# **2 UNIT MATHEMATICS**

### **Curve Sketching Instructions**

#### Rules for curve sketching:

- Differentiating: gradient becomes the y-value
- Integrating: y-value becomes the gradient



- The parabola  $y = x^2$  is the original function
  - The line y = x is the derivative
  - The cubic  $f(x) = 1/3x^3$  is the integral

#### **Differentiating:**

- If the function is sloping upwards (increasing y-value, gradient is positive), then the derivative is above the x-axis.
- If the function is sloping downwards (decreasing y-value, gradient is negative), then the derivative is below the x-axis.
- If the function is at a stationary point (y-value is unchanging, gradient = 0), then the derivative is an x-intercept.
  - If the function is a horizontal point of inflexion, the derivative is a maximum or minimum that touches the x-axis at its peak.
- If the function has a spike, then the derivative is undefined (it is discontinuous and should be represented by as open circle)



## Integrating:

- The original curve's y-values are the primitive's gradients
  - If the y-value is positive (above the x-axis), the gradient of the primitive is positive
  - If the y-value is negative (below the x-axis), the gradient of the primitive is negative
  - If the y-value = 0 (on the x-axis), the primitive curve has a maximum or minimum turning point or a horizontal point or inflexion
  - Note: If the curve approaches a value of 1 at infinity, the primitive approaches a gradient of 1 at infinity, so a horizontal asymptote is created at this point with a gradient of 1 (the asymptote has this gradient but the primitive function never reaches it). The gradient of the asymptote in this situation would be y=x, though other situations can exist.
    - If it passes through the x-axis from positive to negative, then the primitive is maximum at that point
    - If it passes the x-axis from negative to positive, it is a minimum at that point
    - If it is a maximum or minimum that touches the x-axis at its peak, then it is a horizontal point of inflection
  - If there is a discontinuous point in the original function, then the primitive will also have a discontinuous point or a spike
- **Note:** When drawing it is helpful to divide the curve into vertical strips with a demarcation through each intercept, stationary point, inflexion point and extrema

