BO1 History of Mathematics
Lecture XVI
Concluding miscellany

MT 2020 Week 8

Summary

- The exam (briefly)

- Points to ponder

- Hilary Term reading course

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

Points to ponder (1)

What is the history of mathematics?

What does it mean to study the history of mathematics?

What is mathematics?

Points to ponder (2)

What do you think the words 'mathematics' and 'mathematician' have meant throughout this course?

Have they had the same meanings throughout?

More generally, have they had the same meanings throughout history?

Points to ponder (3)

If we choose to understand the word 'mathematics' differently, how does this change our view of the history of mathematics?

How could a revised definition of 'mathematics' change the selection of people and cultures who appear in the story?

What does the study of the history of mathematics have to tell us about the way in which we approach mathematics nowadays?

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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 will
appear on the course webpage before the end of MT.

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...