

2011 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. An apartment building has nine floors and each floor has four apartments. The building owner wants to install new carpeting in eight apartments to see how well it wears before she decides whether to replace the carpet in the entire building.

The figure below shows the floors of apartments in the building with their apartment numbers. Only the nine apartments indicated with an asterisk (*) have children in the apartment.

11* 14	12 13	21 24	22* 23*	31 34	32 33
1st Floor		2nd Floor		3rd Floor	
41 44	42 43	51* 54	52 53	61 64	62 63
4th Floor		5th Floor		6th Floor	
71 74*	72 73*	81 84*	82 83	91 94	92* 93*
7th Floor		8th Floor		9th Floor	

* = Children in the apartment

- (a) For convenience, the apartment building owner wants to use a cluster sampling method, in which the floors are clusters, to select the eight apartments. Describe a process for randomly selecting eight different apartments using this method.
- (b) An alternative sampling method would be to select a stratified random sample of eight apartments, where the strata are apartments with children and apartments with no children. A stratified random sample of size eight might include two randomly selected apartments with children and six randomly selected apartments with no children. In the context of this situation, give one statistical advantage of selecting such a stratified sample as opposed to a cluster sample of eight apartments using the floors as clusters.

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2004 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Researchers who are studying a new shampoo formula plan to compare the condition of hair for people who use the new formula with the condition of hair for people who use the current formula. Twelve volunteers are available to participate in this study. Information on these volunteers (numbered 1 through 12) is shown in the table below.

Volunteer	Gender	Age
1	Male	21
2	Female	20
3	Male	47
4	Female	60
5	Female	62
6	Male	61
7	Male	58
8	Female	44
9	Male	44
10	Female	24
11	Male	23
12	Female	46

- (a) These researchers want to conduct an experiment involving the two formulas (new and current) of shampoo. They believe that the condition of hair changes with age but not gender. Because researchers want the size of the blocks in an experiment to be equal to the number of treatments, they will use blocks of size 2 in their experiment. Identify the volunteers (by number) that would be included in each of the six blocks and give the criteria you used to form the blocks.
- (b) Other researchers believe that hair condition differs with both age and gender. These researchers will also use blocks of size 2 in their experiment. Identify the volunteers (by number) that would be included in each of the six blocks and give the criteria you used to form the blocks.
- (c) The researchers in part (b) decide to select three of the six blocks to receive the new formula and to give the other three blocks the current formula. Is this an appropriate way to assign treatments? If so, describe a method for selecting the three blocks to receive the new formula. If not, describe an appropriate method for assigning treatments.

2. The Colorado Rocky Mountain Rescue Service wishes to study the behavior of lost hikers. If more were known about the direction in which lost hikers tend to walk, then more effective search strategies could be devised. Two hundred hikers selected at random from those applying for hiking permits are asked whether they would head uphill, downhill, or remain in the same place if they became lost while hiking. Each hiker in the sample was also classified according to whether he or she was an experienced or novice hiker. The resulting data are summarized in the following table.

	Direction		
	Uphill	Downhill	Remain in Same Place
Novice	20	50	50
Experienced	10	30	40

Do these data provide convincing evidence of an association between the level of hiking expertise and the direction the hiker would head if lost?

Give appropriate statistical evidence to support your conclusion.

3. The dentists in a dental clinic would like to determine if there is a difference between the number of new cavities in people who eat an apple a day and in people who eat less than one apple a week. They are going to conduct a study with 50 people in each group.

Fifty clinic patients who report that they routinely eat an apple a day and 50 clinic patients who report that they eat less than one apple a week will be identified. The dentists will examine the patients and their records to determine the number of new cavities the patients have had over the past two years. They will then compare the number of new cavities in the two groups.

- Why is this an observational study and not an experiment?
- Explain the concept of confounding in the context of this study. Include an example of a possible confounding variable.
- If the mean number of new cavities for those who ate an apple a day was statistically significantly smaller than the mean number of new cavities for those who ate less than one apple a week, could one conclude that the lower number of new cavities can be attributed to eating an apple a day? Explain.

