

GRAPHING RATIONAL FUNCTIONS

To Identify Types of Discontinuity:

- Step 1: HOLES (Removable Discontinuities)**
- ✓ Factor numerator & denominator
 - ✓ Simplify
 - ✓ If anything cancels, then there is a hole (More than one factor cancels → More than one hole)
 - ✓ Find the ordered pair, (x, y) , substitute x into the **SIMPLIFIED EQUATION** to get y
- Step 2: VERTICAL ASYMPTOTES (USE SIMPLIFIED EQUATION)**
- ✓ Set simplified equation denominator = 0, solve for x
- Step 3: HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTES – Two Cases (USE SIMPLIFIED EQUATION)**
- ✓ Degree of Denominator = Degree of Numerator → $y =$ ratio of leading coefficients
 - ✓ Degree of Denominator > Degree of Numerator → $y = 0$
- Step 4: SLANT ASYMPTOTES (Exists only if Horizontal Asymptote is not present) (USE SIMPLIFIED EQUATION)**
- ✓ Degree of Numerator is **ONE** degree larger than the Degree of Denominator
 - ✓ Use Long Division
 - ✓ Ignore the remainder
 - ✓ Answer in the form $y = mx + b$

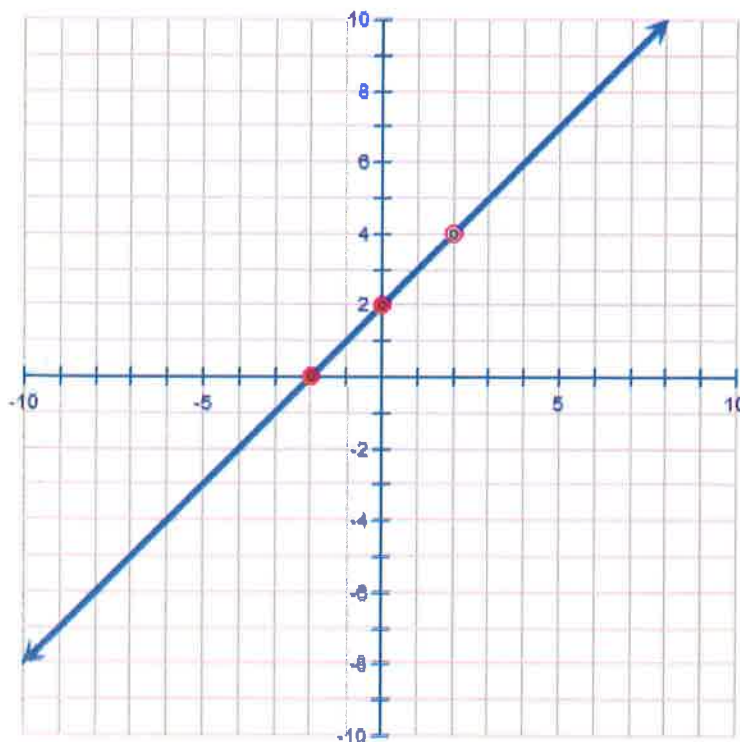
Directions: State each discontinuity, x -intercept, and y -intercept. Then sketch a graph.

$$1.) f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} : \frac{(x+2)(\cancel{x-2})}{(\cancel{x-2})} = x+2$$

