

Peak Point

Use derivatives to locate maximums and minimums.

HIGH SCHOOL • MA.912.C.3

MA.912.C.3 "Apply derivatives to solve problems."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OPTIMIZE WITH DERIVATIVES

To find where a function has a maximum or minimum, find its critical points by setting $f'(x)=0$. Use the second derivative to classify a critical point, then substitute the x -value into the original function to find the maximum or minimum value.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Find the maximum value of $p(x)=-3x^2+18x+5$.

1. Differentiate: $p'(x)=-6x+18$.
2. Set $p'(x)=0$: $-6x+18=0$, so $x=3$.
3. Since $p''(x)=-6<0$, this point gives a maximum.
4. Evaluate: $p(3)=-3(3^2)+18(3)+5=32$.

Answer: The maximum value is 32 at $x=3$.

PRACTICE 6 problems

- 1** For $f(x)=-2x^2+16x+1$, find the x -value and maximum value.

ANSWER _____

- 2** For $g(x)=x^2-14x+2$, find the x -value and minimum value.

ANSWER _____

- 3** For $h(x)=-x^2+14x-9$, find the x -value and maximum value.

ANSWER _____

- 4** For $k(x)=2x^2-16x+9$, find the x -value and minimum value.

ANSWER _____

- 5** A function has derivative $m'(x)=10x-40$ and has one critical point. Is the critical point a maximum or a minimum, and where is it?

ANSWER _____

- 6** For $n(x)=-7x^2+28x+2$, find the x -value and maximum value.

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

- 1** A student council tracks the number of views, in thousands, on a short video t days after it is posted. The model is $V(t) = -t^2 + 14t + 1$ for $0 \leq t \leq 14$. On what day are the views greatest, and what is the greatest number of views?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

- 2** A student runs a game-night snack table. Its profit $P(x)$, in dollars, is $P(x) = -x^2 + 20x - 4$, where x is the price, in dollars, of a snack and $0 \leq x \leq 20$. What price gives the greatest profit, and what is that profit?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

CHALLENGE

On $0 \leq x \leq 8$, find the absolute maximum value of $q(x) = -4x^3 + 24x^2$ and the x -value where it occurs. Show derivative reasoning.

PART 1 • PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	For $f(x) = -2x^2 + 16x + 1$, find the x-value and maximum value.	Maximum at $x=4$; $f(4)=33$.
2	For $g(x) = x^2 - 14x + 2$, find the x-value and minimum value.	Minimum at $x=7$; $g(7)=-47$.
3	For $h(x) = -x^2 + 14x - 9$, find the x-value and maximum value.	Maximum at $x=7$; $h(7)=40$.
4	For $k(x) = 2x^2 - 16x + 9$, find the x-value and minimum value.	Minimum at $x=4$; $k(4)=-23$.
5	A function has derivative $m'(x) = 10x - 40$ and has one critical point. Is the critical point a maximum or a minimum, and where is it?	It is a minimum at $x=4$.
6	For $n(x) = -7x^2 + 28x + 2$, find the x-value and maximum value.	Maximum at $x=2$; $n(2)=30$.

PART 2 • APPLY IT

- The views are greatest on day 7, with 50 thousand views, or 50,000 views.** $V'(t) = -2t + 14 = 0$ gives $t = 7$. Then $V(7) = 50$, and the critical point is a maximum because $V''(t) = -2 < 0$.
- A price of \$10 gives the greatest profit, which is \$96.** $P'(x) = -2x + 20 = 0$ gives $x = 10$. Then $P(10) = 96$, and $P''(x) = -2 < 0$ confirms a maximum.

CHALLENGE

$q'(x) = -12x^2 + 48x = -12x(x-4)$, so check $x=0$, $x=4$, and $x=8$. $q(0)=0$, $q(4)=128$, and $q(8)=-512$, so the absolute maximum is 128 at $x=4$.

Accept equivalent expanded or factored derivative forms. For the first word problem, accept either 50 thousand views or 50,000 views.