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2014 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

4. As part of its twenty-fifth reunion celebration, the class of 1988 (students who graduated in 1988) at a state university held a reception on campus. In an informal survey, the director of alumni development asked 50 of the attendees about their incomes. The director computed the mean income of the 50 attendees to be \$189,952. In a news release, the director announced, "The members of our class of 1988 enjoyed resounding success. Last year's mean income of its members was \$189,952!"
- (a) What would be a statistical advantage of using the median of the reported incomes, rather than the mean, as the estimate of the typical income?
- (b) The director felt the members who attended the reception may be different from the class as a whole. A more detailed survey of the class was planned to find a better estimate of the income as well as other facts about the alumni. The staff developed two methods based on the available funds to carry out the survey.
- Method 1: Send out an e-mail to all 6,826 members of the class asking them to complete an online form. The staff estimates that at least 600 members will respond.
- Method 2: Select a simple random sample of members of the class and contact the selected members directly by phone. Follow up to ensure that all responses are obtained. Because method 2 will require more time than method 1, the staff estimates that only 100 members of the class could be contacted using method 2.

Which of the two methods would you select for estimating the average yearly income of all 6,826 members of the class of 1988? Explain your reasoning by comparing the two methods and the effect of each method on the estimate.

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2013 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. An administrator at a large university wants to conduct a survey to estimate the proportion of students who are satisfied with the appearance of the university buildings and grounds. The administrator is considering three methods of obtaining a sample of 500 students from the 70,000 students at the university.
- (a) Because of financial constraints, the first method the administrator is considering consists of taking a convenience sample to keep the expenses low. A very large number of students will attend the first football game of the season, and the first 500 students who enter the football stadium could be used as a sample. Why might such a sampling method be biased in producing an estimate of the proportion of students who are satisfied with the appearance of the buildings and grounds?
 - (b) Because of the large number of students at the university, the second method the administrator is considering consists of using a computer with a random number generator to select a simple random sample of 500 students from a list of 70,000 student names. Describe how to implement such a method.
 - (c) Because stratification can often provide a more precise estimate than a simple random sample, the third method the administrator is considering consists of selecting a stratified random sample of 500 students. The university has two campuses with male and female students at each campus. Under what circumstance(s) would stratification by campus provide a more precise estimate of the proportion of students who are satisfied with the appearance of the university buildings and grounds than stratification by gender?

2010 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)

2. In response to nutrition concerns raised last year about food served in school cafeterias, the Smallville School District entered into a one-year contract with the Healthy Alternative Meals (HAM) company. Under this contract, the company plans and prepares meals for 2,500 elementary, middle, and high school students, with a focus on good nutrition. The school administration would like to survey the students in the district to estimate the proportion of students who are satisfied with the food under this contract.

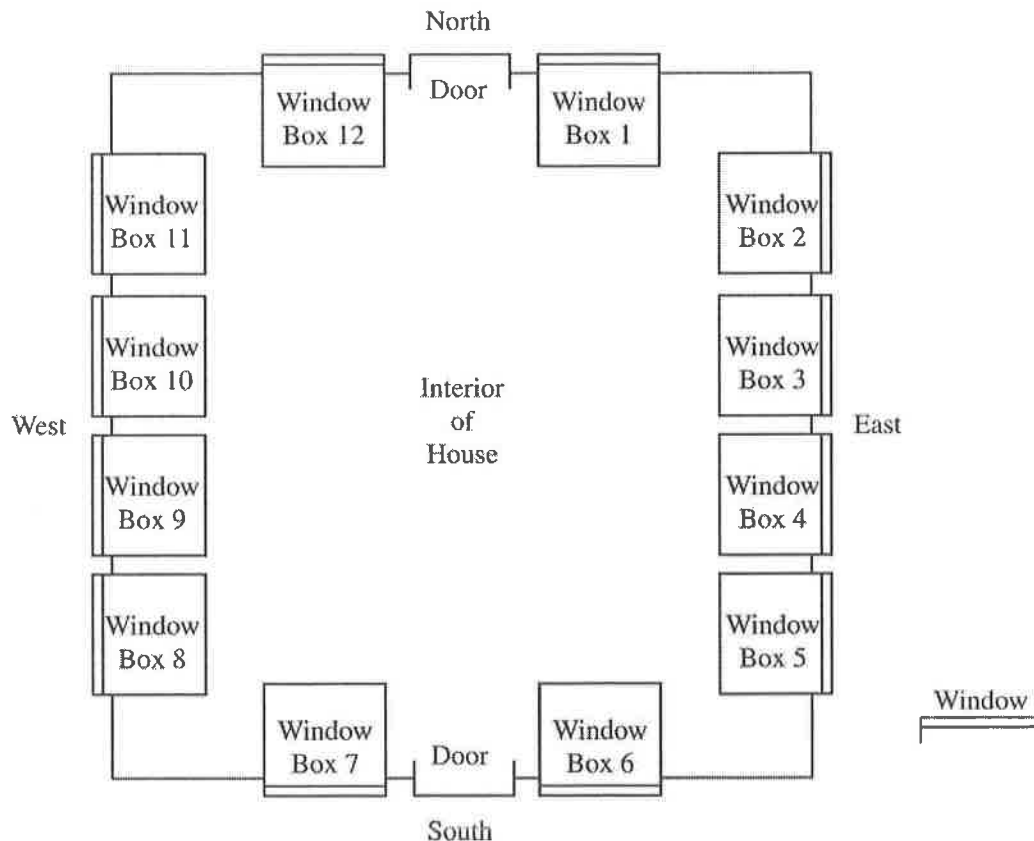
Two sampling plans for selecting the students to be surveyed are under consideration by the administration. One plan is to take a simple random sample of students in the district and then survey those students. The other plan is to take a stratified random sample of students in the district and then survey those students.

