Quiz on "Writing a Math Phase Two Paper"

Part II. Language

(1) What does the word "language" mean in the subject of writing?

(2) Why must you watch your language when you write?

(3) What is the royal road to good writing?

(4) What produces precise writing?

(5) How do you find the right word?

(6) Why is it important to give specific and concrete details?

(7) Does strong writing require using synonyms?

(8) What produces clear writing? Explain.

(9) How can the pronouns "it," "this," and "which." be confusing?.

(10) Are the pronouns "that" and "which" are interchangeable?

(11) Why is punctuation is used?

(12) When should optional punctuation be used?

(13) Is it better to write "M.I.T." or "MIT"? Why so?

(14) What are four common uses of the comma?

(15) What is wrong with the next sentence? Use colons to introduce: lists, explanations, and displays.

(16) Is jargon inherently bad?

(17) When should numbers be written out?

(18) When is it acceptable to begin a sentence with a numeral or a symbol?

(19) What is a forthright writing style?

(20) Is it desirable to avoid the passive voice?

(21) Is it acceptable to use "I"?

(22) When is it acceptable to use "we"?

(23) Improve this sentence: By solving the equation, it is found that the roots are real.

(24) What is wrong with the next sentence? Solving the equation, the roots are real.

(25) Is it acceptable to use the personal pronoun "one"? Is it desirable?

(26) Why is concise writing desirable?

(27) Improve this sentence: In order to find the solution of the equation, we can use one of two alternative methods.

(28) What's the difference between wordiness and redundancy?

(29) To help avoid wordiness, what's a good rule to keep in mind?

(30) What disturbes the flow of text?

(31) How can the flow be smoothed out?

(32) If you have to choose between fluidity and clarity, which one must you choose?

(33) Where do readers expect to find the stress of a sentence.

(34) Which are preferable, images or abstractions?

(35) What advantages do illustrations provide?

(36) Since illustrations cannot stand alone, what must you do?

(37) Why are formulas difficult to read?

(38) How can you make formulas easier to read?

(39) When should a formula be displayed?

(40) How should a displayed formula be punctuated?

(41) Which is better a conceptual proof or a computational one? Why so?

(42) Improve the following sentences, noting what is wrong with each one.

(40) Consider S_q, $q = 1, \ldots, n$.

(41) Let S be the set of all numbers of absolute value < 1.

(42) $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ has real roots if $b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$.

(43) If $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$, then the roots are real.

(44) If $\Delta \geq 0$, $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ has real roots.

(45) If the discriminant, Δ, is nonnegative, then the roots are real.