



**Skill Builder: Topic 1.6 – Determining Limits Using Algebraic Manipulation**

**Directions:** Beginning in the first cell, find the answer. Search for that answer elsewhere in the document, mark that cell #2 and work the problem in that box. Process in this manner until you complete the circuit. Show all pertinent work. Calculators may not be used.

Note: This assignment contains two separate circuits.

**Circuit 1**

<p># <u>1</u>                                              Answer: <math>-\frac{3}{8}</math></p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 12</math></p> <p>12 (The limit of a constant is a constant.)</p>	<p># <u>5</u>                                              Answer: 0</p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x-2}{x-1}</math></p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x-2}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2(x-1)}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 2 = 2</math></p>
<p># <u>8</u>                                              Answer: <math>\frac{3}{8}</math></p> <p>If <math>f(x) = \begin{cases} x-1, &amp; x \leq 3 \\ 2x-3, &amp; x &gt; 3 \end{cases}</math>, find <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)</math>.</p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} (x-1) = 3-1 = 2</math></p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} (2(3)-3) = 6-3 = 3</math></p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)</math> does not exist</p>	<p># <u>6</u>                                              Answer: 2</p> <p><math>\lim_{s \rightarrow -1} \frac{s^2+6s+5}{s^2-3s-4}</math></p> <p><math>\lim_{s \rightarrow -1} \frac{s^2+6s+5}{s^2-3s-4} = \lim_{s \rightarrow -1} \frac{(s+5)(s+1)}{(s-4)(s+1)}</math></p> <p><math>= \lim_{s \rightarrow -1} \frac{s+5}{s-4}</math></p> <p><math>= -\frac{4}{5}</math></p>
<p># <u>3</u>                                              Answer: 8</p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (3x^2 - 4x - 1)</math></p> <p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (3x^2 - 4x - 1) = 3(5)^2 - 4(5) - 1</math></p> <p><math>= 75 - 20 - 1</math></p> <p><math>= 54</math></p>	<p># <u>11</u>                                              Answer: <math>\frac{1}{4}</math></p> <p><math>\lim_{t \rightarrow -2} \frac{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{t}}{2+t}</math></p> <p><math>= \lim_{t \rightarrow -2} \frac{\frac{t}{2t} + \frac{2}{2t}}{2+t}</math></p> <p><math>= \lim_{t \rightarrow -2} \frac{t+2}{2t} \cdot \frac{1}{2+t}</math></p> <p><math>= \lim_{t \rightarrow -2} \frac{1}{2t} = -\frac{1}{4}</math></p>

# **10**

Answer: -1

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+4} - 2}{x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+4} - 2}{x} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x+4} + 2}{\sqrt{x+4} + 2}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x+4-4}{x(\sqrt{x+4} + 2)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+4} + 2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

# **2**

Answer: 12

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} 4x$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} 4x = 4(2) = 8$$

# **4**

Answer: 54

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^2 + 4x + 4}{x^2}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^2 + 4x + 4}{x^2} = \frac{(-2)^2 + 4(-2) + 4}{(-2)^2}$$

$$= \frac{4 - 8 + 4}{4}$$

$$= \frac{0}{4} = 0$$

# **9**

Answer: DNE

$$\text{If } f(x) = \begin{cases} \cos x - \sin \pi, & x \leq \pi \\ x - \pi - 1, & x > \pi \end{cases}, \text{ find } \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} f(x).$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi^-} (\cos \pi - \sin \pi) = -1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi^+} (\pi - \pi - 1) = -1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} f(x) = -1$$