- (a) Describe a simple random sampling procedure that the administrators could use to select 200 students from the 2,500 students in the district.
- (b) If a stratified random sampling procedure is used, give one example of an effective variable on which to stratify in this survey. Explain your reasoning.
- (c) Describe one statistical advantage of using a stratified random sample over a simple random sample in the context of this study.

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2007 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)

3. The United States Department of Energy is conducting an experiment to compare the heat gain in houses using two different types of windows, A and B. Six windows of each type are available for the experiment. The Department has constructed a house with twelve windows as shown on the floor plan below.



In the interior of the house, each window is surrounded by a window box to capture and measure the amount of heat coming in through that window and to isolate the heat gain for each window.

- A randomized block experiment will be used to compare the heat gain for the two types (A and B) of windows. How would you group the window boxes into blocks? (Clearly indicate your blocks using the window box numbers.) Justify your choice of blocks.
- For the design in part (a), describe how you would assign window types (A and B) to the numbered window boxes.

2009 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)

4. A manufacturer of toxic pesticide granules plans to use a dye to color the pesticide so that birds will avoid eating it. A series of experiments will be designed to find colors or patterns that three bird species (blackbirds, starlings, and geese) will avoid eating. Representative samples of birds will be captured to use in the experiments, and the response variable will be the amount of time a hungry bird will avoid eating food of a particular color or pattern.

- (a) Previous research has shown that male birds do not avoid solid colors. However, it is possible that males might avoid colors displayed in a pattern, such as stripes. In an effort to prevent males from eating the pesticide, the following two treatments are applied to the pesticide granules.

Treatment 1: A red background with narrow blue stripes

Treatment 2: A blue background with narrow red stripes

To increase the power of detecting a difference in the two treatments in the analysis of the experiment, the researcher decided to block on the three species of birds (blackbirds, starlings, and geese). Assuming there are 100 birds of each of the three species, explain how you would assign birds to treatments in such a block design.

2011 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)

2. People with acrophobia (fear of heights) sometimes enroll in therapy sessions to help them overcome this fear. Typically, seven or eight therapy sessions are needed before improvement is noticed. A study was conducted to determine whether the drug D-cycloserine, used in combination with fewer therapy sessions, would help people with acrophobia overcome this fear.

Each of 27 people who participated in the study received a pill before each of two therapy sessions. Seventeen of the 27 people were randomly assigned to receive a D-cycloserine pill, and the remaining 10 people received a placebo. After the two therapy sessions, none of the 27 people received additional pills or therapy. Three months after the administration of the pills and the two therapy sessions, each of the 27 people was evaluated to see if he or she had improved.

- (a) Was this study an experiment or an observational study? Provide an explanation to support your answer.
- (b) When the data were analyzed, the D-cycloserine group showed statistically significantly more improvement than the placebo group did. Based on this result, would the researchers be justified in concluding that the D-cycloserine pill and two therapy sessions are as beneficial as eight therapy sessions without the pill? Justify your answer.
- (c) A newspaper article that summarized the results of this study did not explain how it was determined which people received D-cycloserine and which received the placebo. Suppose the researchers allowed the therapists to choose which people received D-cycloserine and which received the placebo, and no randomization was used. Explain why such a method of assignment might lead to an incorrect conclusion.

