

Math 105 History of Mathematics Second Test, second part

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Problem 4. Essay. [25] Please think about this topic and make an outline before you begin writing. You will be graded on how well you present your ideas as well as your ideas themselves. Your essay should be relatively short—one to three written pages, or half to one word-processed page, plus diagrams if you use them. There should be no fluff in your essays. Make your essay well-structured and your points as clearly as you can.

Be careful to attribute your sources. See Clark's web page on citation and plagiarism at <http://www.clarku.edu/departments/writingatclark/citation.cfm> and the links from there for details.

The arithmetic triangle. (Commonly known as Pascal's triangle.)

Which of the several regions that we've studied—Greece, India, China, Islamic/Arabic, and western Europe—was the arithmetic triangle known? How was it used in those regions which knew it? To what degree was the knowledge of the arithmetic triangle passed among these regions? Back up your conclusions with evidence (which may be taken from our text or other sources, but attribute the sources you use). Clarify the degree that you are certain of your conclusions, since, in some cases, the evidence is clear, in others, it may be circumstantial.