# **7**Answer:  $-\frac{4}{5}$ 

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^3 + x^2 - 4x - 4}{x^4 - 16}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2(x+1) - 4(x+1)}{x^4 - 16}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x+1)(x^2 - 4)}{(x^2 - 4)(x^2 + 4)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x+1}{x^2 + 4}$$

$$= \frac{3}{8}$$

# **12**Answer:  $-\frac{1}{4}$ 

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{5x^2 - 2x^3 + 2x - 5}{4x^2 + 6x - 10x^3}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{-2x^3 + 5x^2 + 2x - 5}{-10x^3 + 4x^2 + 6x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{-x^2(2x-5) + 1(2x-5)}{-2x(5x^2 - 2x - 3)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(2x-5)(1-x^2)}{-2x(5x+3)(x-1)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{-(2x-5)(x-1)(x+1)}{-2x(5x+3)(x-1)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(2x-5)(x+1)}{2x(5x+3)} = \frac{(-3)(2)}{2(8)} = -\frac{3}{8}$$

## Circuit 2

<p># 1 <span style="float: right;">Answer: -1</span></p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \pi$ $= \pi$	<p># <u>5</u> <span style="float: right;">Answer: <math>\frac{4}{3}</math></span></p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{(x-4)(x+4)}{x-4}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (x+4)$ $= 8$
<p># <u>7</u> <span style="float: right;">Answer: 12</span></p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4x + 4}{x^2 + x - 6}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x-2)(x-2)}{(x+3)(x-2)}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x-2}{x+3}$ $= \frac{0}{5} = 0$	<p># <u>4</u> <span style="float: right;">Answer: 11</span></p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{2x-4}{x-1}$ $= \frac{2(4)-4}{4-1}$ $= \frac{4}{3}$
<p># <u>2</u> <span style="float: right;">Answer: <math>\pi</math></span></p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (5x^3 - 7x^2 + 2x - 2)$ $= 5(1)^3 - 7(1)^2 + 2^1 - 2$ $= -2$	<p># <u>12</u> <span style="float: right;">Answer: <math>2\sqrt{3}</math></span></p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left( \frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{1}{x^2 - 3x + 2} \right)$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{(x-1)(x^2 - 3x + 2)} + \frac{x-1}{(x-1)(x^2 - 3x + 2)}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - 2x + 1}{(x-1)(x^2 - 3x + 2)}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)(x-1)}{(x-1)(x-1)(x-2)}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{x-2}$ $= -1$

# 11Answer:  $\frac{1}{4}$ 

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^2}{\sqrt{h^2 + h + 3} - \sqrt{h + 3}} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^2}{\sqrt{h^2 + h + 3} - \sqrt{h + 3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{h^2 + h + 3} + \sqrt{h + 3}}{\sqrt{h^2 + h + 3} + \sqrt{h + 3}} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^2 (\sqrt{h^2 + h + 3} + \sqrt{h + 3})}{h^2 + h + 3 - (h + 3)} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{h^2 + h + 3} + \sqrt{h + 3}}{1} \\ &= 2\sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

# 10

Answer: DNE

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + x + 4} - 2}{x^2 + x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + x + 4} - 2}{x^2 + x} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + x + 4} + 2}{(\sqrt{x^2 + x + 4} + 2)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + x + 4 - 4}{(x^2 + x)(\sqrt{x^2 + x + 4} + 2)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + x + 4} + 2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

# 6

Answer: 8

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{t \rightarrow -2} \frac{t^3 + 8}{t + 2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{(t + 2)(t^2 - 2t + 4)}{t + 2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} (t^2 - 2t + 4) \\ &= (-2)^2 - 2(-2) + 4 \\ &= 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 \end{aligned}$$

# 8

Answer: 0

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2x^3 - 54}{x - 3} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2(x - 3)(x^2 + 3x + 9)}{x - 3} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [2(x^2 + 3x + 9)] \\ &= 2(3^2 + 3(3) + 9) \\ &= 54 \end{aligned}$$

# 9

Answer: 54

If  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 + x, & x \leq -1 \\ -2^{-x}, & x > -1 \end{cases}$ , find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} ((-1)^2 + (-1)) = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} (-2^{-(-1)}) = -2$$

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$  does not exist

# 3

Answer: -2

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{y \rightarrow -1} (3y^4 - 6y^3 - 2y) \\ &= 3(-1)^4 - 6(-1)^3 - 2(-1) \\ &= 3 + 6 + 2 \\ &= 11 \end{aligned}$$