

# A Level Pure Mathematics

## Practice Test 1: Differential Equations

### Instructions:

Answer all questions. Show your working clearly.

Calculators may be used unless stated otherwise.

Time allowed: 2 hours

### Section A: Introduction to Differential Equations

1. Define the following terms and give examples:

- (a) Differential equation
- (b) Order of a differential equation
- (c) Degree of a differential equation
- (d) General solution
- (e) Particular solution
- (f) Initial condition

2. Classify these differential equations by order and degree:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x + 2$
- (b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = 0$
- (c)  $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 + y = x$
- (d)  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} - 2\frac{dy}{dx} + y = e^x$
- (e)  $x\frac{dy}{dx} + y^2 = 1$
- (f)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^3 + y = 0$

3. Verify that the given functions are solutions to the differential equations:

- (a)  $y = 3e^{2x}$  satisfies  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2y$
- (b)  $y = A \cos x + B \sin x$  satisfies  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = 0$
- (c)  $y = x^2 + 2x + C$  satisfies  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x + 2$
- (d)  $y = Ce^{-x^2/2}$  satisfies  $\frac{dy}{dx} + xy = 0$

4. Form differential equations from the given families of curves:

- (a)  $y = Ae^{3x}$  (where  $A$  is an arbitrary constant)
- (b)  $y = A \cos(2x) + B \sin(2x)$  (where  $A$  and  $B$  are arbitrary constants)
- (c)  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$  (where  $r$  is an arbitrary constant)

(d)  $y = Cx^2$  (where  $C$  is an arbitrary constant)

5. Explain the difference between:

- (a) Ordinary and partial differential equations
- (b) Linear and non-linear differential equations
- (c) Homogeneous and non-homogeneous differential equations
- (d) Separable and non-separable differential equations

## Section B: First-Order Differential Equations - Direct Integration

6. Solve these differential equations by direct integration:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2$
- (b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{3x}$
- (c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x+1}$
- (d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos(2x)$
- (e)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x}{x^2+1}$
- (f)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 + 3x - 2$

7. Solve these differential equations with given initial conditions:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4x^3$ ,  $y(0) = 2$
- (b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^x$ ,  $y(0) = 5$
- (c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin x$ ,  $y(\pi) = 1$
- (d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $y(1) = 3$  (for  $x > 0$ )
- (e)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x + 1$ ,  $y(1) = 4$

8. Find the particular solution to each differential equation:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 2x + 1$ , passing through  $(0, 2)$
- (b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{2x} + 3$ , passing through  $(0, 1)$
- (c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x - \sin x$ , passing through  $(\pi/2, 0)$
- (d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x^2+1}$ , passing through  $(0, \pi)$

9. A particle moves along a straight line such that its velocity is given by  $v = \frac{ds}{dt} = 6t^2 - 4t + 1$ .

- (a) Find the displacement  $s$  as a function of time  $t$
- (b) If  $s = 0$  when  $t = 0$ , find the particular solution
- (c) Find the displacement after 3 seconds
- (d) Find the acceleration as a function of time

10. The gradient of a curve at any point  $(x, y)$  is  $3x^2 + 2x - 1$ .

- (a) Find the general equation of the curve
- (b) Find the particular equation if the curve passes through  $(1, 5)$
- (c) Find the coordinates where the gradient is zero
- (d) Sketch the curve showing key features

## Section C: Separation of Variables

11. Solve these separable differential equations:

(a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = xy$

(b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{x}$

(c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = y^2$

(d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{y}$

(e)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{x+y}$

(f)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2}{y^2}$

12. Solve with the given initial conditions:

(a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2xy$ ,  $y(0) = 1$

(b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{x}$ ,  $y(1) = 2$  (for  $x > 0$ )

(c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^2}{x^2}$ ,  $y(1) = 1$

(d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = y(1 - y)$ ,  $y(0) = 0.5$

(e)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{y}}$ ,  $y(0) = 1$

13. Find particular solutions to these equations:

(a)  $y \frac{dy}{dx} = x$ , passing through  $(2, 1)$

(b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y \cos x}{\sin x}$ , passing through  $(\pi/2, 3)$

(c)  $(1 + x^2) \frac{dy}{dx} = y^2$ , passing through  $(0, 1)$

(d)  $x \frac{dy}{dx} = y \ln y$ , passing through  $(1, e)$

14. Solve these more complex separable equations:

(a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x(1+y^2)}{y(1+x^2)}$

(b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{ye^x}{x^2}$

(c)  $\cos y \frac{dy}{dx} = \sin x$

(d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2+1}{y^2+1}$

(e)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{xy^2}{x^2+1}$

15. Determine which of these equations are separable and solve those that are:

(a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x + y$

(b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = xy + x$

(c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 + y^2$

(d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x+y}{x-y}$

(e)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{x-y}$

(f)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin(x + y)$

## Section D: Applications of First-Order Differential Equations

16. Population growth models:

- (a) A population grows at a rate proportional to its size. If  $P(t)$  represents population at time  $t$  and the growth rate is 3% per year, set up and solve the differential equation.
- (b) If the initial population is 1000, find the population after 10 years.
- (c) How long does it take for the population to double?
- (d) What assumptions does this model make about population growth?

