

Digest 1

(A compilation of emailed homework questions, answered around Wednesday.)

Question. [Exercise 5] A person is standing on the earth. She walks 1 mile south. She then turns right and walks 1 mile. She then turns right and walks 1 mile. She has now returned to her starting location. What is her starting location?

(From a student): I am not sure what the question is asking? Isn't it just 1 mile west to where she was standing?

Answer. Read the question carefully. The question asks for the person's starting location. The question says that she has the same starting location and ending location. So your answer doesn't really make sense.

Question. [Exercise 7] Suppose we know that the following points in the plane form a parallelogram: P , $(7, 8)$, $(5, 4)$ and $(2, 2)$. Find P .

(From a student): There could be more than one choice of P , so how should I answer the question?

Answer. It is sufficient to answer with a single point P . If you felt like it you could list all such points P , but this is not required.

Question. (From a student): Can you examine my homework solution during office hours?

Answer. I am okay with doing a very superficial examination of your homework, but I will not read it very carefully, since it is an important skill to develop good proofreading skills on your own.

Question. (From a student): Can I use a calculator to do the homework?

Answer. I recommend that you do not use a calculator to do the homework, since you will not be allowed to use a calculator during the exams.

Question. (From a student): Sometimes I might not be able to turn in the homework on time, due to the location of a class directly preceding this class. What should I do?

Answer. In this case, I would recommend turning in the homework early. For example, you can slide the homework under my office door any time before noon on the day the homework is due. Or you could give me the homework one class day before the due date. But you should not give the homework to the TAs, since that would make things complicated.

Question. (From a student): Are there any particular formatting requirements for the homework? What is your policy on typesetting?

Answer. There are no specific requirements, other than: please staple the pages with actual metal staples, and remember to put your name and section number on the front page. And in general, make things legible. (It is generally good to make the grader happy when they are grading your homework.)

Typesetting is not at all required, but if you feel like doing it, it would surely make the grader happy.