Answers:

(1) (a)
$$A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1+20 & 5+10 \\ 4+8 & 20+4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 21 & 15 \\ 12 & 24 \end{pmatrix}$$
(b) $AB = C$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p & 3 \\ q & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 23 \\ 6 & 20 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} p+5q & 3+20 \\ 4p+2q & 12+8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 23 \\ 6 & 20 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} p+5q & 23 \\ 4p+2q & 20 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 23 \\ 6 & 20 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$p+5q=-3$$

$$p=-5q-3$$

$$4p+2q=6$$

$$2p+q=3$$

$$2(-5q-3)+q=3$$

$$-10q-6+q=3$$

$$-9q=9$$

$$q=-1$$

$$p=-5(-1)-3=2$$