17. Radioactive decay:

- (a) The rate of radioactive decay is proportional to the amount present. Set up the differential equation for substance with decay constant  $k$ .
- (b) If half-life is 1000 years, find the decay constant  $k$ .
- (c) If initially there are 100g, how much remains after 2000 years?
- (d) How long until only 10g remains?

18. Newton's law of cooling:

- (a) A body cools at a rate proportional to the temperature difference with its surroundings. Set up the differential equation.
- (b) A cup of coffee at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  is placed in a room at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ . After 5 minutes it has cooled to  $70^\circ\text{C}$ . Find the temperature after 15 minutes.
- (c) How long does it take to reach  $30^\circ\text{C}$ ?
- (d) What is the limiting temperature as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ?

19. Mixing problems:

- (a) A tank contains 100L of pure water. Salt water with concentration 0.5 kg/L flows in at 2 L/min, and the mixture flows out at the same rate. Set up and solve for the salt concentration over time.
- (b) Find the concentration after 1 hour.
- (c) What is the limiting concentration as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ?
- (d) Sketch the concentration vs. time graph.

20. Economic models:

- (a) The rate of price increase is proportional to the excess demand. If demand exceeds supply by 100 units and this causes a 2% price increase per month, model this situation.
- (b) If current price is £50, find the price after 6 months.
- (c) An investment grows continuously at 5% per annum. If £1000 is invested, find the value after  $t$  years.
- (d) Compare with compound interest calculated annually.

## Section E: Linear First-Order Differential Equations

21. Identify which equations are linear and solve using integrating factors:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = e^x$
- (b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} - 3y = x^2$
- (c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x} = x$  (for  $x > 0$ )

- (d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + y \tan x = \sec x$   
 (e)  $x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = x^3$   
 (f)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + y^2 = x$  (is this linear?)

22. Solve these linear first-order equations with initial conditions:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 2e^x$ ,  $y(0) = 1$   
 (b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} - 2y = 4x$ ,  $y(0) = 3$   
 (c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + 3y = 6$ ,  $y(0) = 0$   
 (d)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x} = 2x$ ,  $y(1) = 4$  (for  $x > 0$ )

23. Find the integrating factor and solve:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} + y \cos x = \sin x \cos x$   
 (b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} - y \cot x = 2 \cos x$   
 (c)  $(1+x) \frac{dy}{dx} + y = (1+x)^2$   
 (d)  $x \frac{dy}{dx} + y = x^2 + 1$  (for  $x > 0$ )

24. Applications of linear differential equations:

- (a) An RC circuit has resistance 10 and capacitance 0.01F. If a 12V battery is connected at  $t = 0$ , find the current  $i(t)$  given  $\frac{di}{dt} + \frac{i}{RC} = 0$ .  
 (b) A spring-mass system with damping satisfies  $m \frac{dv}{dt} + cv = mg$  where  $v$  is velocity. Solve for  $v(t)$  if  $v(0) = 0$ .  
 (c) A savings account earns 4% interest continuously, but £1000 is withdrawn each year. Model this with a differential equation and solve.

25. Compare different solution methods:

- (a) For  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2xy + x$ , solve by separation of variables  
 (b) Solve the same equation using integrating factor method  
 (c) Verify both solutions are equivalent  
 (d) Discuss when each method is more appropriate

## Section F: Second-Order Differential Equations - Introduction

26. Verify that these functions satisfy the given differential equations:

- (a)  $y = Ae^{2x} + Be^{-3x}$  satisfies  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \frac{dy}{dx} - 6y = 0$   
 (b)  $y = A \cos(3x) + B \sin(3x)$  satisfies  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 9y = 0$   
 (c)  $y = (A + Bx)e^{-x}$  satisfies  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$   
 (d)  $y = Ae^x + Be^{2x} + x$  satisfies  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = -2$

27. Reduce these second-order equations to first-order by substitution  $v = \frac{dy}{dx}$ :

- (a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{dy}{dx}$   
 (b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = 0$   
 (c)  $x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{dy}{dx}$

