Mean and Median

Mean and median: Applications and decisions

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 6

QUICK REVIEW

Mean = sum/count; median = middle value after sorting. For $2, 3, 8, 11$, mean $= 24/4 = 6$ and median $= (3 + 8)/2 = 5.5$. A mean need not occur in the list. For five values with mean 7, the required total is $5 \times 7 = 35$.

Worked example

Find mean and median. Data: $2, 3, 8, 11$.

1. Sum $= 2 + 3 + 8 + 11 = 24$; mean $= 24/4 = 6$.
2. The two middle values are 3 and 8; median $= (3 + 8)/2 = \frac{11}{2}$.
Answer: Mean 6; median $\frac{11}{2}$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Find the mean and median delivery times in minutes. Data: $10, 12, 14, 20$.

2. Design a fourth reading count to meet the average goal. Known values: $6, 7, 9$; there are 4 values with mean 8.

3. Find both centers for repair times; identify which is less pulled by the longest repair. Data: $2, 3, 4, 27$.

4. Find the mean and median run times in seconds. Data: $15, 20, 25, 30, 35$.

5. Recover the missing score needed for the team average. Known values: $12, 14, 15, 19$; there are 5 values with mean 16.

6. A report calls 10 the median. Correct the report. Data: $5, 8, 10, 13$.

Answer Key

1. Mean 14 minutes; median 13 minutes.
2. Missing value 10.
3. Mean 9; median $\frac{7}{2}$. The median is less affected by the high extreme.
4. Mean 25 seconds; median 25 seconds.
5. Missing value 20.
6. Mean 9; median 9.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Sum $= 10 + 12 + 14 + 20 = 56$ minutes; mean $= 56/4 = 14$ minutes.

2. The sorted middle times are 12 and 14 minutes; median $= (12 + 14)/2 = 13$ minutes.

Problem 2

1. Required total $= 4 \times 8 = 32$.

2. Known sum $= 22$; missing $= 32 - 22 = 10$.

3. Check $(22 + 10)/4 = 8$.

Problem 3

1. Sum $= 2 + 3 + 4 + 27 = 36$; mean $= 36/4 = 9$.

2. The two middle values are 3 and 4; median $= (3 + 4)/2 = \frac{7}{2}$.

3. The median is 3.5, between the central $3, 4$; the high value 27 raises the total and mean to 9.

Problem 4

1. Sum $= 15 + 20 + 25 + 30 + 35 = 125$ seconds; mean $= 125/5 = 25$ seconds.

2. The ordered list has five values. The middle (third) time is 25 seconds, the median.

Problem 5

1. Required total $= 5 \times 16 = 80$.

2. Known sum $= 60$; missing $= 80 - 60 = 20$.

3. Check $(60 + 20)/5 = 16$.

Problem 6

1. Sum $= 5 + 8 + 10 + 13 = 36$; mean $= 36/4 = 9$.

2. The two middle values are 8 and 10; median $= (8 + 10)/2 = 9$.

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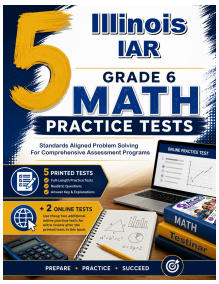

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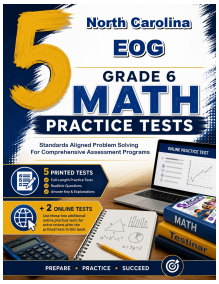

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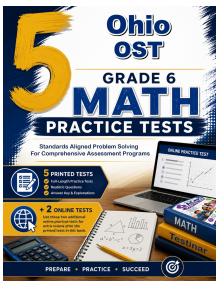

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