

Student Name: Solutions

Part I

This part is written without notes or aids of any kind. It is worth 27 points out of 100 total points.

Below is a list of nine mathematicians, listed in alphabetical order. For each name, state whether the he lived before or after Euclid. Next to each name, state the title of a mathematical work the person authored **OR** a mathematical theorem or idea for which this person is given credit.

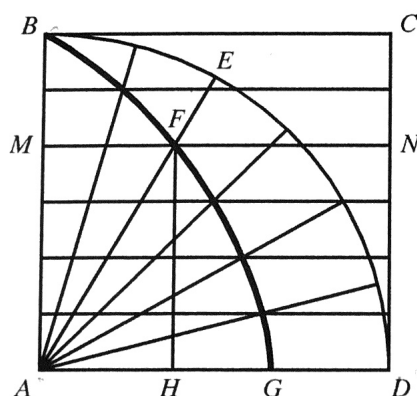
There are many many correct answers for each mathematician.

1. Archimedes (order: after) Quadrature of the Parabola
2. Apollonius of Perga (order: after) *Conics*
3. Eratosthenes (order: after) Estimation of the circumference of Earth
4. Eudoxus of Cnidos (order: before) Theory of proportions used by Euclid in *Elements*
5. Hippias of Elis (order: before) Construction of the Quadratrix and its use in trisecting an angle
6. Hippocrates of Chios (order: before) Quadrature of a Lune
7. Claudius Ptolemy (order: after) *Almagest*
8. Thales of Miletos (order: before) Vertical angles are equal.
9. Zeno of Elia (order: before) Framing several paradoxes including one about the tortoise and Achilles.

Part II

For this part, you may use a calculator and up to two pages of notes. This part is worth 73 points out of 100 total points. All parts of all questions are either mathematical or **short answer**. Short answer questions do not require more than an appropriately detailed sentence or two.

1. (13 points) The questions below concern Hippias' development of the Quadratrix. The figure of the quadratrix (below) is from our textbook. Recall that the thick arc from B through F to G is the curve.



- (a) Give a precise mathematical relationship between $\angle EAD$ and line segment FH .

$$\frac{\angle EAD}{\angle BAD} = \frac{BA}{FH}$$
- (b) Explain why Hippias' definition of the quadratrix technically did not contain point G and explain how we define that point in modern terms.
 In his definition, points were determined by the intersection of two lines and those lines coincide along AD .
- (c) Hippias' used the quadratrix for what purpose?
 Trisecting an angle. (Indeed the figure demonstrates the trisection of $\angle EAD$)
- (d) In the historical development of Greek mathematics, the quadratrix was the first example of a curve with what property?
 It is the first curve defined pointwise and not via straight edge or compass.

2. (10 points) The questions below concern Hippocrates' Quadrature of a Lune.

- (a) What is a *lune*?
 It is a figure defined by the intersection of two circles. That is, it is a crescent shape defined by two curves each of which is a circle.
- (b) What is meant by a *quadrature of a lune*?
 It means constructing the side of a square that would have the same area as the lune.
- (c) Why was Hippocrates' quadrature of a lune considered to be a significant result at the time? (To be clear, this questions is asking why Hippocrates' and his contemporaries viewed this result as important. It is not asking for a modern view of the result.)
 It was viewed as a major step toward the quadrature of the circle. The idea was that if you could square a lune (made of two circles) surely you could square a circle.

3. (15 points) The following questions concern Euclid's *Elements of Geometry*.

- (a) Why did the fifth postulate of Book I receive so much attention by so many mathematicians? (Your answer should be limited to the motivation of mathematicians in roughly the first 1000 years after the *Elements* was written.)
 It is so much more complicated to state and seems so much less intuitive than the other four axioms. Moreover, Euclid himself refrained from using it until Proposition 29, more than halfway through Book I. Finally, because Euclid was able to prove the converse of the 5th postulate using only the first four postulates, many felt that this suggested the 5th postulate should also be provable from the first four.
- (b) With what two propositions does Book I end?

With a proof of the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse.

- (c) Describe at least two mathematical subjects that appear in the *Elements* other than 2-dimensional plane geometry.

Three-dimensional geometry
 Number theory
 Eudoxus' theory of proportions
 Geometric Algebra
 Constructions of Regular Polyhedra
 Geometric progressions

4. (15 points) The following questions concern the mathematics of Archimedes.

- (a) Describe the method Archimedes used to estimate the circumference of a circle. You may draw a picture to aid your written description.

He use the perimeter regular polygons, both inscribed and circumscribed, to provide lower and upper bounds (respectively) for the circumference. Next, he demonstrated that by increasing the number of sides of the polygon, one could improve the estimation.

- (b) Given a circle of diameter 20, assume a mathematician estimates the circumference to be $63\frac{1}{10}$ (i.e. 63.1). What estimate of π does this correspond to?
 Since $C = \pi d$, we conclude $\pi = \frac{C}{d} = \frac{63.1}{20} = 3.155$

- (c) Describe the method Archimedes used in his quadrature of a parabolic segment. You may draw a picture to aid your written description.

He fills the parabolic segment with triangles starting with a big triangle with base on the line and height at the top of the parabola and adding triangles on the sides in an iterative fashion. The areas of the triangles added at each iteration form a geometric sequence.

5. (10 points) Below is a translation of Proposition 9 from Book II of Euclid's *Elements* along with an accompanying figure.

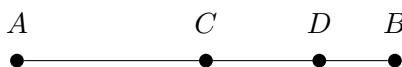
Begin Quote

If a straight line is cut into equal and unequal segments, then the sum of the squares on the unequal segments of the whole is double the sum of the square on the half and the square on the straight line between the points of section.

Let a straight line AB be cut into equal segments at C , and into unequal segments at D .

I say that the sum of the squares on AD and DB is double the sum of the squares on AC and CD .

End Quote



If $AC = x$, $CD = y$ and $DB = z$, rewrite the proposition using the symbols x , y , and z and modern algebraic notation. Then show that this algebraic relationship is true.

Translation: Given that $x = y + z$, it follows that $(x + y)^2 + z^2 = 2(x^2 + y^2)$.

Demonstration of Correctness:

Using the assumption that $x = y + z$, we know $z = x - y$.

We need to show that $(x + y)^2 + z^2 = 2(x^2 + y^2)$, so first we replace z with $x - y$ to obtain:

$$(x + y)^2 + (x - y)^2 = 2(x^2 + y^2).$$

Now, we multiply out the left-hand side and collect terms until it looks like the right-hand side of the equation.

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