(d)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2$

28. Solve by direct integration (reducing order):

(a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6x$

(b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = e^{2x}$

(c)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \sin x$

(d)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = x^2 + 2x - 1$

29. Solve with given initial conditions:

(a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 12x^2$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$

(b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 2e^x$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$

(c)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \cos x$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y(\pi) = -1$

(d)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{2}{x^3}$ ,  $y(1) = 0$ ,  $y'(1) = 1$  (for  $x > 0$ )

30. Physical interpretation:

(a) If  $s(t)$  represents position and  $\frac{d^2s}{dt^2} = -g$  (constant gravity), find  $s(t)$  given initial position  $s_0$  and velocity  $v_0$ .

(b) A particle moves so that its acceleration is  $a = 6t$ . Find position if  $s(0) = 0$  and  $v(0) = 2$ .

(c) The acceleration of a falling object with air resistance is  $a = g - kv^2$ . Explain why this leads to a first-order equation for velocity.

## Section G: Homogeneous Linear Second-Order Equations

31. Find the auxiliary equation and solve:

(a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 5\frac{dy}{dx} + 6y = 0$

(b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 3y = 0$

(c)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2\frac{dy}{dx} - 8y = 0$

(d)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 6\frac{dy}{dx} + 9y = 0$

(e)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4y = 0$

(f)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 16y = 0$

32. Classify the roots and write the general solution:

(a)  $m^2 - 7m + 12 = 0$  (two distinct real roots)

(b)  $m^2 + 6m + 9 = 0$  (repeated real root)

(c)  $m^2 + 2m + 5 = 0$  (complex conjugate roots)

(d)  $m^2 - 9 = 0$  (two distinct real roots)

(e)  $m^2 + 1 = 0$  (pure imaginary roots)

(f)  $m^2 - 4m + 4 = 0$  (repeated real root)

33. Solve these equations with initial conditions:

(a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$

(b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 2$ ,  $y'(0) = -1$

- (c)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$   
 (d)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6\frac{dy}{dx} + 10y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$

34. Analyze the behavior of solutions:

- (a) For  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - k^2y = 0$  where  $k > 0$ , discuss the nature of solutions  
 (b) For  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + k^2y = 0$  where  $k > 0$ , describe the oscillatory behavior  
 (c) For  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2a\frac{dy}{dx} + a^2y = 0$ , explain critical damping  
 (d) Sketch solution curves for different types of roots

35. Higher-order equations:

- (a) Solve  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} - 6\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 11\frac{dy}{dx} - 6y = 0$   
 (b) Find the general solution to  $\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} - y = 0$   
 (c) Solve  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \frac{dy}{dx} - y = 0$   
 (d) Discuss the form of solutions for  $n$ th order linear homogeneous equations

## Section H: Non-homogeneous Linear Second-Order Equations

36. Solve using the method of undetermined coefficients:

- (a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 6$   
 (b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = 8x$   
 (c)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \frac{dy}{dx} = e^x$   
 (d)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = \sin x$   
 (e)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4y = e^{2x}$   
 (f)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} + y = x^2$

37. Find particular integrals for these right-hand sides:

- (a) Constant:  $f(x) = k$   
 (b) Polynomial:  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$   
 (c) Exponential:  $f(x) = Ae^{ax}$   
 (d) Trigonometric:  $f(x) = A \cos(ax) + B \sin(ax)$   
 (e) Products:  $f(x) = xe^x$ ,  $f(x) = x \sin x$

38. Handle resonance cases:

- (a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = \cos(2x)$  (resonance)  
 (b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2\frac{dy}{dx} + y = e^x$  (resonance)  
 (c)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = \sin x$  (resonance)  
 (d) Explain why we multiply by  $x$  in resonance cases

39. Complete solutions with initial conditions:

- (a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = 2$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$   
 (b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - y = x$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$   
 (c)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = e^{-2x}$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = -1$

(d)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} + 5y = 10 \cos x$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$

40. Variation of parameters method:

- (a) Solve  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2\frac{dy}{dx} + y = \frac{e^x}{x}$  using variation of parameters
- (b) Apply to  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = \sec x$
- (c) Compare with undetermined coefficients where applicable
- (d) When is variation of parameters necessary?

## Section I: Applications of Second-Order Differential Equations

41. Simple harmonic motion:

- (a) A mass on a spring satisfies  $m\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + kx = 0$ . Solve for  $x(t)$  given  $x(0) = A$  and  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$ .
- (b) Find the period and frequency of oscillation.
- (c) If  $m = 2$  kg and  $k = 8$  N/m, and the mass is displaced 0.5 m from equilibrium and released, find  $x(t)$ .
- (d) What is the maximum speed of the mass?

