

AS1 (Assignment 1, Unit 2): Central Tendency and Shapes of Distributions

1. What is the goal of central tendency?

2. Find the mean, median, and mode for the following sample of scores: 5, 4, 5, 2, 7, 1, 3, 5

Mean_____Median_____Mode_____

3. Find the mean, median, and mode for the following sample of scores: 3, 5, 7, 3, 9, 8, 3, 7, 5

Mean_____Median_____Mode_____

4. Find the mean, median, and mode for the scores in the following frequency table.

<u>X</u>	<u>f</u>	
6	1	
5	2	Mean_____Median_____Mode_____
4	2	
3	2	
2	2	
1	5	

5. Find the mean, median, and mode for the scores in the following frequency table.

<u>X</u>	<u>f</u>	
8	1	
7	1	
6	2	Mean_____Median_____Mode_____
5	5	
4	2	
3	2	

6. Explain why the median is often preferred to the mean as a measure of central tendency for a skewed distribution?

7. A researcher conducts a study comparing two different treatments with a sample of participants divided into 2 treatments. The study produced the following data:

Treatment 1: 6, 7, 11, 4, 19, 17, 2, 5, 9, 13, 6, 23, 11, 4, 6

Treatment 2: 10, 9, 6, 6, 1, 11, 8, 6, 3, 2, 11, 1, 12, 7, 10

Calculate mean for treatment 1 and put your answer here_____

Calculate mean treat treatment 2 and put your answer here_____

Calculate the median for treatment 1 and put your answer here_____

Calculate the median for treatment 2 and put your answer here_____

Calculate the mode for treatment 1 and put your answer here_____

Calculate the mode for treatment 2 and put your answer here_____

8. Schmidt (1994) conducted a series of experiments examining the effects of humor on memory. In one study, participants were shown a list of sentences of which half were humorous and half were non-humorous. Schmidt then measured the number of each type of sentence recalled by each participant. The following scores are similar to the results obtained in the study:

Humorous	Non-humorous
4 5 2 4	5 2 4 2
6 6 6 6	2 3 1 6
2 5 4 3	3 2 3 3
1 3 5 5	4 1 5 3

Mean for humorous group: _____

Mean for non-humorous group:_____

Do the data suggest that humor helps memory? Answer “yes” or “no” and why:

9. A researcher measured the time that a sample of students selected from Caldwell University spent studying on a given week during a semester. Here are the data in hours:

4, 6, 5, 4, 5, 7, 8, 6, 5, 7, 8, 9, 9, 1, 0, 2, 3, 5, 6, 4, 3, 7, 8, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 7, 6, 21, 7, 8, 9, 2, 3, 2

ANSWER the following questions based on the information given in question #9

Name the population:_____

Name the sample:_____

How many participants are in the sample?_____

What is the scale of measurement?_____

Is the scale continuous or discrete? _____

9a. Use SPSS to compute the following (using the data from question 9):

- generate a frequency table
- the appropriate graph
- mean
- median
- mode

PASTE your SPSS results here:

Based on your SPSS results, please answer the following questions:

What is the mean?_____ What is the mode? _____ What is the median?_____

What is the shape of this distribution? Answer=_____

Which is the “best” measure of central tendency for these data?_____

Why?

Going on to a different set of questions, which have nothing to do with any of the above questions:

10. Why are there three measures of central tendency rather than just one?

11. Name a situation where the mean would NOT be an appropriate measure of central tendency. Do not use an example from class lecture

12. Name a situation where only the mode could be used as a measure of central tendency

13. If a distribution were perfectly symmetrical and Mary got an exam score that was equal to the median, and John got an exam score that was equal to the mean, what would you know about their scores?

Answer: _____

14. A professor gave a very, very difficult exam. Vincent scored at the mode, Brandon scored at the mean, and Linda scored at the median. Place the names in order from who got the highest exam score to who got the lowest exam score.

Answer: _____

15. A professor gave a very, very easy exam. Dan scored at the mode, Luci scored at the median, and Stephen scored at the mean. Place the names in order from who got the lowest exam score to who got the highest exam score:

Answer: _____

True / False Questions

Please type "T" if the statement is true, and type "F" if the statement is false in the provided spaces

_____ 16. A student takes a 10-point quiz each week in statistics class. If the student's quiz scores for the first three weeks are 2, 6, 5, and 10, then the mean score is $M = 9$.

_____ 17. A sample of $n = 6$ scores has $\Sigma X = 48$. This sample has a mean of $M = 8$.

_____ 18. For the scores in the following frequency distribution table, the mean is $M = 3$.

<u>X</u>	<u>f</u>
4	1
3	4
2	2

_____ 19. The mean is considered to be the "balance point" for a distribution because exactly half of the scores are located above the mean and exactly half are below the mean.

_____ 20. In a sample of $n = 3$ scores, if two scores are each below the mean by 2 points, then the third score is above the mean by 4 points.

_____ 21. A sample has $n = 5$ scores: 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11. The median for the sample is 6.5.

_____ 22. There are situations for which it is either impossible to compute a mean or the mean does not provide a central, representative value.

_____ 23. A distribution of scores has a mean of 50, a median of 53, and a mode of 56. Based on this information, it appears that the distribution is negatively skewed.

_____ 24. If a negatively skewed distribution has a mean of 50, then the median and the mode are probably both greater than 50.

_____ 25. For a positively skewed distribution, the mean usually has a larger value than either the median or the mode.