

**1.** Call an ordered pair of real numbers (a, b) good if the quadratics  $x^2 + ax + b$  and  $x^2 + bx + a$  both are greater than or equal to k for all real x, where k is a real number. Find all values of k such that there are at least two good pairs of real numbers (a, b).

**Q** 2. Let n be an odd positive integer. All positive integers less than or equal to n are written on the board. Alan performs the following move:

He picks two different numbers from the board that are both even or both odd, removes them and writes their average twice instead. For example, if he picks (4, 6), he will then write (5, 5) instead.

Prove that Alan can perform only finitely many moves, and for each n, find the maximum number of moves he can perform.

**3.** Pat has a device that marks all points X on the line  $P_1P_2$  such that  $\frac{P_1X}{P_2X} = \frac{Q_1Q_2}{R_1R_2}$  for six given points  $P_1 \neq P_2$ ,  $Q_1 \neq Q_2$  and  $R_1 \neq R_2$ . Prove that given any three non-collinear points A, B, C, Pat can mark the orthocenter of ABC using only this device.