42. Damped harmonic motion:

- (a) For  $m\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + c\frac{dx}{dt} + kx = 0$ , classify motion based on discriminant.
- (b) With  $m = 1$ ,  $c = 4$ ,  $k = 3$ , solve with  $x(0) = 1$ ,  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$  (overdamped).
- (c) With  $m = 1$ ,  $c = 2$ ,  $k = 1$ , solve with  $x(0) = 1$ ,  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$  (critically damped).
- (d) With  $m = 1$ ,  $c = 1$ ,  $k = 2$ , solve with  $x(0) = 1$ ,  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$  (underdamped).
- (e) Sketch the three types of motion.

43. Forced oscillations:

- (a) Solve  $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + 4x = 8 \cos(3t)$  with  $x(0) = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$ .
- (b) Find the steady-state and transient solutions.
- (c) Analyze resonance when forcing frequency equals natural frequency.
- (d) With damping:  $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dx}{dt} + 5x = 10 \cos(2t)$ , find the amplitude response.

44. Electrical circuits:

- (a) An RLC circuit satisfies  $L\frac{d^2q}{dt^2} + R\frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{q}{C} = V(t)$ . Explain each term.
- (b) With  $L = 1$  H,  $R = 6$   $\Omega$ ,  $C = 0.1$  F, and  $V = 10$  V (constant), solve for charge  $q(t)$ .
- (c) Find the current  $i(t) = \frac{dq}{dt}$ .
- (d) Analyze the circuit's natural frequency and damping ratio.

45. Beam deflection:

- (a) A simply supported beam under uniform load satisfies  $EI\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = w$  where  $y$  is deflection.
- (b) For a cantilever beam with point load at the end,  $EI\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -M(x)$ .
- (c) Solve for the deflection curve with appropriate boundary conditions.
- (d) Find the maximum deflection and its location.

46. Population dynamics:

- (a) The predator-prey model gives coupled equations. For a simplified case where prey population oscillates:  $\frac{d^2P}{dt^2} + k^2P = 0$ , solve for  $P(t)$ .
- (b) A population with inertia satisfies  $\frac{d^2P}{dt^2} + a\frac{dP}{dt} + bP = cK$  where  $K$  is carrying capacity.
- (c) Analyze stability of equilibrium solutions.
- (d) Model boom-bust cycles in economics using similar equations.



## Section J: Advanced Topics and Modeling

47. Systems of differential equations:

- (a) Solve the system:  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2x + y$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = x + 2y$
- (b) Convert  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 0$  to a first-order system
- (c) Analyze equilibrium points and stability
- (d) Sketch phase portraits for different cases

48. Laplace transform method:

- (a) Use Laplace transforms to solve  $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 4y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$
- (b) Solve  $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dt} + y = e^{-t}$  with zero initial conditions
- (c) Handle discontinuous forcing functions using unit step function
- (d) Apply to solve integro-differential equations

49. Series solutions:

- (a) Find power series solution to  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + xy = 0$  about  $x = 0$
- (b) Solve  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$  using series method
- (c) Identify convergence radius
- (d) Compare with known special functions

50. Boundary value problems:

- (a) Solve  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \lambda y = 0$  with  $y(0) = y(\pi) = 0$
- (b) Find eigenvalues and eigenfunctions
- (c) Apply to heat conduction:  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$
- (d) Use separation of variables for partial differential equations

51. Existence and uniqueness theorems:

- (a) State conditions for existence and uniqueness of solutions
- (b) Give examples where solutions don't exist or aren't unique
- (c) Discuss continuation of solutions
- (d) Analyze singular points and their classification

52. Stability analysis:

- (a) Define Lyapunov stability for differential equations
- (b) Analyze stability of linear systems using eigenvalues
- (c) Apply linearization to study nonlinear systems near equilibria
- (d) Use phase plane analysis for autonomous systems

53. Numerical methods for differential equations:

- (a) Apply Euler's method to  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x + y$ ,  $y(0) = 1$
- (b) Use improved Euler (Heun's) method for better accuracy
- (c) Implement Runge-Kutta methods
- (d) Discuss stability and convergence of numerical schemes
- (e) Apply to systems and higher-order equations

54. Green's functions:

- (a) Define Green's function for  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = f(x)$
- (b) Construct Green's function using boundary conditions
- (c) Apply to solve non-homogeneous boundary value problems
- (d) Relate to impulse response in physical systems

