

# Lesson 1: Piecewise Functions

A piecewise function has different rules for different parts of its domain.

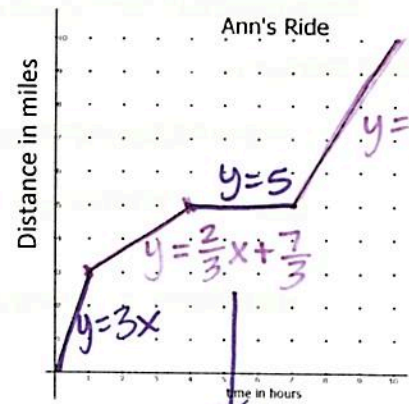
1. Ann went on a bicycle trip. The graph shows the relationship between time and distance traveled by Ann.

a. Write a function  $d(t)$  for her distance in miles traveled in terms of the time ( $t$ ) in hours.

$$d(t) = \begin{cases} 3x & 0 \leq t \leq 1 \\ \frac{2}{3}x + \frac{7}{3} & 1 < t \leq 4 \\ 5 & 4 < t \leq 7 \\ \frac{5}{3}x - \frac{20}{3} & 7 < t \leq 10 \end{cases}$$

b. Find  $d(3)$ .

$$\frac{2}{3}(3) + \frac{7}{3} = \boxed{\frac{13}{3}}$$

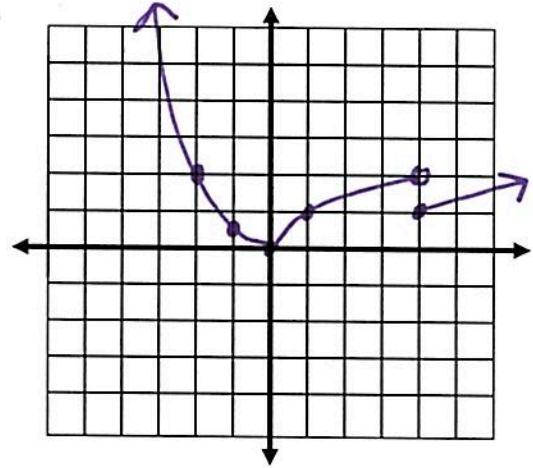


$$y = \frac{5}{3}x + b$$

$$3 = \frac{5}{3}(1) + b \quad b = \frac{7}{3}$$

2. Graph the following piece-wise function and state its domain and range.

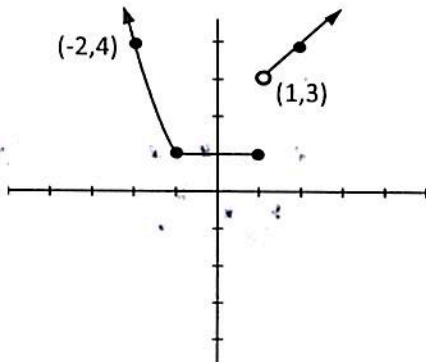
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}x^2 & x \leq 0 \\ \sqrt{x} & 0 < x < 4 \\ \frac{x}{4} & x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$



Evaluate:  $f(0) = 0$ ,  $f(4) = 1$ ,  $f(1) = 1$

D:  $(-\infty, \infty)$  R:  $[0, \infty)$

3. Write the piece-wise function for the graph shown.



$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \leq -1 \\ 1 & -1 < x \leq 1 \\ x+2 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

## Continuity of Functions

**Continuous** - The function is a **single unbroken curve**. You can trace the function from left to right **without lifting your pencil**.

**Discontinuous** - This is the result if there is one or more discontinuity.

- **Removable Discontinuity (hole)** - the function would be continuous in the absence of the hole. if you "plug" the hole, the function becomes continuous.
- **Jump Discontinuity** - At a certain domain value, the function's value "jumps" and then continues. The jump creates a break in the curve where you must lift your pencil to trace it.
- **Infinite Discontinuity** - A vertical asymptote interrupts the continuity of the function.

In order for a function to be continuous at a point,

a)  $f(a)$  must exist

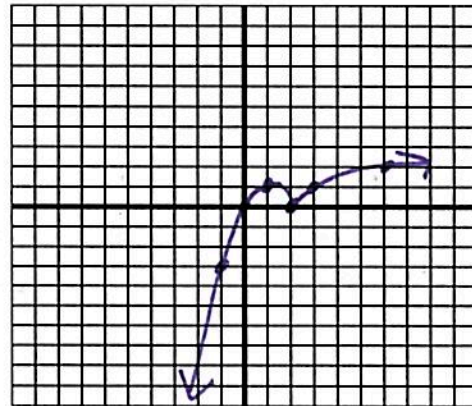
b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  must exist

c)  $f(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$

> discuss this more next class!

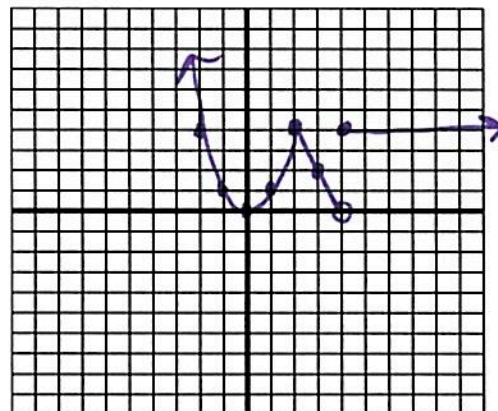
Sketch the graph of each function, then identify the types of discontinuities (if any).

