

(a) General formula for expected value:

$$E[X] = p(1 \cdot p_a + 2 \cdot p_b + 3 \cdot p_c + 4 \cdot p_d)$$

$$E[X^2] = p(1^2 \cdot p_a + 2^2 \cdot p_b + 3^2 \cdot p_c + 4^2 \cdot p_d)$$

$$\text{Variance} = E[X^2] - E[X]^2$$

(1) $E[X] = 2.5p$

$$\text{Variance} = 7.5p - 6.25p^2$$

(2) $E[X] = 2.5p$

$$\text{Variance} = 7.5p - 6.25p^2$$

(3) $E[X] = 2.5p$

$$\text{Variance} = 7.5p - 6.25p^2$$

(4) $E[X] = 4p$

$$\text{Variance} = 7.5p - 6.25p^2$$

(b) In case (4) it exceeds for $p > 0.625$