

## Question 3

(7 marks)

Consider the function  $f(x) = \frac{(x-1)^2}{e^x}$ .

- (a) Show that the first derivative is  $f'(x) = \frac{-x^2 + 4x - 3}{e^x}$ . (2 marks)

- (b) Use your result from part (a) to explain why there are stationary points at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 3$ . (2 marks)

**Question 3** (continued)

It can be shown that the second derivative is  $f''(x) = \frac{x^2 - 6x + 7}{e^x}$ .

- (c) Use the second derivative to describe the type of stationary points at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 3$ .  
(3 marks)

**Question 4****(7 marks)**

Consider the function defined by  $f(x) = \frac{x}{2} - \sqrt{x}$ ,  $x \geq 0$ .

(a) Determine the coordinates of the stationary point of  $f(x)$ . (3 marks)

(b) Use the second derivative test to determine the nature of the stationary point found in (a). (3 marks)

(c) State the global minimum of  $f(x)$ . (1 mark)

Question 3

(7 marks)

Consider the function  $f(x) = \frac{(x-1)^2}{e^x}$ .

- (a) Show that the first derivative is  $f'(x) = \frac{-x^2 + 4x - 3}{e^x}$ . (2 marks)

Solution
$f'(x) = \frac{e^x 2(x-1) - e^x (x-1)^2}{e^{2x}}$ $= \frac{e^x (x-1)(2-x+1)}{e^{2x}}$ $= \frac{-(x-1)(x-3)}{e^x}$ $= \frac{-x^2 + 4x - 3}{e^x}$
Specific behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ uses quotient rule</li> <li>✓ simplifies expression</li> </ul>

- (b) Use your result from part (a) to explain why there are stationary points at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 3$ . (2 marks)

Solution
$f'(x) = \frac{-(x-1)(x-3)}{e^x}$ $f'(1) = 0 = f'(3)$
Specific behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ identifies stationary points as <math>f'(x) = 0</math></li> <li>✓ shows that this is true for <math>x = 1, 3</math></li> </ul>

It can be shown that the second derivative is  $f''(x) = \frac{x^2 - 6x + 7}{e^x}$ .

- (c) Use the second derivative to describe the type of stationary points at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 3$ .  
(3 marks)

<b>Solution</b>
$f''(x) = \frac{x^2 - 6x + 7}{e^x}$
$f''(1) = \frac{2}{e}$
$f''(3) = \frac{-2}{e^3}$
when $x = 1$ $f'' > 0$ hence local minimum when $x = 3$ $f'' < 0$ hence local maximum
<b>Specific behaviours</b>
✓ evaluates second derivatives for $x = 1$ and $x = 3$ ✓ uses sign to determine nature ✓ states nature for each stationary point

## Question 4

(7 marks)

Consider the function defined by  $f(x) = \frac{x}{2} - \sqrt{x}$ ,  $x \geq 0$ .

- (a) Determine the coordinates of the stationary point of  $f(x)$ . (3 marks)

Solution
$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$
$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} = 0 \Rightarrow x = 1$
$f(1) = \frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{1} = -\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \text{stationary point at } \left(1, -\frac{1}{2}\right)$
Specific behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ differentiates function</li> <li>✓ solves <math>f'(x) = 0</math></li> <li>✓ states coordinates of point</li> </ul>

- (b) Use the second derivative test to determine the nature of the stationary point found in (a). (3 marks)

Solution
$f''(x) = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{x^3}}$
$f''(1) = \frac{1}{4}$
$f''(1) > 0 \Rightarrow \text{local minimum}$
Specific behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ determines second derivative</li> <li>✓ shows <math>f''(1) &gt; 0</math></li> <li>✓ states conclusion that point is local minimum</li> </ul>

- (c) State the global minimum of  $f(x)$ . (1 mark)

Solution
$-\frac{1}{2}$
Specific behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ states correct value of global minimum</li> </ul>