BC Only: Improper Integrals

An improper integral is characterized by having a limits of integration that is infinite or the function f having an infinite discontinuity (asymptote) on the interval [a, b].

A. Infinite Upper Limit (continuous function)

$$\int_{a}^{\infty} f(x)dx = \lim_{b \to \infty} \int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$$

B. Infinite Lower Limit (continuous function)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{b} f(x)dx = \lim_{a \to -\infty} \int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$$

C. Both Infinite Limits (continuous function)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = \lim_{a \to -\infty} \int_{a}^{c} f(x)dx + \lim_{b \to \infty} \int_{c}^{b} f(x)dx$$
, where c is an x value anywhere on f .

D. Infinite Discontinuity (Let x = k represent an infinite discontinuity on [a, b])

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx = \lim_{x \to k^{-}} \int_{a}^{k} f(x)dx + \lim_{x \to k^{+}} \int_{k}^{b} f(x)dx$$