HOLE: $x - 2 = 0 \rightarrow y = (2) + 2$
 $x = 2 \rightarrow y = 4$

X-INT: $0 = x + 2 \rightarrow x = -2$

Y-INT: $y = 0 + 2 \rightarrow y = 2$



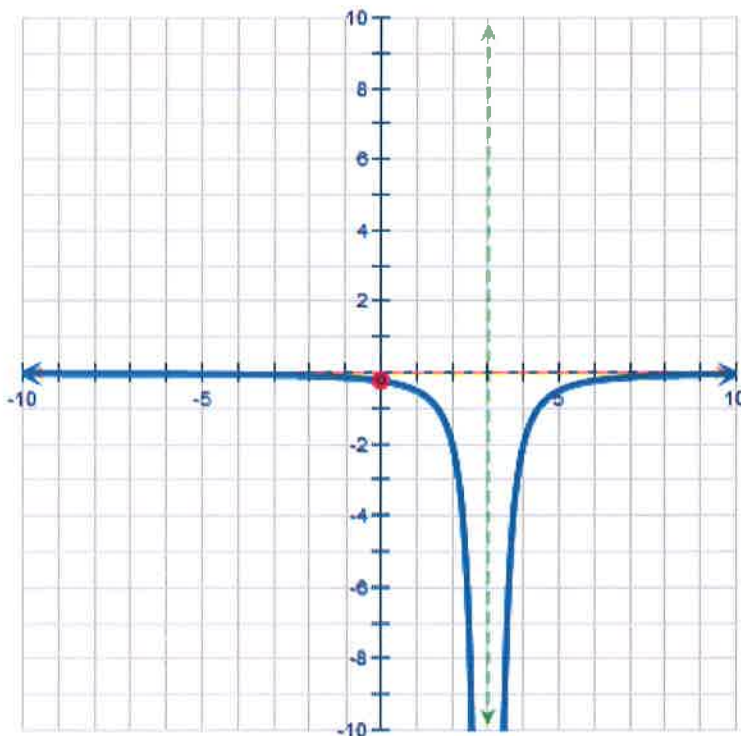
HOLE(S)	VERTICAL ASYMPTOTE(S)	HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTE	SLANT ASYMPTOTE	x -intercept(s)	y -intercept
$(2, 4)$	NONE	NONE	NONE	$(-2, 0)$	$(0, 2)$

ENTIRE DENOMINATOR CANCELED → NO ASYMPTOTES!

$$2.) f(x) = \frac{-2}{(x-3)^2}$$

VA: $x-3=0 \rightarrow y=$
 $x=3$

Y-INT: $\frac{-2}{(0-3)^2} = \frac{-2}{(-3)^2} = \frac{-2}{9}$

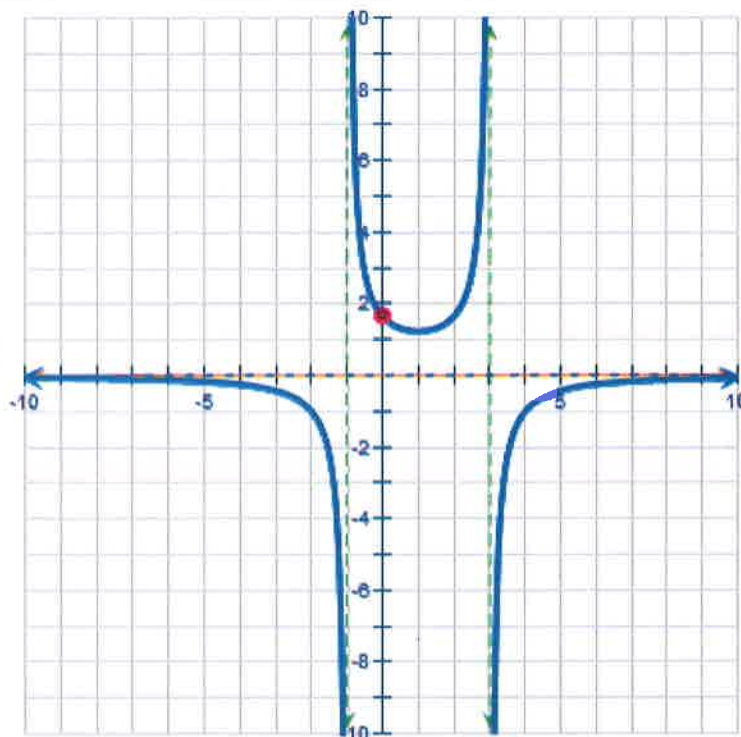


HOLE(S)	VERTICAL ASYMPTOTE(S)	HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTE	SLANT ASYMPTOTE	x-intercept(s)	y-intercept
NONE	$x=3$	$y=0$	NONE	NONE	$(0, -\frac{2}{9})$

