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1. (5 pts) Solve the following equation.

$$\ln(x^3 - 2) = 3$$

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$$\Rightarrow e^{\ln(x^3 - 2)} = e^3$$

$$\Rightarrow x^3 - 2 = e^3$$

$$\Rightarrow x^3 = e^3 + 2$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \sqrt[3]{e^3 + 2}$$

2. (5 pts) Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{x-3}$ and $g(x) = \sqrt{x+1}$. Find the domain of $(f \circ g)(x)$.

$$\text{Domain of } g(x): x+1 \geq 0 \Rightarrow x \geq -1$$

$$(f \circ g)(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+1} - 3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{x+1} - 3 \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{x+1} \neq 3 \Rightarrow x+1 \neq 9 \Rightarrow x \neq 8$$

Domain of $(f \circ g)(x)$

$$x \geq -1, x \neq 8$$

$$x \in [-1, 8) \cup (8, \infty)$$