Last Minute Advice for AP Calculus Testing:
Don't Lose the Points You Should Get
(Success by partial credit)

- Don't cram. Do a ten minute (max!) review before going to sleep.
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a light breakfast with protein. Don't just drink coffee.
- Bring spare batteries. If possible, bring a second calculator for those problems that take the calculator a while to do.
- Bring four or five sharpened pencils with good erasers.
- Bring a watch.
- Leave the cell phone behind!!!
- Do not erase on the free response. If you are sure you can do it better, cross it out. It takes less time.
- Do not box answers!!
- Questions are not necessarily in order of difficulty. If you spend more than 2 minutes on a multiple choice, skip ahead. If you cannot get part a) on a free response, read b)--you might be able to do it.
- Read carefully. Answer the question they ask. And do it the way they ask--labels, rounding, etc.
- Do not waste time simplifying arithmetic.
- Write where you are supposed to. Do not answer part b in the part a section of the answer book. If you do, instead of recopying, make a note in section b to see part a above.
- Neatness does count. If a reader cannot read your writing,they may assume it is wrong.
- THREE DECIMAL PLACES unless stated otherwise.
- RADIAN MODE!!!

Reading and Writing Math for the AP Test

Mathematical

- Always start with the set-up. Do not skip to the next line (especially with the Ratio Test).
- Label all answers if labels are available.
- THREE DECIMAL PLACES unless stated otherwise.
- Extreme means the y-value.
- Test the endpoints for absolute extremes and intervals of convergence.
- You do not know what points are being awarded for, so, state the obvious: $g' = f$.
- Label your sign patterns.
- Remember the Second Derivative Test.
- RADIAN MODE!!!
- In parametric mode, position, velocity and acceleration are vectors; i.e. PAIRS of numbers. Only speed is a single number.
- On problems that require definite integrals, get the boundaries and constants first. Find the integrand second.
- Show the use of limits on improper integrals.

Verbal

- ANSWER THE QUESTION ASKED
- Do not use pronouns. Be explicit.
- Write in full sentences.
- Say what you mean. "The slope of g is positive," not "the slope is positive." Be clear about what is positive or negative and what is increasing or decreasing.
- "Justify" means reason mathematically/algebraically, not graphically or by calculator. Refer to the function, never the graph. Graphs do not increase or decrease. Functions do.
- Do not write "bad" math or calculator speak. $2.3456 \approx 2.346$, not $2.3456 = 2.346$. $f(1.5) = 2(1.5)^2 + 2 = 6.5$, not $f(x) = 2(1.5)^2 + 2 = 6.5$. Do not say "I used Math 9."
- Explain the sign patterns fully. Begin with what they say and THEN state the implication. Do not skip steps no matter how obvious they seem.
- Re-read the question again and ANSWER THE QUESTION ASKED