Some DO's and DON'Ts for the AP Calculus Exam

mransom@georgiasouthern.edu

DO:

1. Go to my webpage where I have some problems and solutions posted for AP Calculus AB:

   https://sites.google.com/a/georgiasouthern.edu/marshall-ransom/apcalculusreview

   Also https://sites.google.com/a/georgiasouthern.edu/marshall-ransom Assignments for MATH 2242

2. BEFORE starting work, read over the test questions…….. certainly read over a problem from top to bottom before starting work. You will be given two problems first, and you can use your calculator.   Then you will get four more and will not be able to use a calculator. Work on what's easy first.

3. Write any correct mathematics for any problem where you think you know how to get started. The test is graded using partial credit. Therefore any correct work that leads to the solution is eligible for points.

4. Use words to describe what you see from a sign chart, for example, a chart that shows signs of a derivative. Points cannot be awarded unless you say something like "the signs of the derivative of f change from $+$ to $-$ at $x = 2$." (Common error: "The signs change from $+$ to $-$ at $x = 2$."…… WHAT signs????)

5. If you accidentally write the work in part a for the part c question, just write a note in part c saying "work for part c is in part a." Don't bother to waste time erasing and copying the work into part c.

6. CROSS OUT anything you do not want to be graded. We don't grade crossed out work.

DON'T:

1. DO NOT SIMPLIFY ANYTHING!!!!!!!! For example, if you get a result like $\frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{5}(x+2)$ DO NOT try to simplify this. You don't know how many times I have seen students write this as $\frac{1}{10}(x+2)$ rather than $\frac{1}{25}(x+2)$. An example: $t = \frac{4^{5/2}}{\sqrt{2}}$ is a fine answer. Do NOT change this to $t = \frac{32}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}} = 16\sqrt{2}$

The reasoning behind this is simple: while grading your exam, we do not care if the answer is simplified, but you might make an arithmetic error and then lose a point when your calculus work was actually correct.

2. Do not write elaborate explanations. The more you write, the more chance there is for you to accidentally say something not quite correct. That will cancel out anything you said that was correct and you will lose the point awarded for that explanation.

3. DO NOT EVER use the word "it" in any explanation. Be specific (?) as to what "it" refers to ??

4. Do not leave a multiple choice question unanswered. As of a few years ago, there is no penalty for a wrong answer.