

1.7 Summary Statistics for a Quantitative Variable

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **summary statistics for a quantitative variable**.

You must be able to:

- calculate the **mean** 均值 $\bar{x}$ and the **median** 中位数
- calculate the **range**, **interquartile range** 四分位距 $IQR = Q_3 - Q_1$, and **standard deviation** 标准差 s_x
- explain why the median and IQR are **resistant** 稳健 to outliers

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ Measures of center

- **Mean** $\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$.
- **Median** —the middle value when the data are ordered.

■ Measures of spread

- **Range** = max – min.
- **IQR** = $Q_3 - Q_1$.
- **Standard deviation** s_x —the typical distance from the mean.

■ Resistance

The **median** and **IQR** are **resistant** to outliers; the **mean** and **standard deviation** are **not**.

2 Practice

2.1 Find the mean of $\{3, 5, 7, 9\}$.

[2]

2.2 Find the median of $\{2, 6, 4, 8, 10\}$. [2]

2.3 State which measures of center and spread resist outliers. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The interquartile range equals [1]

- **A** $\max - \min$
- **B** $Q_3 - Q_1$
- **C** $\text{mean} - \text{median}$
- **D** $Q_1 - Q_3$

3.2 Which of these is resistant to outliers? [1]

- **A** the mean
- **B** the standard deviation
- **C** the median
- **D** the range

3.3 For the data $\{4, 8, 6, 10, 12\}$:

(a) find the mean. [2]

(b) find the median. [1]

(c) find the range. [1]

4 Go further

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- work through the **1.7 Summary Statistics for a Quantitative Variable** lesson on the **Learn** page;
 - read the **Exploring One-Variable Data** section of the AP Statistics handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 $\bar{x} = \frac{3 + 5 + 7 + 9}{4} = \frac{24}{4} = 6.$

2.2 ordered: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10; the middle value is 6.

2.3 the median (center) and the IQR (spread).

3.1 B.

3.2 C.

3.3 (a) $\frac{4 + 8 + 6 + 10 + 12}{5} = \frac{40}{5} = 8.$ (b) ordered 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 $\rightarrow$ median 8. (c) $12 - 4 = 8.$