

2.

$$f(x) = 3x^4 + 2x^2 - 12x + 8$$

Given that  $y = f(x)$  has a single turning point at  $x = \alpha$ ,

(a) show that  $\alpha$  is a solution of the equation

$$x = \sqrt[3]{1 - \frac{x}{3}} \quad (3)$$

The iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt[3]{1 - \frac{x_n}{3}}$$

is used with  $x_1 = 1$  to find an approximate value for  $\alpha$ .

(b) Calculate the value of  $x_2$  and the value of  $x_5$ , giving each answer to 4 decimal places. (3)

(c) Using a suitable interval and a suitable function that should be stated, show that to 3 decimal places  $\alpha$  is 0.889 (2)