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Sloan E Despeaux* (despeaux@wcu.edu), Dept. of Math and CS, Western Carolina University, 424 Stillwell, Cullowhee, NC 28723. *Mathematical questions: A convergence of practices in British mathematical journals, 1795-1901.*

The persistence and wide-ranging popularity of the “questions and answers” format in British mathematical journals from 1795 to 1901 can be viewed as a convergence of two different mathematical practices: (1) the recreational problem-solving tradition supported by the almanacs of the 18th century, and (2) the problem-solving tendencies and tastes of Cambridge graduates and the students of these graduates. These tendencies and tastes were encouraged through the conversion of the Cambridge Tripos to a paper-based examination at the turn of the 19th century and the subsequent diffusion of paper-based examinations throughout Britain during the second half of the 19th century. This paper will trace the “questions and answers” format from 1795, when Thomas Leybourne began his *Mathematical and Philosophical Repository*, to 1901, when the first series of the *Mathematical Questions . . . from the “Educational Times”* ended. The convergence of these two practices resulted in the persistence of a particular method for mathematical communication and discovery that resisted the stratifying forces of professionalization. (Received September 04, 2012)