2003 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

4. Because of concerns about employee stress, a large company is conducting a study to compare two programs (tai chi or yoga) that may help employees reduce their stress levels. Tai chi is a 1,200-year-old practice, originating in China, that consists of slow, fluid movements. Yoga is a practice, originating in India, that consists of breathing exercises and movements designed to stretch and relax muscles. The company has assembled a group of volunteer employees to participate in the study during the first half of their lunch hour each day for a 10-week period. Each volunteer will be assigned at random to one of the two programs. Volunteers will have their stress levels measured just before beginning the program and 10 weeks later at the completion of it.
- (a) A group of volunteers who work together ask to be assigned to the same program so that they can participate in that program together. Give an example of a problem that might arise if this is permitted. Explain to this volunteer group why random assignment to the two programs will address this problem.
 - (b) Someone proposes that a control group be included in the design as well. The stress level would be measured for each volunteer assigned to the control group at the start of the study and again 10 weeks later. What additional information, if any, would this provide about the effectiveness of the two programs?
 - (c) Is it reasonable to generalize the findings of this study to all employees of this company? Explain.

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2006 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

5. A biologist is interested in studying the effect of growth-enhancing nutrients and different salinity (salt) levels in water on the growth of shrimps. The biologist has ordered a large shipment of young tiger shrimps from a supply house for use in the study. The experiment is to be conducted in a laboratory where 10 tiger shrimps are placed randomly into each of 12 similar tanks in a controlled environment. The biologist is planning to use 3 different growth-enhancing nutrients (A, B, and C) and two different salinity levels (low and high).
- (a) List the treatments that the biologist plans to use in this experiment.
 - (b) Using the treatments listed in part (a), describe a completely randomized design that will allow the biologist to compare the shrimps' growth after 3 weeks.
 - (c) Give one statistical advantage to having only tiger shrimps in the experiment. Explain why this is an advantage.
 - (d) Give one statistical disadvantage to having only tiger shrimps in the experiment. Explain why this is a disadvantage.

2002 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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2. A manufacturer of boots plans to conduct an experiment to compare a new method of waterproofing to the current method. The appearance of the boots is not changed by either method. The company recruits 100 volunteers in Seattle, where it rains frequently, to wear the boots as they normally would for 6 months. At the end of the 6 months, the boots will be returned to the company to be evaluated for water damage.
- (a) Describe a design for this experiment that uses the 100 volunteers. Include a few sentences on how it would be implemented.
- (b) Could your design be double blind? Explain.

3. There are 4 runners on the New High School team. The team is planning to participate in a race in which each runner runs a mile. The team time is the sum of the individual times for the 4 runners. Assume that the individual times of the 4 runners are all independent of each other. The individual times, in minutes, of the runners in similar races are approximately normally distributed with the following means and standard deviations.

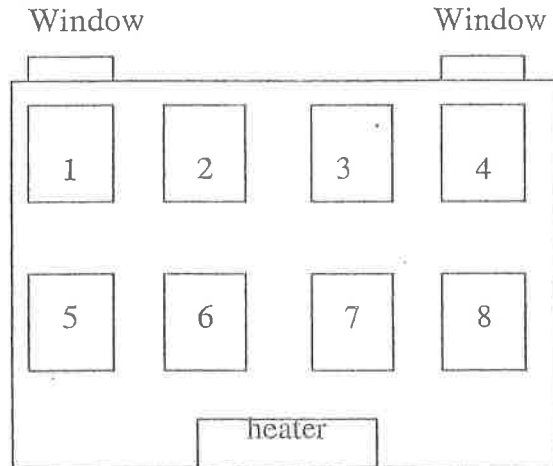
	Mean	Standard Deviation
Runner 1	4.9	0.15
Runner 2	4.7	0.16
Runner 3	4.5	0.14
Runner 4	4.8	0.15

- (a) Runner 3 thinks that he can run a mile in less than 4.2 minutes in the next race. Is this likely to happen? Explain.
- (b) The distribution of possible team times is approximately normal. What are the mean and standard deviation of this distribution?
- (c) Suppose the team's best time to date is 18.4 minutes. What is the probability that the team will beat its own best time in the next race?

1997

13

3. A new type of fish food has become available for salmon raised on fish farms. Your task is to design an experiment to compare the weight gain of salmon raised over a six-month period on the new and the old types of food. The salmon you will use for this experiment have already been randomly placed in eight large tanks in a room that has a considerable temperature gradient. Specifically, tanks on the north side of the room tend to be much colder than those on the south side. The arrangement of tanks is shown on the diagram below.



Describe a design for this experiment that takes account of the temperature gradient.

2006 Form B

3. When a tractor pulls a plow through an agricultural field, the energy needed to pull that plow is called the draft. The draft is affected by environmental conditions such as soil type, terrain, and moisture.

A study was conducted to determine whether a newly developed hitch would be able to reduce draft compared to the standard hitch. (A hitch is used to connect the plow to the tractor.) Two large plots of land were used in this study. It was randomly determined which plot was to be plowed using the standard hitch. As the tractor plowed that plot, a measurement device on the tractor automatically recorded the draft at 25 randomly selected points in the plot.

