

Q2: Let  $|G| = p^\alpha$ . We first claim that if for some  $i$ ,  $Z_i(G) = Z_{i+1}(G)$  then  $Z_i(G) = Z_{i+1}(G) = G$ . By assumption,  $|Z_i(G)/Z_{i+1}(G)| = 1$ . Therefore we have that  $|Z(G/Z_i(G))| = 1$ . This implies that  $Z_i(G) = G$  by Lagrange's Theorem. Hence  $Z_i(G) = Z_{i+1}(G) = G$ . We now claim that the sequence  $\{|Z_i(G)|\}$  is strictly increasing up until some  $k$  from which point on we have equality. We will proceed by induction. First consider  $|Z_2(G)/Z_1(G)|$ . By definition the equality

$$|Z(G/Z_1(G))| = |Z_2(G)/Z_1(G)|$$

must hold. If we let  $|Z_1(G)| = p^\beta$  for  $\beta < \alpha$ , we have that for some  $\gamma \leq \alpha - \beta$ ,

$$p^\gamma = |Z_2(G)/Z_1(G)| = |Z_2(G)| \cdot p^{-\alpha}$$

Which is equivalent to  $|Z_2(G)| = p^{\gamma+\alpha}$ . Since  $|Z_2(G)|$  must divide  $p^\alpha$  it must also be a power of  $p$ . Now if  $\gamma = \alpha - \beta$  we get that  $|Z_2(G)| = p^\alpha$  and we conclude that  $Z_2(G) = G$ . If not, then we have that  $|Z_2(G)| > |Z(G)|$ . Now suppose that this holds for up until some  $i$ . We will show that  $|Z_i(G)| \leq |Z_{i+1}(G)|$ , with equality signaling that  $Z_{i+1}(G) = G$ . We let  $|Z_i(G)| = p^{\beta_i}$ , and note that  $p^{\gamma_i} = |Z(G/Z_i(G))| \geq p^{\alpha-\beta_i}$ . But also that

$$|Z_{i+1}(G)| = p^{\gamma_i+\beta_i}$$

. When  $\gamma = \alpha - \beta_i$  we have equality and conclude  $|Z_{i+1}(G)| = p^\alpha$ . If the inequality is strict, then we get that  $p^{\gamma_i+\beta_i} = |Z_{i+1}(G)| > p^{\beta_i} = |Z_i(G)|$ . Hence the sequence  $\{|Z_i(G)|\}$  is strictly increasing, and since it is bounded above by  $p^\alpha$  it must attain  $p^\alpha$  eventually, from then on it will be constant.