MA 330 ESSAY # 1

Choose ONE of the topics below for your essay. Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusion. Your essay should be typed, double spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, at least 750 words.

(1) Do you think the Ishango bone is a mathematical object? Why or why not? What does it mean for a person or a culture to be engaged in mathematics? Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusion. (Note: while this question may prompt you to think about what the word "mathematics" means to you, you should **NOT** quote the dictionary.)

(2) Does the way that a culture represents numbers affect that culture's perception of the world? Does a culture's enumeration system affect the type of mathematics it produces? Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusion.

(3) Do the infinite structures that we talk about in mathematics really exist? If so, how can we have knowledge of them? Is it even coherent to talk about the truly infinite, or does it fall victim to paradox?