2. Nine sales representatives, 6 men and 3 women, at a small company wanted to attend a national convention. There were only enough travel funds to send 3 people. The manager selected 3 people to attend and stated that the people were selected at random. The 3 people selected were women. There were concerns that no men were selected to attend the convention.

   (a) Calculate the probability that randomly selecting 3 people from a group of 6 men and 3 women will result in selecting 3 women.

   (b) Based on your answer to part (a), is there reason to doubt the manager's claim that the 3 people were selected at random? Explain.

   (c) An alternative to calculating the exact probability is to conduct a simulation to estimate the probability. A proposed simulation process is described below.

   > Each trial in the simulation consists of rolling three fair, six-sided dice, one die for each of the convention attendees. For each die, rolling a 1, 2, 3, or 4 represents selecting a man; rolling a 5 or 6 represents selecting a woman. After 1,000 trials, the number of times the dice indicate selecting 3 women is recorded.

   Does the proposed process correctly simulate the random selection of 3 women from a group of 9 people consisting of 6 men and 3 women? Explain why or why not.

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3. Schools in a certain state receive funding based on the number of students who attend the school. To determine the number of students who attend a school, one school day is selected at random and the number of students in attendance that day is counted and used for funding purposes. The daily number of absences at High School A in the state is approximately normally distributed with mean of 120 students and standard deviation of 10.5 students.

   (a) If more than 140 students are absent on the day the attendance count is taken for funding purposes, the school will lose some of its state funding in the subsequent year. Approximately what is the probability that High School A will lose some state funding?

   (b) The principals' association in the state suggests that instead of choosing one day at random, the state should choose 3 days at random. With the suggested plan, High School A would lose some of its state funding in the subsequent year if the mean number of students absent for the 3 days is greater than 140. Would High School A be more likely, less likely, or equally likely to lose funding using the suggested plan compared to the plan described in part (a)? Justify your choice.

   (c) A typical school week consists of the days Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The principal at High School A believes that the number of absences tends to be greater on Mondays and Fridays, and there is concern that the school will lose state funding if the attendance count occurs on a Monday or Friday. If one school day is chosen at random from each of 3 typical school weeks, what is the probability that none of the 3 days chosen is a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday?

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Question 2

Intent of Question

The primary goals of this question were to assess a student's ability to (1) calculate a probability; (2) assess whether a claim about randomness is questionable in light of a calculated probability; and (3) determine whether a description of a simulation method achieves a correct simulation of a random process.

Solution

Part (a):

The probability that all 3 people selected are women can be calculated using the multiplication rule, as follows:

P(all three selected are women)

$= P(\text{first is a woman}) \times P(\text{second is a woman} \mid \text{first is a woman}) \times P(\text{third is a woman} \mid \text{first two are women})$

$= \frac{3}{9} \times \frac{2}{8} \times \frac{1}{7} \approx 0.012$

Part (b):

The probability calculated in part (a) does provide a reason to doubt the manager's claim that the selections were made at random. The calculation shows that there is only about a 1.2% chance that random selection would have resulted in three women being selected. The probability is small enough that it may cast doubt on the manager's claim that the selections were made at random.

Part (c):

No, the process does not correctly simulate the random selection of three women from a group of nine people of whom six are men and three are women. The random selection of three people among nine is done *without* replacement. However, in the simulation with the dice, the three dice rolls in any given trial are independent of one another, indicating a selection process that is done *with* replacement.

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Question 2 (continued)

Scoring

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

Part (a) is scored as follows:

Essentially correct (E) if the response correctly computes the probability of selecting the three women, and shows how the probability was computed.

Partially correct (P) if the response shows only one of the following:

Gives the correct probability of $\frac{1}{84}$ (0.012 or 0.011 is acceptable) but does not show how it was computed;
OR
Correctly shows how the probability should be computed, but does not carry the computation through correctly;
OR
Correctly computes (showing work) only the numerator, or only the denominator of the correct answer. (For example, $\frac{1}{9}\times\frac{1}{8}\times\frac{1}{7}\approx 0.002$, or $\frac{3}{9}\times\frac{2}{9}\times\frac{1}{9}\approx 0.008$, or $\frac{3}{9}\times\frac{3}{8}\times\frac{3}{7}\approx 0.054$);
OR
Mistakenly assumes independence and calculates (showing work) the binomial probability $\frac{1}{3}\times\frac{1}{3}\times\frac{1}{3}=\frac{1}{27}\approx 0.037$.

Incorrect (I) if the response does not meet the criteria for E or P.

Part (b) is scored as follows:

Essentially correct (E) if the response states that the probability from part (a) is small (or insufficiently small), makes an appropriate decision consistent with the probability being small (or insufficiently small), and does so in the context of this situation.

Partially correct (P) if the response shows only one of the following:

Otherwise satisfies the criteria for an E but does so without any context;
OR
States a significance level and makes a decision in context that is appropriate to the given probability in part (a) and the stated significance level, but does not explicitly compare the probability and the significance level;
OR
Otherwise satisfies the criteria for an E but does not explicitly make a decision about whether there is reason to doubt the manager's claim. (For example: "The probability of selecting the three women from among the nine employees is very small so it is unlikely to occur by chance.")

Incorrect (I) if the response does not meet the criteria for E or P.

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Question 2 (continued)

Notes:

- Each of the following situations is one in which a response that otherwise would be scored as E should be scored as P, and a response that otherwise would be scored as P should be scored as I:
  - The response includes a statement that the small probability *proves* that the manager did not make the selection at random (or any equivalent wording).
  - The response includes a statement that clearly interprets the probability from part (a) to be the probability that the manager selected the three people at random.
- Each of the following situations is one in which the response is scored as I:
  - The decision is inconsistent with the justification (*e.g.*, "The probability is very small, so there is no reason to doubt the manager's claim").
  - The response states or implies that because the selection of three women was *not impossible,* there is *no reason to doubt* the manager's claim.

Part (c) is scored as follows:

Essentially correct (E) if the response answers no *AND* states that the dice outcomes in the proposed simulation are independent *AND* states that the genders of the selected convention attendees are dependent. The table below shows statements that should be considered equivalent to the required statements of independence and dependence.

Independence of dice outcomes	Dependence of genders
• The three dice outcomes are independent. • The probability of rolling a 5 or a 6 is the same on all three dice. • The dice simulation actually simulates sampling with replacement.	• The genders of the three people are dependent (or not independent). • The probability of selecting a woman changes after each selection. • The people are sampled without replacement.

OR

Essentially correct if the response answers no *AND* computes the correct probability that a trial of the simulation will indicate the selection of three women $\left(\frac{1}{3}\times\frac{1}{3}\times\frac{1}{3}\approx 0.037\right)$ *AND* states that the probability is different from the probability found in part (a).

Partially correct (P) if the response correctly answers no and either:

States only that the dice outcomes are independent or states only that the genders of the selected convention attendees are dependent, but not both;

OR

Otherwise meets the criteria for E but has poor communication. An example of poor communication is: "No, because it selects with replacement. It isn't possible for the same person to be selected twice." (There is an apparent shift between the two sentences from describing the simulation to describing the actual selection of people, but that is not made clear.)