

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS  
ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

JUNE 2004

Time : 3 hours

Candidates should attempt **ALL** questions from Section A and **ANY THREE** questions from Section B.

**SECTION A: Answer ALL questions in this section [40].**

**A1.** When light radiation enters a medium, its rate of absorption with respect to the depth of penetration  $t$  is proportional to the amount of light that is incident on a unit area at that depth. Find the law relating  $L$ , the quantity of light, and  $t$ , if the incident light is  $L_0$  and the emerging light after passing through a thickness  $t_1$  is  $L_1$ . [6]

**A2.** Solve the initial value problem

$$y' = 6 \cos^2 x - y \cot x, \quad y(\pi/4) = 3. \quad [6]$$

**A3.** Prove that if  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $e^{at} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f(s)\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f(s-a)\}$ . [6]

**A4.** The differential equation

$$y'' + (\tan x - 2 \cot x)y' = 0$$

has integrals

$$y_1 = \sin x - \frac{1}{3} \sin 3x$$

and

$$y_2 = \sin^3 x.$$

Are these solutions linearly independent? [7]

A5. Use the method of undetermined coefficients to solve the differential equation

$$y'' = 9x^2 + 2x - 1.$$

[7]

A6. Consider the initial value problem

$$y' = x + y, \quad y(0) = 1.$$

By applying Picard's iteration scheme, show that the solution is

$$y(x) = 2e^x - x - 1.$$

[8]

**SECTION B: Answer THREE questions in this section [60].**

B7. (a) Prove that if

$$M(x, y)dx + N(x, y)dy = 0.$$

where  $M(x, y)$  and  $N(x, y)$  are continuous with continuous partial derivatives. Then there exists a function  $u$  such that

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = M(x, y) \text{ and } \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = N(x, y)$$

if and only if

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}.$$

[10]

[10]

(b) Solve the differential equation

$$(4xy + 3y^2 - x)dx + x(x + 2y)dy = 0.$$

[10]

B8. (a) Evaluate

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{(s^2 + k^2)^2} \right\}.$$

[6]

(b) Use the Convolution Theorem to evaluate

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{(s^2 + 1)(s^2 + 4)} \right\}$$

[6]

(c) Apply inverse Laplace Transforms to solve the initial value problem

$$y''(t) + \beta^2 y(t) = A \sin \omega t, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0$$

where  $\beta, \omega \neq 0$ .

Consider the cases where

(i)  $\omega \neq \beta$ ;

(ii)  $\omega = \beta$ .

[8]

B9. Prove that if  $y(x)$  is a continuous function, then it is a solution to the initial value problem  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y), y(x_0) = y_0$  if and only if

$$y(x) = y_0 + \int_{x_0}^x f(t, y(t)) dt.$$

[6]

By setting  $y = x^k$ , find the general solution of

$$x^2 y'' - 6xy' + 10y = 0.$$

[6]

(b) Show that the equation of the type

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

can be solved by the variables separable technique if the substitution  $y/x = v(x)$  is made.

Use this method to solve the initial value problem:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{x} + \frac{2x^3 \cos x^2}{y}, \quad y(\sqrt{\pi}) = 0.$$

[8]

- B10.** (a) Use the method of variation of parameters to find the general solution of the equation:

$$y'' - y = e^{-2x} \sin e^{-x}.$$

[8]

- (b) Find the general solution of the system

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= -4x + 2y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= -x - y\end{aligned}$$

and sketch the resulting phase portrait. Find the solution satisfying

$$x(0) = 4, \quad y(0) = 3.$$

[12]

END OF QUESTION PAPER