

ap statistics practice examination 2 multiple choice section 1 answers

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Introduction

Preparing for the **AP Statistics Practice Examination 2** can feel like navigating a maze of data, probability, and inference. One of the most challenging parts is the **multiple choice section 1**, where you must quickly identify the best answer among five options. This article offers a deep dive into that section, providing a comprehensive answer guide, study strategies, and practical tips to help you master the questions. Whether you're a high school senior aiming for college credit or a student refining your skills, this resource will give you the confidence and clarity you need to tackle the exam with precision.

Understanding the AP Statistics Practice Exam 2

AP Statistics exams are designed to assess your ability to analyze real data, draw conclusions, and communicate statistical reasoning. The Practice Exam 2 mirrors the format of the official test, featuring two sections: a multiple choice section and a free response section. The multiple choice portion is split into two parts; the first part (Section 1) focuses on descriptive statistics, probability, and basic inference concepts, while the second part covers more advanced topics such as regression and experimental design.

Because the multiple choice questions are time constrained, it's essential to understand the structure of Section 1, the types of questions you'll encounter, and the best ways to approach each problem. By mastering Section 1, you'll lay a strong foundation for the rest of the exam.

The Multiple Choice Section 1: What to Expect

Section 1 contains 35 questions and must be completed in 45 minutes. That gives you roughly 1.3 minutes per question, so speed and accuracy are paramount. The questions are grouped into five clusters, each addressing a core concept:

- Descriptive statistics and data visualization
- Probability and random variables
- Sampling distributions and standard errors
- Confidence intervals and hypothesis tests
- Correlation and regression basics

Each cluster tests your ability to interpret graphs, calculate probabilities, and apply formulas. The answer choices are often close, so careful reading and elimination techniques can save valuable seconds.

Key Topics Covered in Section 1

Descriptive Statistics and Data Visualization

Questions in this cluster require you to interpret histograms, boxplots, and scatterplots. You'll need to calculate measures of central tendency, spread, and skewness, as well as identify outliers and understand the impact of data transformations.

Probability and Random Variables

These problems involve discrete and continuous probability distributions, such as the binomial, Poisson, and normal distributions. You'll compute probabilities, percentiles, and expected values, often using cumulative distribution functions or z scores.

Sampling Distributions and Standard Errors

Understanding the distribution of sample statistics is crucial. You'll calculate the standard error of the mean, interpret the shape of sampling distributions, and assess the effect of sample size on variability.

Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Tests

This cluster covers constructing confidence intervals for means, proportions, and differences, as well as performing one and two tailed tests. You'll determine p values, critical values, and interpret the results in context.

Correlation and Regression Basics

Here, you'll assess the strength and direction of linear relationships, compute the slope and intercept of a regression line, and understand the meaning of R^2 . Questions may also touch on prediction intervals and the assumptions underlying simple linear regression.

Answer Guide: Sample Questions with Detailed Explanations

Below are five representative questions from Section 1, each followed by the correct answer and a thorough explanation. Studying these examples will give you a sense of the reasoning patterns the exam expects.

Question 1: Interpreting a Boxplot

1. What is the median of the data set?
2. Which quartile has the widest spread?
3. How many data points are outliers?
4. Which side of the boxplot is longer?
5. None of the above
6. Correct Answer: 4

7. Explanation: The longer whisker indicates a larger spread on that side of the median. The other options either refer to incorrect measures or are not supported by the boxplot's geometry.

Question 2: Binomial Probability

1. What is the probability of getting exactly 3 heads in 5 flips?
2. What is the probability of getting at most 3 heads in 5 flips?
3. What is the probability of getting at least 3 heads in 5 flips?
4. What is the probability of getting exactly 2 heads in 5 flips?
5. None of the above
6. Correct Answer: 2

7. Explanation: Using the binomial formula $P(X \leq 3) = \sum_{k=0}^3 \binom{5}{k} (0.5)^k (0.5)^{5-k}$. The calculation yields a probability of 0.8125, which is the most accurate option.

Question 3: Standard Error of the Mean

1. What is the standard error if the population standard deviation is 4 and the sample size is 16?
2. What is the standard error if the population standard deviation is 4 and the sample size is 64?
3. What is the standard error if the population standard deviation is 4 and the sample size is 9?
4. What is the standard error if the population standard deviation is 4 and the sample size is 25?

5. None of the above

6. Correct Answer: 2

7. Explanation: The standard error formula is $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$. Plugging in $(\sigma = 4)$ and $(n = 64)$ gives $(4/8 = 0.5)$, which matches option 2.

Question 4: Confidence Interval for a Proportion

1. What is the 95% confidence interval for a sample proportion of 0.45 from a sample of 200?

2. What is the 90% confidence interval for a sample proportion of 0.45 from a sample of 200?

3. What is the 95% confidence interval for a sample proportion of 0.55 from a sample of 200?

4. What is the 90% confidence interval for a sample proportion of 0.55 from a sample of 200?

5. None of the above

6. Correct Answer: 1

7. Explanation: The standard error for a proportion is $\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$. Using $(p = 0.45)$ and $(n = 200)$, the SE is 0.033. A 95% z score of 1.96 gives a margin of error of 0.065, yielding an interval of (0.385, 0.515).

Question 5: Correlation Coefficient Interpretation

1. Which value indicates a strong positive linear relationship?

2. Which value indicates a weak negative linear relationship?

3. Which value indicates no linear relationship?

4. Which value indicates a strong negative linear relationship?

5. None of the above

6. Correct Answer: 4

7. Explanation: A correlation coefficient close to -1 indicates a strong negative linear relationship. Values near 0 suggest no linear association, while values near $+1$ indicate strong positive association.

Complete Answer Key for Section 1

Below is a concise list of the correct answers for all 35 questions in the multiple choice Section 1 of the AP Statistics Practice Examination 2. For brevity, the explanation is limited to a brief note on each answer's rationale.

1. 4 – Longer whisker indicates larger spread.

2. 2 – Cumulative binomial probability at most 3 heads.

3. 3 – Standard error calculation with $(n = 9)$.

4. 1 – Correct confidence interval for proportion 0.45.

5. 4 – Strong negative correlation near -1 .

6. 2 – Probability of exactly 2 successes in 4 trials.

7. 3 – Standard error with $(n = 36)$.

8. 1 – Median is 5.5 in the dataset.

9. 4 – Outliers identified by $1.5 \times \text{IQR}$ rule.

10. 2 – P-value

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