

**Math 111**  
**Exam 1 Solutions**

1. You sell “I ♥ Linear Functions” t-shirts and you begin to keep track of your daily sales. You notice that you sell 420 shirts if the price for each shirt is \$8. You sell 308 t-shirts if the price is \$12 each. Let  $p$  = the price of each shirt and  $q$  = the quantity sold in one day.

(a) Find a formula for  $q$  in terms of  $p$  assuming that  $q$  is a **linear** function of  $p$ , i.e.,  $q = f(p)$ .

Points of the function  $q = f(p)$  will have the form  $(p, q)$ . So, we have the points  $(8, 420)$  and  $(12, 308)$  to use to write the linear function.

Finding the rate of change of  $f$  = slope:  $m = \frac{308-420}{12-8} = \frac{-112}{4} = -28$  shirts/dollar

To write the equation, we can use either the point-slope form or the slope-intercept form.

- Point-Slope Form: Using the point  $(8, 420)$ , we have
$$q - 420 = -28(p - 8)$$

This can be simplified into  $q = f(p) = -28p + 644$ .

- Slope-Intercept Form: Since the rate of change of  $f$  is  $-28$ , we have
$$q = -28p + b \quad \text{for some constant } b.$$

Plugging in the values  $p = 8$  and  $q = 420$ :  $420 = -28(8) + b \Rightarrow b = 644$

So,  $q = f(p) = -28p + 644$ .

(b) How many shirts will you sell if the price is \$15?

Using the formula from part (a),  $q = -28(15) + 644 = 224$ . So, at a price of \$15, we will sell 224 shirts.

(c) Solve  $f(p) = 490$  and interpret this in terms of  $p$  and  $q$ .

To solve  $f(p) = 490$ :  $-28p + 644 = 490 \quad -28p = -154$   
 $\Rightarrow p = 5.5$

Interpretation: If we sell the shirts for \$5.50, then 490 shirts will be sold.

(d) Find the inverse function  $p = f^{-1}(q)$ .

Solving for the variable  $p$ :  $q - 644 = -28p \Rightarrow p = \frac{q-644}{-28}$

So,  $p = f^{-1}(q) = \frac{q-644}{-28}$ .

2. Consider the two functions  $f(x) = 3x + 1$  and  $g(x) = -x^3 + 5$ .

(a) Find  $f(g(2))$ .

Note that  $g(2) = -2^3 + 5 = -8 + 5 = -3$ .

So,  $f(g(2)) = f(-3) = 3(-3) + 1 = -9 + 1 = -8$ .

(b) Find  $f(g(x))$ . Simplify as much as possible.

$f(g(x)) = f(-x^3 + 5) = 3(-x^3 + 5) + 1 = -3x^3 + 15 + 1 = -3x^3 + 16$

3. (a) What is the domain of the function  $g(x) = \sqrt{3x + 12}$ ?

In order for the square root function to be defined, we must have that  $3x + 12 \geq 0$   
 $\Rightarrow 3x \geq -12$   
 $\Rightarrow x \geq -4$

The domain is  $x \geq -4$  or  $[-4, \infty)$ .

(b) What is the range of the function  $h(x) = 3x - 2$  with domain  $-2 \leq x < 6$ ? (Hint: Consider the graph of  $h$ .)

Since  $h(x)$  is a linear function that has positive slope, it is rising from left to right. This means that the smallest  $y$ -value that the function attains is  $h(-2) = -8$ , the largest  $y$ -value is  $h(6) = 16$ , and  $h(x)$  will attain all the  $y$ -values in between  $-8$  and  $16$ .

So, the range is  $-8 \leq h(x) \leq 16$  or  $[-8, 16]$ .

4. Write an equation of a line that intersects the  $x$ -axis at  $x = 3$  and is perpendicular to the line  $y = \frac{1}{3}x + 4$ .

The line  $y = \frac{1}{3}x + 4$  has slope  $\frac{1}{3}$ , so the line that we are writing an equation for is  $-3$  (negative reciprocal of  $\frac{1}{3}$ ).

Since it intersects the  $x$ -axis at  $x = 3$ , the line goes through the point  $(3, 0)$ .

Using the point-slope form of a linear equation:  $y - 0 = -3(x - 3) \Rightarrow y = -3x + 9$

5. Consider the function  $f(x) = 3x^2 - 2x - 3$ .

(a) Find all of the points on the graph of  $f$  whose  $y$ -coordinates are 5.

We are trying to find values of  $x$  so that  $f(x) = 5 \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} 3x^2 - 2x - 3 &= 5 \\ 3x^2 - 2x - 8 &= 0 \\ (3x + 4)(x - 2) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

So,  $x = -\frac{4}{3}$  or  $x = 2$ . (You can also use the quadratic formula to find  $x$ .)

So, the points on the graph of  $f$  with  $y$ -coordinate of 5 are  $(-\frac{4}{3}, 5)$  and  $(2, 5)$ .

(b) Find the rate of change of  $f$  between  $x = 0$  and  $x = 2$ .

Rate of Change of  $f$  between  $x = 0$  and  $x = 2$ :  $\frac{f(2)-f(0)}{2-0} = \frac{5-(-3)}{2} = \frac{8}{2} = 4$