4. 
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - (x - 1)^2, & x \leq 2 \\ \sqrt{x - 2}, & x > 2 \end{cases}$$



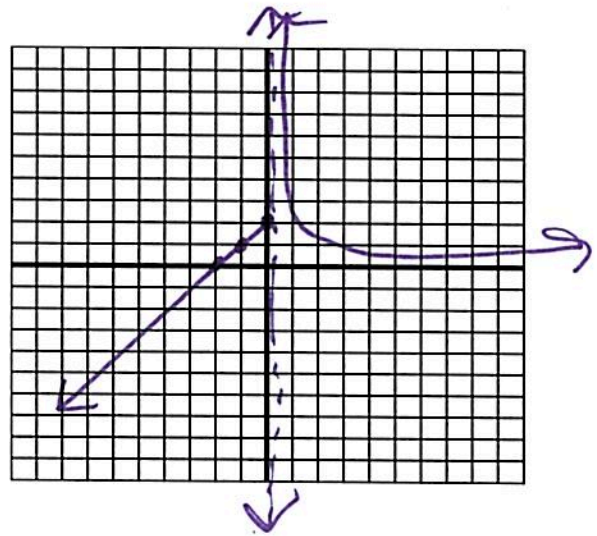
Discontinuities: none

5. 
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & x \leq 2 \\ 8 - 2x, & 2 < x < 4 \\ 4, & x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$



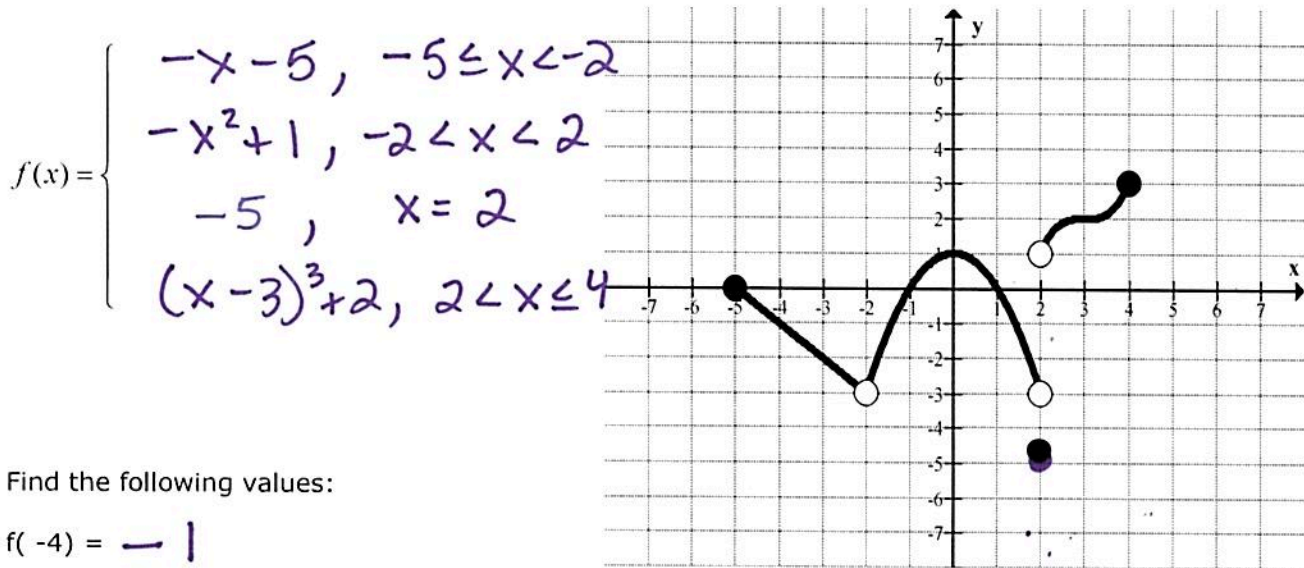
Discontinuities: jump @ x=4

$$6. f(x) = \begin{cases} x+2, & x \leq 0 \\ \frac{1}{x}, & x > 0 \end{cases}$$



Discontinuities: Infinite @ x=0  
(vertical asymptote)

7. Write a piecewise defined function for the following graph.



Find the following values:

$$f(-4) = -1$$

$$f(2) = -5$$

$$f(0) = 1$$

$$f(3) = 2$$

What is the absolute maximum? 3

The absolute minimum? -5

Find the interval(s) on which the function is increasing.  $(-2, 0)$  &  $(2, 4)$

Find the interval(s) on which the function is decreasing.  $(-5, -2)$  &  $(0, 2)$

Where is this function discontinuous within the domain  $[-5, 4]$ ?  $x = 2$

What is the rate of change on the interval  $(-5, -2)$ ?  $-1$

Where is the rate of change zero?  $x = 0, x = 3$

(levels off)

1000

1000

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