$$3.) f(x) = \frac{-5}{x^2-2x-3} = \frac{-5}{(x-3)(x+1)}$$

VA: $x-3=0 \rightarrow x=3$
 $x+1=0 \rightarrow x=-1$

Y-INT: $y = \frac{-5}{(0-3)(0+1)} = \frac{-5}{(-3)(1)} = \frac{-5}{-3} = \frac{5}{3}$



HOLE(S)	VERTICAL ASYMPTOTE(S)	HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTE	SLANT ASYMPTOTE	x-intercept(s)	y-intercept
NONE	$x=-1$ $x=3$	$y=0$	NONE	NONE	$(0, \frac{5}{3})$

$$4.) f(x) = \frac{x^3 + 4x^2 - 21x}{x^2 + 4x - 21} = \frac{x(x^2 + 4x - 21)}{(x+7)(x-3)}$$

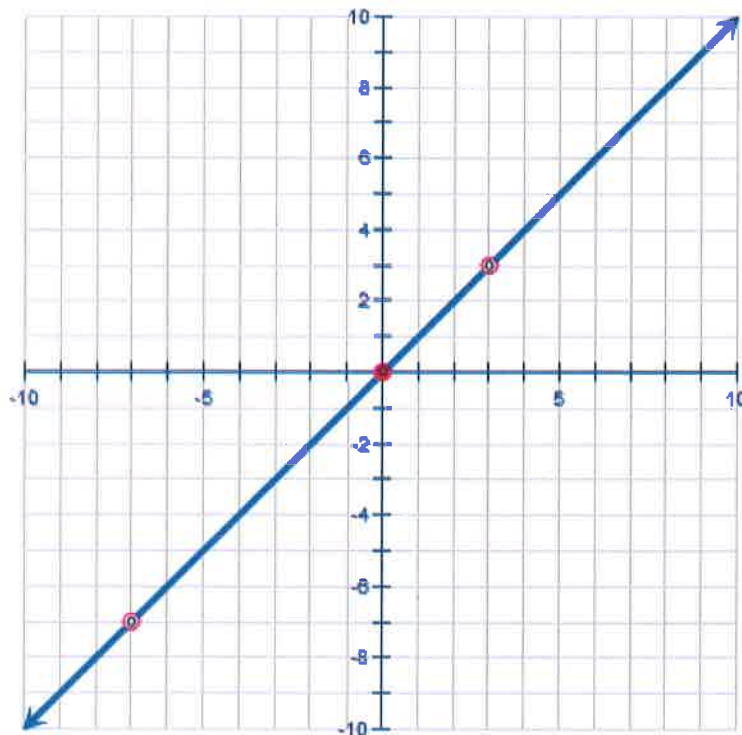
$$= \frac{x(x+7)(x-3)}{(x+7)(x-3)}$$

$$= x$$

HOLE(S): $x+7=0 \rightarrow y=(-7)$
 $x=-7 \rightarrow y=-7$

$x-3=0 \rightarrow y=(3)$
 $x=3 \rightarrow y=3$

x-INT: $0=x$ y-INT: $y=0$



HOLE(S)	VERTICAL ASYMPTOTE(S)	HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTE	SLANT ASYMPTOTE	x-intercept(s)	y-intercept
$(-7, -7)$ $(3, 3)$	NONE	NONE	NONE	$(0, 0)$	$(0, 0)$

