Calculus Proficiency Test for Probability and Statistics

Directions: Calculus is an essential tool in probability and statistics. These questions are designed to ensure that you have a sufficient mastery of the subject for the course. If you do not answer at least 4 of the 5 questions completely correctly then you must satisfactory complete a calculus review problem set to take the course.

Question 1. Suppose $f(x) = Ae^{-4x}$ for $x \ge 0$ (and 0 otherwise). Find the value of A so that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1.$$

Question 2. Compute the following integral:

$$\int_0^\infty 5 \ x \ e^{-x/2} dx.$$

Question 3. Calculate the following integral:

$$\int_0^6 x^4 \ (x+1) dx.$$

Question 4. Let f(x) be an infinitely differentiable function. Write the Taylor series expansion for f(x) about x = a.

Question 5. Let $f(x) = \log(1 - x)$. Calculate the first three terms of the Taylor series expansion of f(x) about x = 0 (i.e., find the degree 2 Taylor series). Calculate the first three terms of the Taylor series expansion of $g(x) = \log(1 - x^8)$ about x = 0.