



By Dr. Telly Kamelia

Preparation-for-calculus books are often more valuable than they first appear because students rarely master the material in one straight pass. They return to functions, graph behavior, and modeling ideas repeatedly as later coursework becomes more demanding. That is why the decision around ISBN 9781119498315 deserves more care than a quick glance at the lowest temporary number.

If you only need the buying answer

The cheapest visible option here is digital access at about **\$61.20**. But the current new print listing at **\$85.89** is still lower than the sampled marketplace print at **\$112.67**, far below short-term rental at **\$126.89**, and far below the sampled new print market at **\$147.85**. That makes this a strong split case: digital is cheapest for short-term use, but print is a very good ownership route for students who want a calculus-preparation text they can keep.

Price comparison

Store	Format	Condition	Price	Link
Merybook	Paperback	New	\$85.89	Check price
Digital access	eTextbook	Access	\$61.20	Check digital option
Marketplace	Print	Varies	\$112.67	Check marketplace
Rental	Short-term rental	Temporary	\$126.89	Check rental option
eCampus	Paperback	New	\$147.85	Check new market

What this price means in practice

This is not a print-cheapest case, but it is still a very strong print-value case. Digital is the least expensive route if your goal is only to finish one course. But the current print listing beats every visible ownership comparator and even beats rental by a wide margin, which makes ownership surprisingly attractive.

That matters because bridge-to-calculus texts often keep helping after the original class. Students may want to return to them when later math gets harder and the foundations need repair.

What this book actually teaches

Functions Modeling Change: A Preparation for Calculus teaches the function-centered thinking students need before calculus really makes sense: graph behavior, change, modeling, algebraic reasoning, and the relationship between symbolic work and interpretation. This is exactly the kind of material that benefits from repeated handwritten practice.

That is why print has a stronger case here than it would in many other introductory books. Students often want to keep returning to examples and graph-based reasoning as later quantitative work gets more demanding.

Who should choose digital, and who should buy print

Choose digital if your only goal is the lowest short-term cost for one course.

Choose print if you expect to keep using the book as part of your preparation for calculus and later quantitative work. At the current price, ownership is easier to justify than usual.

Sources checked

Sources checked: Merybook listing search for ISBN 9781119498315, eCampus new and rental pricing, marketplace pricing, and digital-access pricing. Pricing reviewed April 19, 2026.