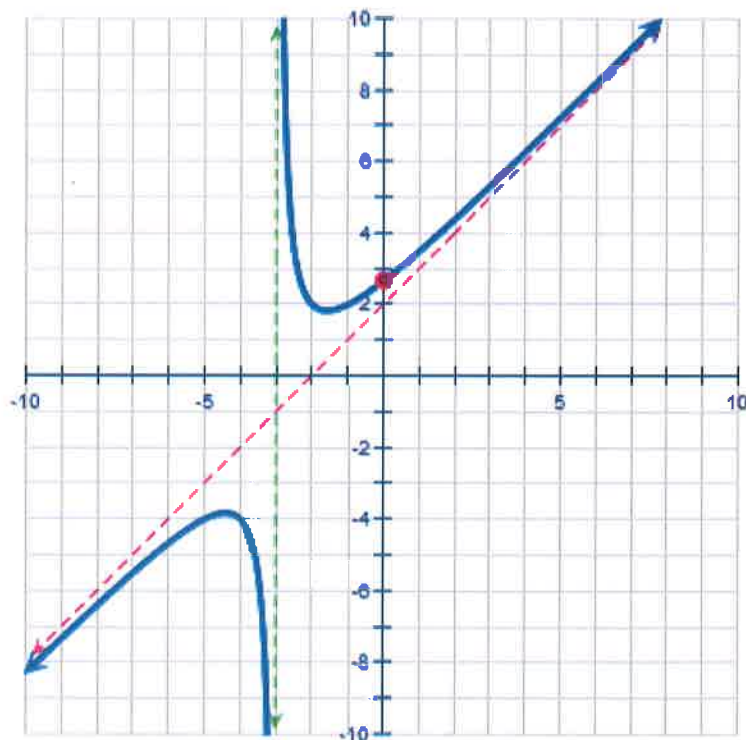
$$5.) f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 5x + 8}{x+3}$$

VA: $x+3=0$
 $x=-3$

SA: $-3 \overline{) 1 \ 5 \ 8}$
 $\downarrow \quad -3 \quad -6$
 $\hline 1 \ 2 \ 2$

$y = x + 2$

y-INT: $y = \frac{(0)^2 + 5(0) + 8}{(0) + 3} = \frac{8}{3}$



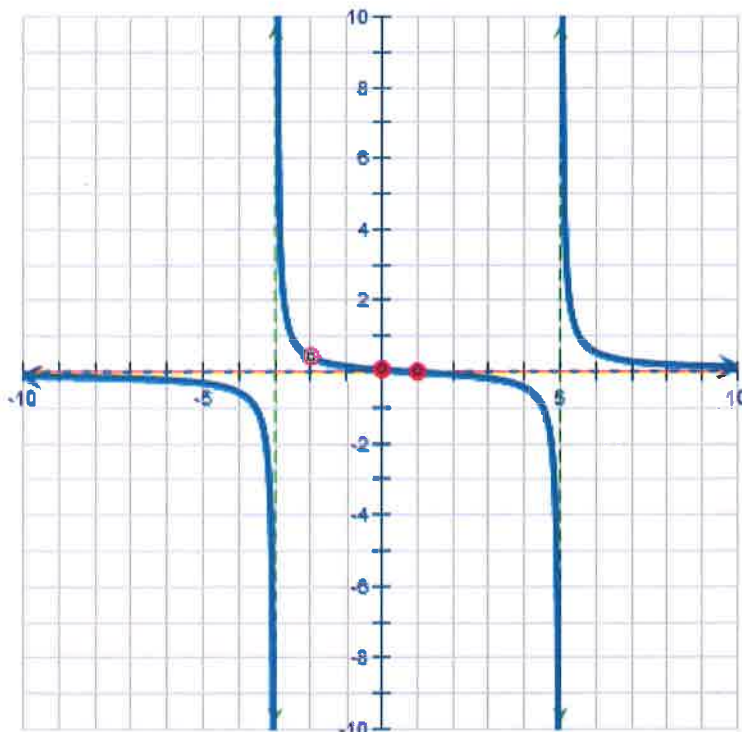
HOLE(S)	VERTICAL ASYMPTOTE(S)	HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTE	SLANT ASYMPTOTE	x-intercept(s)	y-intercept
NONE	$x = -3$	NONE	$y = x + 2$	NONE	$(0, \frac{8}{3})$

$$6.) f(x) = \frac{x^2+x-2}{(x+2)(x^2-2x-15)} = \frac{(x+2)(x-1)}{(x+2)(x-5)(x+3)} = \frac{x-1}{(x-5)(x+3)}$$

