

Grass Clippings free response question

AP Calculus

Some reminders:

Part a: Since it asks for units of measure, you MUST include them (or you'll lose points)

Part b: "Interpret" means use words to describe clearly what the value means

Note: This is a calculator problem....so for this problem, use your graphing calculator. But for this year's AP exam, NO QUESTION will require a graphing calculator....you will, however, be able to use one if you choose.

Grass clippings are placed in a bin, where they decompose. For $0 \leq t \leq 30$, the amount of grass clippings remaining in the bin is modeled by $A(t) = 6.687(0.931)^t$, where $A(t)$ is measured in pounds and t is measured in days.

- (a) Find the average rate of change of $A(t)$ over the interval $0 \leq t \leq 30$. Indicate units of measure.
- (b) Find the value of $A'(15)$. Using correct units, interpret the meaning of the value in the context of the problem.
- (c) Find the time t for which the amount of grass clippings in the bin is equal to the average amount of grass clippings in the bin over the interval $0 \leq t \leq 30$.
- (d) For $t > 30$, $L(t)$, the linear approximation to A at $t = 30$, is a better model for the amount of grass clippings remaining in the bin. Use $L(t)$ to predict the time at which there will be 0.5 pound of grass clippings remaining in the bin. Show the work that leads to your answer.

