Topic 1.4 Polynomial Functions and Rates of Change

Modeling real world scenarios for optimization. Finding local extrema (maximums and minimums).

Practice Problem 1

A polynomial function h is given by $h(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$ where $a \ne 0$ and a, b, c, and d are constants. Which of the following is true about h?

- (a) There is not enough information to determine if h has a global maximum or a global minimum.
- (b) h has both a global minimum and a global maximum.
- (c) h has a global maximum or a global minimum, but not both.
- (d) h has neither a global maximum or a global minimum.

Practice Problem 2

Select values of the function g are shown in the table below. If g has no other zeros, which is true?

x	-4	-1	2	4	6
g(x)	-10	0	-3	0	10

- (a) g has a local minimum at (-4, -10).
- (b) g has a local maximum at (-1,0).
- (c) g has a local minimum at (2, -3).
- (d) g has a local maximum at (6, 10).

Practice Problem 1 Solution:

(d) h has neither a global maximum or a global minimum.

Since the degree is 3, the end behavior goes towards negative infinity in one direction and towards positive infinity in the opposite direction.

Practice Problem 2 Solution:

(b) g has a local maximum at (-1, 0).

Since g increases before (-1,0) and decreases after, and no other zeros are shown, this must be a local maximum.

**Note: This activity has been developed independently by Texas Instruments. AP is a registered trademark of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product. Policies subject to change. Visit www.collegeboard.org.