55. Advanced applications:

- (a) Model a double pendulum system with coupled equations
- (b) Analyze vibrations in mechanical systems with multiple degrees of freedom
- (c) Study wave propagation using  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$
- (d) Model chemical reaction kinetics with system of ODEs
- (e) Apply to epidemiological models (SIR model)
- (f) Study chaos in nonlinear differential equations

56. Integral equations and transforms:

- (a) Convert differential equations to integral equations
- (b) Use Fourier transforms for solving PDEs
- (c) Apply convolution theorem for Green's functions
- (d) Solve Volterra and Fredholm integral equations
- (e) Connect to probability and stochastic differential equations

57. Modeling project - Choose one real-world application:

- (a) Climate modeling: temperature variations over time
- (b) Epidemic spread: SIR or SEIR models with vaccination
- (c) Financial mathematics: Black-Scholes equation
- (d) Engineering: control systems and feedback
- (e) Biology: population genetics or enzyme kinetics
- (f) Physics: quantum harmonic oscillator or wave mechanics

For your chosen application:

- (a) Derive the differential equation from first principles
- (b) Classify the equation and choose appropriate solution method
- (c) Solve analytically where possible, numerically otherwise
- (d) Interpret solutions in context of the physical problem
- (e) Validate model against real data or known results
- (f) Discuss limitations and possible extensions
- (g) Present findings with appropriate graphs and analysis

## Section K: Problem-Solving Strategies and Review

58. Classification and strategy guide:

- (a) Create a flowchart for classifying differential equations
- (b) List solution methods for each type
- (c) Discuss when to use analytical vs. numerical methods
- (d) Identify common pitfalls and how to avoid them

59. Mixed practice problems:

- (a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2+y^2}{2xy}$  (homogeneous)
- (b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = e^{-2x} \sin x$
- (c)  $(x+y)\frac{dy}{dx} = x-y$  (substitution method)
- (d)  $x^2\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + x\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$  (Euler equation)
- (e)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y+\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}{x}$  (polar substitution)

60. Verification and checking:

- (a) Methods for verifying solutions
- (b) Checking initial and boundary conditions
- (c) Dimensional analysis in physical problems
- (d) Limiting behavior and asymptotic analysis

61. Historical context and development:

- (a) Newton and Leibniz: origins of calculus and differential equations
- (b) Euler's contributions: linear equations and special functions
- (c) Lagrange and Hamilton: mechanics and variational principles
- (d) Modern developments: chaos theory and computer solutions

62. Connections to other areas:

- (a) Linear algebra: matrix methods for systems
- (b) Complex analysis: solutions in the complex plane
- (c) Fourier analysis: frequency domain methods
- (d) Probability: stochastic differential equations
- (e) Numerical analysis: computational solutions

63. Examination techniques:

- (a) Time management strategies for differential equation problems
- (b) Common examination question types and approaches
- (c) What to do when standard methods don't work
- (d) Partial credit strategies and clear presentation
- (e) Calculator and technology usage guidelines

64. Extended investigations:

- (a) Research a specific type of differential equation not covered in detail
- (b) Investigate historical development of a particular solution method

- (c) Study applications in your area of interest (physics, biology, economics)
- (d) Compare analytical and numerical solutions for a challenging problem
- (e) Explore modern research areas involving differential equations

65. Synthesis problems requiring multiple techniques:

- (a) A mass-spring system with time-varying parameters
- (b) Population model with seasonal variation and migration
- (c) RC circuit with switching and non-constant voltage
- (d) Heat conduction in a rod with temperature-dependent properties
- (e) Chemical reaction with multiple pathways and catalysis
- (f) Economic model with policy interventions and external shocks

66. Critical thinking questions:

- (a) When might a differential equation model be inappropriate?
- (b) How do you handle discontinuities in real-world applications?
- (c) What assumptions are inherent in linearization techniques?
- (d) How do numerical errors propagate in long-term simulations?
- (e) When is it better to use a simpler model vs. a more accurate one?

67. Future directions and advanced study:

- (a) Partial differential equations and field theory
- (b) Stochastic differential equations and noise
- (c) Delay differential equations and memory effects
- (d) Fractional differential equations and anomalous diffusion
- (e) Differential equations on manifolds and geometry
- (f) Computational fluid dynamics and numerical PDEs
- (g) Machine learning approaches to differential equations

**Answer Space**

Use this space for your working and answers.

**END OF TEST**

Total marks: 250

**For more resources and practice materials, visit:  
[stepupmaths.co.uk](http://stepupmaths.co.uk)**