

## Intermediate Value Theorem WS:

1. Question 1 was very well done.
2. Question 2 was very well done. We interpret “Does IVT apply?” to mean whether or not we can apply IVT using the interval  $[-1, 3]$  rather than any smaller interval like  $[2, 3]$ .
3. Question 3 is tricky. Notice that  $-3 < f(-1) < -2$  and  $-2 < f(3) < -1$ . Hence you cannot apply the IVT on any value  $L$  that does not satisfy  $-3 < L < -1$ . In particular, you cannot apply it for  $L = 0$  and  $L = 4$ .
4. Question 4 was very well done. Try comparing it to the function in the previous question.
5. Question 5 was very well done. You can draw any continuous function defined on  $[-1, 3]$ .
6. Please note that this question asks specifically about what the IVT tells you. It is useful to rewrite the theorem in a form where its hypotheses and conclusion are clear. My version is below.

If both of the following conditions are satisfied

H1.  $f$  is defined and continuous on  $[a, b]$

H2.  $L$  is an intermediate value satisfying  $f(a) < L < f(b)$  or  $f(b) < L < f(a)$ ,

then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f(c) = L$ .

We can now examine each question individually.

- i. This question asks about values of  $L$  that are not intermediate values. H2 is not true in this case so the IVT does not apply.  
A common mistake was to assume that the function is not continuous if it reaches non-intermediate values in the interval. See the graph of question 3 for a counterexample.
- ii. If  $f$  is not continuous, then it does not satisfy H1. Thus the IVT cannot make a conclusion.  
A common mistake was to assume that the function would not reach some intermediate value  $L$  in the interval. Try  $f(x) = \tan x$  and take two points  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  separated by more than  $\pi$  (i.e.  $|x_1 - x_2| > \pi$ ).
- iii. The IVT concludes that there exists a  $c$  with  $a < c < b$  but does not say anything about the exact location of  $c$  within the interval.
- iv. The IVT says that  $c$  exists (but does not tell you that it must be unique!). Hence there is at least one  $c$ .

## Limits and Continuity WS:

1. All parts of this question were generally very well done. The most common mistake was saying limit i, ii, or iv does not exist. Keep in mind that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  does not necessarily have to equal  $f(a)$  and that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x)$  is not the same as  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x)$ . Please see the definition of limits for further clarification.
2. Parts i-iii were very well done.

In part iv, be wary of writing  $(-\infty, 0) \cup [0, \infty)$ . This is the same thing as  $(-\infty, \infty) = \mathbb{R}$ . You can instead say that the function is continuous on the intervals  $(-\infty, 0)$  and  $[0, \infty)$ .

A note on interval notation: write  $(a, \infty)$  instead of  $(a, \infty]$ . The latter is confusing since it seems to imply that  $\infty$  is in the set ( $\infty$  is not a real number).