

$$f(x, y) = x^2 - xy - y + y^2$$

$$\nabla f = (2x - y)\hat{i} + (2y - 1 - x)\hat{j}$$

Direction derivative — $\left[(2x - y)\hat{i} + \hat{j}(2y - 1 - x) \right] \cdot \left[\frac{\hat{i}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}\hat{j}}{2} \right]$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2x - y}{2} + \frac{(2y - 1 - x)\sqrt{3}}{2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x - y + 2\sqrt{3}y - \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{3}x = 0$$

Now

put $x=1$

$$2 - y + 2\sqrt{3}y - \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{3} = 0$$

$$y(2\sqrt{3} - 1) = 2\sqrt{3} - 2 \rightarrow y = \boxed{\frac{2\sqrt{3} - 2}{2\sqrt{3} - 1}}$$

option (c), (d) discarded

put $x=-1$

$$-2 - y + 2\sqrt{3}y - \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3} = 0$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3} - 1}}$$

option (b) ✓