HOLE(S): $x+2=0 \rightarrow x=-2$
 $y = \frac{-2-1}{(-2-5)(-2+3)} = \frac{-3}{-7(1)} = \frac{-3}{-7} = \frac{3}{7}$

VA: $x-5=0 \rightarrow x=5$
 $x+3=0 \rightarrow x=-3$

X-INT: $x-1=0 \rightarrow x=1$
Y-INT: $y = \frac{0-1}{(0-5)(0+3)} = \frac{-1}{-5(3)} = \frac{1}{15}$



HOLE(S)	VERTICAL ASYMPTOTE(S)	HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTE	SLANT ASYMPTOTE	x-intercept(s)	y-intercept
$(-2, \frac{3}{7})$	$x=5$ $x=-3$	$y=0$	NONE	$(1, 0)$	$(0, \frac{1}{15})$

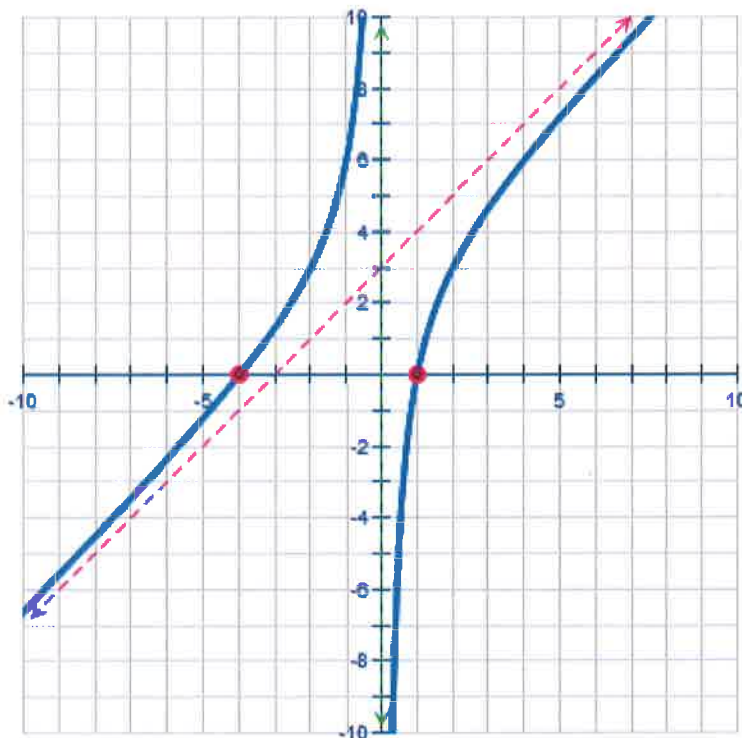
$$7.) f(x) = \frac{x^2+3x-4}{x} = \frac{(x+4)(x-1)}{x}$$

VA: $x=0$

SA: $\begin{array}{r} 1 \quad 3 \quad -4 \\ \downarrow \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ \hline 1 \quad 3 \quad -4 \end{array}$
 $y = x + 3$

X-INT: $x+4=0 \rightarrow x=-4$
 $x-1=0 \rightarrow x=1$

Y-INT: $y = \frac{(0)^2 + 3(0) - 4}{0} = \frac{-4}{0} \rightarrow \text{UNDEFINED}$
 \Rightarrow NO Y-INT



HOLE(S)	VERTICAL ASYMPTOTE(S)	HORIZONTAL ASYMPTOTE	SLANT ASYMPTOTE	x-intercept(s)	y-intercept
NONE	$x=0$	NONE	$y = x + 3$	$(-4, 0)$ $(1, 0)$	NONE