

9.6 Skills Focus: Selecting an Appropriate Inference Procedure

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 8 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **selecting an appropriate inference procedure**.

You must be able to:

- choose the right procedure across proportions, means, chi-square, and slopes
- match the procedure to the data type and the question asked

1 Worked examples

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

■ Matching procedure to question

- **One/two proportions** —a categorical variable's proportion, or comparing two.
- **One/two means (t)** —a quantitative variable's mean, or comparing two.
- **Chi-square** —goodness of fit, homogeneity, or independence for categorical counts.
- **Slope (t)** —the relationship between **two quantitative** variables.

Then decide: **estimate** (confidence interval) or **test a claim** (hypothesis test).

■ Worked choices

"Confidence interval for the mean height" – quantitative, one sample, estimate → **one-sample t interval**. "Test whether exam score depends on hours studied (both numeric)" – a relationship between two quantitative variables → **slope t test**.

2 Practice

2.1 State which procedure to use for a single population mean.

[1]

2.2 State which procedure to use for the relationship between two quantitative vari-

ables. [1]

2.3 State how to decide between a confidence interval and a hypothesis test. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Inference about the relationship between two quantitative variables uses a test for the [1]

- **A** proportion
 - **B** mean
 - **C** slope
 - **D** chi-square statistic
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3.2 To test whether one categorical variable matches a claimed distribution, use a [1]

- **A** t-test
 - **B** chi-square goodness-of-fit test
 - **C** slope test
 - **D** z-interval
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3.3 A study asks whether hours studied predicts exam score.

- (a) Name the type of variables. [1]
- (b) Name the inference procedure. [1]
- (c) State the null hypothesis. [1]

4 Go further

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- work through the **9.6 Selecting an Appropriate Inference Procedure** lesson on the **Learn** page;
 - read the **Inference for Quantitative Data: Slopes** section of the AP Statistics handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 a one-sample t procedure for a mean.

2.2 a t procedure for the slope of the regression line.

2.3 use a confidence interval to estimate a parameter; use a hypothesis test to evaluate a claim.

3.1 C.

3.2 B.

3.3 (a) two quantitative variables. (b) a test for the slope of a regression model. (c) $H_0 : \beta = 0$.