

BO1 History of Mathematics
Lecture XVI
Concluding miscellany

MT 2019 Week 8

Summary

- ▶ Questionnaires
- ▶ The exam (briefly)
- ▶ Discussion
- ▶ Hilary Term reading course

Questionnaires

Please complete a lecture questionnaire

Please complete a class questionnaire

Typical exam questions

Q. Comment on the context, content and significance of the following extract:

Something historical and mathematical

(Choose, for example, any quotation that has appeared in the lectures, or been referenced on the sheets.)

Q. Discuss, with reference to specific examples, how concept X (or terminology Y, or notation Z, ...) has developed between 1600 and 1900.

Q. Discuss with reference to specific examples, how attitudes towards X have changed between 1600 and 1900.

Q. Discuss the significance of text X.

Q. Describe some aspects of the work of major figure X.

Discussion

What is the history of mathematics?

What does it mean to study the history of mathematics?

What is mathematics?

[And the other questions asked on the Supplementary Sheet ...]

HT reading course: content

The gradual acceptance of complex numbers

The writings of three authors in particular will be considered:

- ▶ John Wallis;
- ▶ Jean-Robert Argand;
- ▶ William Rowan Hamilton.

As during the lecture course, the emphasis will be on the use of **original sources**. You will therefore read selections from the work of Wallis, Argand, and Hamilton — plus other relevant materials that may arise.

HT reading course: arrangements

Seminars: probably Monday mornings, but **tbc**

Essays: up to 2,000 words to be submitted in advance for discussion in the seminars in weeks 3, 5 and 7

Assessment: extended essay (3,000 words), details of which will be announced on Monday of week 7. To be submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 10.

HT reading course: vacation work

Vacation reading for discussion in first-week seminar in HT is now to be found on the course webpage.

BSHM

The British Society for the History of Mathematics:

www.bshm.ac.uk

BSHM undergraduate essay prize

<http://www.bshm.ac.uk/undergraduate-essay-prize>

See you next term...

