2. a)
$$\begin{vmatrix} 3 & -17 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = (3)(5)(-2) = -30$$

since the matrix is upper triangular, the determinent is simply the product of the diagonal entries

c)
$$\begin{vmatrix} -2 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & -7 & 4 \\ -2 & 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

since rows 1 and 3 are equal.

3. a)
$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -5$$

b)
$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -1$$

c)
$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1$$