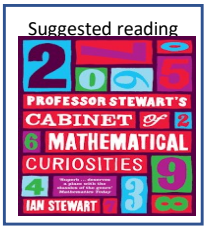
Waingels Maths

Year 8 – Reasoning with Data

Measures of Location

Suggested reading



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What do I need to be able to do?

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Understand and use mean, median and mode
- Choose the most appropriate average
- Identify outliers
- Compare distributions using averages and range

Keywords

Spread: the distance/ how spread out/ variation of data
Average: a measure of central tendency – or the typical value of all the data together
Total: all the data added together
Frequency: the number of times the data values occur
Represent: something that show's the value of another
Outlier: a value that stands apart from the data set
Consistent: a set of data that is similar and doesn't change very much

Mean, Median, Mode

The Mean

A measure of average to find the central tendency… a typical value that represents the data

24, 8, 4, 11, 8,

Find the sum of the data (add the values) 55

Divide the overall total by how many pieces of data you have 55 ÷ 5

Mean = 11

The Median

The value in the center (in the middle) of the data

24, 8, 4, 11, 8,

Put the data in order 4, 8, 8, 11, 24

Find the value in the middle 4, 8, 8, 11, 24

Median = 8

NOTE: If there is no single middle value find the mean of the two numbers left

The Mode (The modal value)

This is the number OR the item that occurs the most (it does not have to be numerical)

24, 8, 4, 11, 8,

This can still be easier if it the data is ordered first

4, 8, 8, 11, 24

Mode = 8

Choosing the appropriate average

The average should be a representative of the data set – so it should be compared to the set as a whole - to check if it is an appropriate average

Here are the weekly wages of a small firm

£240	£240	£240	£240	£240
£260	£260	£300	£350	£700

Which average best represents the weekly wage?

The Mean = £307
The Median = £250
The Mode = £240

Put the data back into context

Mean/Median – too high (most of this company earn £240)
Mode is the best average that represents this wage

It is likely that the salaries above £240 are more senior staff members – their salary doesn't represent the average weekly wage of the majority of employers

Identify outliers

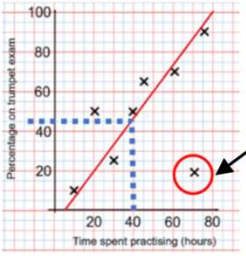
Outliers are values that stand well apart from the rest of the data

Outliers can have a big impact on range and mean
They have less impact on the median and the mode

Sometimes it is best to not use an outlier in calculations

Height in cm
152 150 142 158 (182) 151 153 149 156 160 151 144

Where an outlier is identified try to give it some context
This is likely to be a taller member of the group.
Could the be an older student or a teacher?



Outliers can also be identified graphically e.g on scatter graphs

Comparing distributions

Comparisons should include a statement of average and central tendency, as well as a statement about spread and consistency

Here are the number of runs scored last month by Lucy and James in cricket matches

Lucy: 45, 32, 37, 41, 48, 35
James: 60, 90, 41, 23, 14, 23

Lucy
Mean: 396 (1dp), **Median**: 38 **Mode**: no mode, **Range**: 16

James
Mean: 418 (1dp), **Median**: 32, **Mode**: 23, **Range**: 76

James has two extreme values that have a big impact on the range

"James is less consistent that Lucy because his scores have a greater range. Lucy performed better on average because her scores have a similar mean and a higher median"