After the plot was plowed, the hitch was changed from the standard one to the new one, a process that takes a substantial amount of time. Then the second plot was plowed using the new hitch. Twenty-five measurements of draft were also recorded at randomly selected points in this plot.

- a) What was the response variable in this study?

Identify the treatments.

What were the experimental units?

- b) Given that the goal of the study is to determine whether a newly developed hitch reduces draft compared to the standard hitch, was randomization used properly in this study? Justify your answer.
- c) Given that the goal of the study is to determine whether a newly developed hitch reduces draft compared to the standard hitch, was replication used properly in this study? Justify your answer.
- d) Plot of land is a confounding variable in this experiment. Explain why.

2010 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

STATISTICS

SECTION II

Part A

Questions 1-5

Spend about 65 minutes on this part of the exam.

Percent of Section II score—75

Directions: Show all your work. Indicate clearly the methods you use, because you will be scored on the correctness of your methods as well as on the accuracy and completeness of your results and explanations.

1. Agricultural experts are trying to develop a bird deterrent to reduce costly damage to crops in the United States. An experiment is to be conducted using garlic oil to study its effectiveness as a nontoxic, environmentally safe bird repellant. The experiment will use European starlings, a bird species that causes considerable damage annually to the corn crop in the United States. Food granules made from corn are to be infused with garlic oil in each of five concentrations of garlic—0 percent, 2 percent, 10 percent, 25 percent, and 50 percent. The researchers will determine the adverse reaction of the birds to the repellant by measuring the number of food granules consumed during a two-hour period following overnight food deprivation. There are forty birds available for the experiment, and the researchers will use eight birds for each concentration of garlic. Each bird will be kept in a separate cage and provided with the same number of food granules.

(a) For the experiment, identify

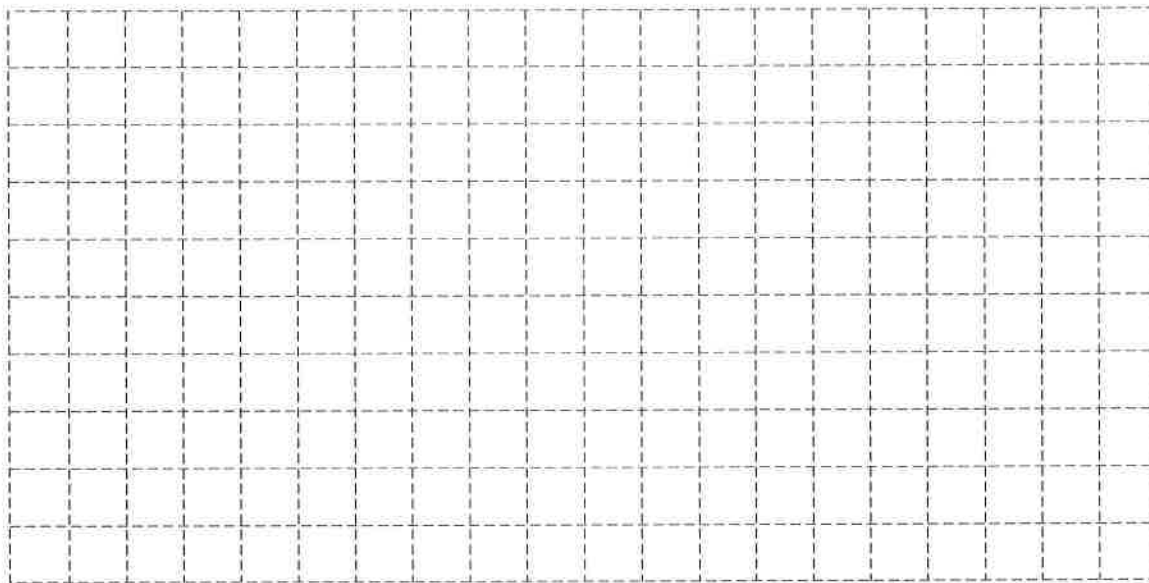
- i. the treatments
- ii. the experimental units
- iii. the response that will be measured

(b) After performing the experiment, the researchers recorded the data shown in the table below.

Garlic oil concentration	0%	2%	10%	25%	50%
Mean number of food granules consumed	58	48	29	24	20
Number of birds	8	8	8	8	8

2010 AP[®] STATISTICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- i. Construct a graph of the data that could be used to investigate the appropriateness of a linear regression model for analyzing the results of the experiment.



- ii. Based on your graph, do you think a linear regression model is appropriate? Explain.