

MA 330.001 (Alberto Corso) History of Mathematics Quiz # 1	Name: _____ _____	pts: <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em;">/30</div>
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1. Explain the dyadic multiplication system of the Egyptians. In which way would Egyptians perform the multiplication 14×15 ? What about their calculus of fractions?

pts: /5

2. Could Egyptian solve linear equations? Give an example of the types of problems they considered. What is a false position argument?

pts: /5

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3. What is so special about the method of computation of the Babylonians? What does it mean that they used a place value system?

pts: /5

4. Describe the geometric procedure that Babylonians used to approximate \sqrt{N} . Which approximation for $\sqrt{2}$ did they obtain?

pts: /5

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5. What does it mean that Babylonian scribes would present “formulas” of geometric objects in terms of coefficient lists? Give some examples. For instance, which approximation for π did the Babylonians (implicitly) use? Which approximation did the Egyptians “use” for π ?

pts: /5

6. What does it mean that Babylonian geometry is based on the cut-and-paste geometry of surveyors? Illustrate this by giving the geometric interpretation to the Babylonian solution of

$$x^2 + bx = c.$$

pts: /5
