Exercises on similar matrices and Jordan form

Problem 1.1: (6.6 #12. *Introduction to Linear Algebra:* Strang) These Jordan matrices have eigenvalues 0, 0, 0, 0. They have two eigenvectors; one from each block. However, their block sizes don't match and they are *not similar*:

$$J = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right] \text{ and } K = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right].$$

For a generic matrix M, show that if $JM = MK$ then M is not invertible and so J is not similar to K.

Problem 1.2: (6.6 #20.) Why are these statements all true?

a) If A is similar to B then A^2 is similar to B^2.

b) A^2 and B^2 can be similar when A and B are not similar (try $\lambda = 0, 0$.)

c) $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ is similar to $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$.

d) $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ is not similar to $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

e) Given a matrix A, let B be the matrix obtained by exchanging rows 1 and 2 of A and then exchanging columns 1 and 2 of A. Show that A is similar to B.