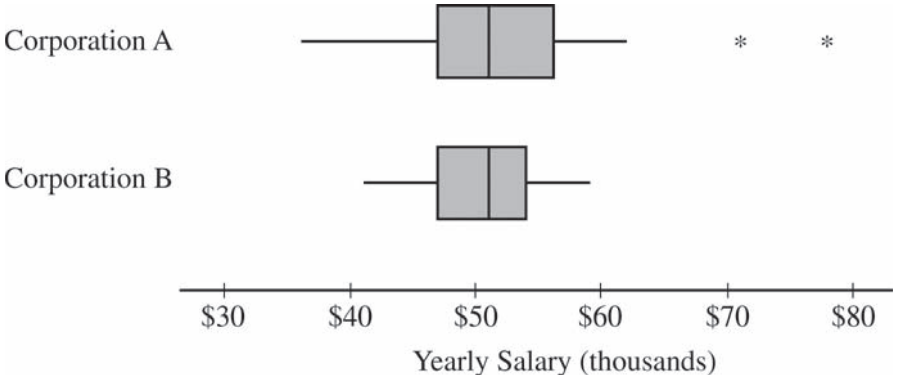
STATISTICS
SECTION II
Part A
Questions 1-5
Spend about 65 minutes on this part of the exam.
Percent of Section II score—75

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. Two large corporations, A and B, hire many new college graduates as accountants at entry-level positions. In 2009 the starting salary for an entry-level accountant position was $36,000 a year at both corporations. At each corporation, data were collected from 30 employees who were hired in 2009 as entry-level accountants and were still employed at the corporation five years later. The yearly salaries of the 60 employees in 2014 are summarized in the boxplots below.



(a) Write a few sentences comparing the distributions of the yearly salaries at the two corporations.

(b) Suppose both corporations offered you a job for $36,000 a year as an entry-level accountant.

(i) Based on the boxplots, give one reason why you might choose to accept the job at corporation A.

(ii) Based on the boxplots, give one reason why you might choose to accept the job at corporation B.

2. To increase business, the owner of a restaurant is running a promotion in which a customer's bill can be randomly selected to receive a discount. When a customer's bill is printed, a program in the cash register randomly determines whether the customer will receive a discount on the bill. The program was written to generate a discount with a probability of 0.2, that is, giving 20 percent of the bills a discount in the long run. However, the owner is concerned that the program has a mistake that results in the program not generating the intended long-run proportion of 0.2.

   The owner selected a random sample of bills and found that only 15 percent of them received discounts. A confidence interval for p, the proportion of bills that will receive a discount in the long run, is 0.15 ± 0.06. All conditions for inference were met.

   (a) Consider the confidence interval 0.15 ± 0.06.

      (i) Does the confidence interval provide convincing statistical evidence that the program is not working as intended? Justify your answer.

      (ii) Does the confidence interval provide convincing statistical evidence that the program generates the discount with a probability of 0.2 ? Justify your answer.

   A second random sample of bills was taken that was four times the size of the original sample. In the second sample 15 percent of the bills received the discount.

   (b) Determine the value of the margin of error based on the second sample of bills that would be used to compute an interval for p with the same confidence level as that of the original interval.

   (c) Based on the margin of error in part (b) that was obtained from the second sample, what do you conclude about whether the program is working as intended? Justify your answer.

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Question 1

Intent of Question

The primary goals of this question were to assess a student's ability to (1) compare features of two distributions of data displayed in boxplots and (2) identify statistical measures that are important in making decisions based on data sets.

Solution

Part (a):

The median salary is approximately the same for both corporations. The range and interquartile range of the salaries are greater for Corporation A than for Corporation B. The two highest salaries at Corporation A are outliers while Corporation B has no outliers.

Part (b):

(i) Five years after starting, at least 3 out of 30 (10%) of the salaries at Corporation A are greater than the maximum salary at Corporation B. If I accept the offer from Corporation A, I might be able to make a higher salary at Corporation A than at Corporation B.

(ii) Five years after starting, the minimum salary at Corporation B is greater than at Corporation A. In fact, at Corporation A it looks like some people are still making the starting salary of $36,000 and never received a raise in the five years since they were hired. So if I work at Corporation A, I might never receive a raise in salary.

Scoring

Parts (a) and (b) are scored as essentially correct (E), partially correct (P), or incorrect (I).

Part (a) is scored as follows:

Essentially correct (E) if the response includes the following four components:
1. A correct comparison of center.
2. A correct comparison of spread.
3. A discussion of the outliers for Corporation A.
4. The response is in context.

Partially correct (P) if the response includes only three of the four components.

Incorrect (I) if the response includes at most two of the four components.

Note: Any mention of shape should be ignored because complete shape information cannot be determined from a boxplot.

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Question 1 (continued)

Part (b) is scored as follows:

Essentially correct (E) if the response includes the following four components:

1. In part (b-i) a relevant statistical measure is identified (or described) or a relevant statistical comparison is provided that supports the choice of Corporation A.
2. In part (b-i) an explanation is provided for why the measure or comparison is relevant.
3. In part (b-ii) a relevant statistical measure is identified (or described) or a relevant statistical comparison is provided that supports the choice of Corporation B.
4. In part (b-ii) an explanation is provided for why the measure or comparison is relevant.

Partially correct (P) if the response includes only two or three of the four components.

Incorrect (I) if the response includes none or one of the four components.

Note: If a response does not provide a statistical measure or comparison in part (b-i) or (b-ii), the second and fourth components can still be satisfied if an acceptable explanation is provided that would follow from a relevant statistical measure or comparison. For example, if the response in part (b-i) only states "At Corporation A, I have the potential to earn a higher salary," the second component is satisfied.

4 Complete Response

Both parts essentially correct

3 Substantial Response

One part essentially correct and one part partially correct

2 Developing Response

One part essentially correct and one part incorrect

OR

Both parts partially correct

1 Minimal Response

One part partially correct and one part incorrect