^2 - (-1)} = \frac{1}{4}$

An equation for the tangent line is $y = \frac{1}{4}(x+1) + 1$.

$2 : \begin{cases} 1 : \text{slope} \\ 1 : \text{equation for tangent line} \end{cases}$

(b) $3y^2 - x = 0 \Rightarrow x = 3y^2$

So, $y^3 - xy = 2 \Rightarrow y^3 - (3y^2)(y) = 2 \Rightarrow y = -1$

$(-1)^3 - x(-1) = 2 \Rightarrow x = 3$

The tangent line to the curve is vertical at the point $(3, -1)$.

$3 : \begin{cases} 1 : \text{sets } 3y^2 - x = 0 \\ 1 : \text{equation in one variable} \\ 1 : \text{coordinates} \end{cases}$

(c) $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{(3y^2 - x)\frac{dy}{dx} - y\left(6y\frac{dy}{dx} - 1\right)}{(3y^2 - x)^2}$

$\left.\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}\right|_{(x,\,y)=(-1,\,1)} = \frac{(3\cdot 1^2 - (-1))\cdot\frac{1}{4} - 1\cdot\left(6\cdot 1\cdot\frac{1}{4} - 1\right)}{(3\cdot 1^2 - (-1))^2}$

$= \frac{1 - \frac{1}{2}}{16} = \frac{1}{32}$

$4 : \begin{cases} 2 : \text{implicit differentiation} \\ 1 : \text{substitution for } \frac{dy}{dx} \\ 1 : \text{answer} \end{cases}$