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1. Make sure you have a copy of the series convergence tests. It's in your best interest to know everything on that sheet.

<http://www.brianveitch.com/calculus2/lectures/series-strategy.pdf>

2. Improper Integrals. Determine if the integral is convergent or divergent. There are two types but since it will be paired with the integral test you'll be using this:

$$\int_a^\infty f(x) dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^t f(x) dx$$

3. Sequences: a_n

- (a) What is a sequence?
- (b) Does the sequence converge, i.e., $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$?
- (c) Make sure you know L'Hospitals Rule because you'll need it when evaluating limits.
- (d) Geometric Sequence: $ar^n = \{a, ar, ar^2, ar^3, \dots\}$, where $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0$ when $-1 < r < 1$
- (e) Given a sequence $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\}$ know how to write a formula for a_n

4. Series: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$

- (a) Know the definition of a series.
- (b) What's the difference between a series and sequence.
- (c) What's a partial sum? Given $S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $S_N = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n$, what is $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$?
- (d) If you're asked to find the sum of a series, check to see if it's geometric. It's the only series we covered that we can find the sum.
- (e) Can you come up with a couple of convergent series and a couple of divergent series?

5. Convergence Tests for $\sum a_n$

- (a) Divergence Test: Check to see if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$? If it's not 0, the series diverges. If it **IS** 0, then you move on to a different test.
- (b) Integral Test. Look at the sequence. If it looks easily integrable, try this test. For example given $\sum \frac{n}{1+n^2}$, it looks like $\frac{n}{1+n^2}$ can be integrated using u -sub.
- (c) Geometric Series: Can the series be written as $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ar^n$? If $-1 < r < 1$, then the

series converges and $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ar^n = \frac{a}{1-r}$. Otherwise it diverges.

- (d) p -test: Is the series of the form $\sum \frac{1}{n^p}$. If $p > 1$, then the series converges. You'll use p -series when using DCT and LCT with another series.
- (e) Direct Comparison Test. Know the statement of the test. You can find this in the strategy sheet I handed out. If your sequence a_n looks like a rational function (ex. $\frac{n^2}{n^4-1}$ or $\frac{\sqrt{n+1}}{2n}$), then use a comparison test with a p -series.
- (f) Limit Comparison Test. Same as above.
- (g) Alternating series Test. Know the statement and conditions of the test. If you converge by AST, then check $\sum |a_n|$ to see if it's absolutely or conditionally convergent.
- (h) A series $\sum a_n$ is absolutely convergent if $\sum a_n$ converges and $\sum |a_n|$ is convergent.
- (i) A series $\sum a_n$ is conditionally convergent if $\sum a_n$ converges but $\sum |a_n|$ is divergent.
- (j) Ratio Test. Use this test if you see exponentials or factorials (a^n , $n!$, $(2n)!$, etc.)
- (k) Root Test. Given $\sum a_n$, if a_n is of the form $a_n = (b_n)^n$, then try the Root Test.

6. Power Series

- (a) Has the form: $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x-a)^n = c_0 + c_1(x-a) + c_2(x-a)^2 + c_3(x-a)^3 + \dots$
- (b) Know how to find the center, radius of convergence, and interval of convergence.
- (c) By default, use the Ratio Test to find the interval of convergence.
- (d) Use the Root Test for the same reasons I recommended using the root test from the previous section.
- (e) Remember $|x-a| < R \rightarrow -R < x-a < R$
- (f) If $R \neq 0$ and $R \neq \infty$, then you need to manually check the endpoints. For example suppose you do the ratio test and find the interval of convergence is $-1 < x < 4$. You need to plug $x = -1$ and $x = 4$ into the power series and check its convergence.

7. YouTube is an excellent resource if you're looking for examples. I found this video from PatrickJMT. He goes over 14 series and explains his process on how he chooses his tests.

<http://patrickjmt.com/strategy-for-testing-series-practice-problems/>

NOTE: His answer to #8 is incorrect. The series will diverge. Confirm this by doing the Ratio Test.