THE MATH SKILLS TEST

1. In a sale, a shop is selling all items at half price. Before the sale, a sofa costs $300. How much will it cost in the sale?

2. If the chance of getting a disease is 10 per cent, how many people out of 1,000 would be expected to get the disease?

3. A second-hand car dealer is selling a car for $6,000. This is two-thirds of what it cost new. How much did the car cost new?

4. If 5 people all have the winning numbers in the lottery and the prize is $2 million, how much will each of them get?

5. Let’s say you have $200 in a savings account. The account earns 10 percent interest per year. How much will you have in the account at the end of two years?
Automathography
An automathography is a neologism which combines the words “math” and “autobiography.” It is your mathematical biography, that is the intersection of your life’s story with mathematics.

GROUPWORK
Share the outline of your automathography with members of the class in small groups of 3 or 4. Look for commonalities and differences.

ASSIGNMENT
You should introduce your mathematical self in 3-5 coherent and well-written paragraphs. Be creative in your response; don’t just go down the following list of statements or questions. Here are some prompts to help you get started. Write about your past mathematical experiences, both structured (school) and unstructured (home, work, other). What was positive, what was negative? What feelings, emotions, comforts or anxieties associated with your experiences with mathematics stand out and why? Who has helped shape your mathematical experiences and what impact did they have on you? How do you see mathematics in your future — as a student, a parent, a teacher, a citizen, or in your career?

Due: Before Class 2 (10am on Monday August 31).

Available Online: http://sites.oxy.edu/ron/math/105/15