

Ordinary Differential Equations (ODE)

IFoS (IFS) Previous Year
Questions (PYQ) from
2025 to 2009

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IAS, UPSC, IFS, IFoS, CIVIL
SERVICE MAINS EXAMS MATHS
OPTIONAL STUDY MATERIALS

2025

1. Solve the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{(1-x^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{x + (1-x^2)^{1/2}}{(1-x^2)^2}$.
[8 Marks]
2. Solve the differential equation $x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x \frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = \cos(\log x) + x \sin(\log x)$.
[8 Marks]
3. Given that $y = x + \frac{1}{x}$ is a solution of the differential equation $x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} - y = 0$. Find the other linearly independent solution and write down the general solution of the given differential equation.
[10 Marks]
4. Use the method of variation of parameters to show that the solution of $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + k^2y = \phi(x)$, satisfying the conditions $y(0) = 0 = \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=0}$, is given by $y(x) = \frac{1}{k} \int_0^x \phi(t) \sin k(x-t) dt$.
[15 Marks]
5. Find the general and singular solutions of $3xy = 2px^2 - 2p^2$, where $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$.
[15 Marks]

2024

6. Solve the differential equation $p^2 + \left(x + y - \frac{2y}{x}\right)p + xy + \frac{y^2}{x^2} - y - \frac{y^2}{x} = 0$, where $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$.
[8 Marks]
7. Solve the differential equation $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = \cosh x$.
[8 Marks]
8. Solve the differential equation $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 10\frac{dy}{dx} + 29y = xe^{5x} + \sin 2x$.
[10 Marks]
9. Solve the differential equation $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \cot x \frac{dy}{dx} - (1 - \cot x)y = e^x \sin x$.
[15 Marks]
10. Using the method of variation of parameters, solve the differential equation $x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} - y = x^2 \log x, x > 0$.
[15 Marks]

2023

11. Find the solution of the differential equation $2x^2y \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \tan(x^2y) - 2xy^2$. What will be the definite value of the arbitrary constant, appearing in the solution, on coordinate axes? [8 Marks]
12. Identify that one solution of the equation $xy'' + (x-1)y' - y = 0$ is of the form $ce^{\pm ax}$ and then find the other solution by method of reduction of order. [8 Marks]
13. Solve the differential equation $y(xy + 2x^2y^2) dx + x(xy - x^2y^2) dy = 0$. Verify that the obtained solution satisfies the given differential equation. [10 Marks]
14. Find the complete solution of $x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3x \frac{dy}{dx} + y = \frac{\log x \sin(\log x) + 1}{x}$. [15 Marks]
15. Find singular solution of the differential equation $y^2 \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 - 2xy \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) \tan^2 \beta + y^2 \sec^2 \beta - x^2 \tan^2 \beta = 0$ directly and from its complete primitive. Determine tac-locus. Show that the envelope of family of curves, which is represented by the given equation, is $y = \pm x \tan \beta$. [15 Marks]

2022

16. Find the general solution of the differential equation $p^2 \cos^2 y + p \sin x \cos x \cos y - \sin y \cos^2 x = 0$, where $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$. [8 Marks]
17. Solve the differential equation $(D^2 - 1)y = e^x(1 + x^2)$, where $D = \frac{d}{dx}$. [8 Marks]
18. Solve the differential equation $4(xp^2 + yp) = y^4$, where $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$. [10 Marks]
19. Given that $y_1 = x^2$ is a solution of the differential equation $x^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - (x^2 + 3x) \frac{dy}{dx} + 6y = 0$, find the other linearly independent solution of the above differential equation and write down the general solution of the differential equation. [15 Marks]
20. Solve the differential equation $x^3 \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} + x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 15x^4 + 8x^3$. [15 Marks]

21. Solve the differential equation $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = \frac{e^x}{1 + e^x}$ by the method of variation of parameters. [8 Marks]
22. Solve the differential equation $y - x\frac{dy}{dx} = f\left(y^2 + \frac{dy}{dx}\right)$. [8 Marks]
23. Solve the differential equation $(D^4 + D^2 + 1)y = e^{-x/2} \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x\right)$. [10 Marks]
24. Find the general solution of the differential equation $(1 + 2x)^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6(1 + 2x) \frac{dy}{dx} + 16y = 8(1 + 2x)^2$. [15 Marks]
25. (i) Reduce the differential equation $axy p^2 + (x^2 - ay^2 - b)p - xy = 0$, where $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$, to Clairaut's form and find the general solution.
- (ii) Find the singular solution of the differential equation $9p^2(2 - y)^2 = 4(3 - y)$, where $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$. [8+7=15 Marks]