

Math 189 – Assignment #4

Name: _____

1. What survey design is used in each of the following situations?

- a) A random sample of classes at Camosun is chosen, and every student in that class is asked a question.

- b) The Camosun student body is divided up into program areas (Civil Engineering, Nursing, etc.) and a random selection of students from each area is asked a question.

- c) A certain number of student records are selected randomly from the entire student record database, and those students are asked a question.

- d) The student records are listed in order by student number. The 11th student and every 25th student thereafter (11th, 36th, 61st, etc.) is asked a question.

2. On your way to class, you stop at Tim Horton's and pick up a box of six doughnuts. Will the weight of the box be normally distributed if

- a) the weight of each doughnut is normally distributed? Yes/No/Maybe
b) the weight of each doughnut is skewed? Yes/No/Maybe

What if, instead, you picked up a box containing forty Timbits? Will the weight of the box be normally distributed if

- a) the weight of each Timbit is normally distributed? Yes/No/Maybe
b) the weight of each Timbit is skewed? Yes/No/Maybe

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3. A study of people's weights indicates that the weight of an adult is normally distributed, with mean of 150 lbs and standard deviation of 35 lbs. As a civil engineer, you are asked to study the maximum number of people who can occupy a particular elevator.
- a) What is the probability that any one person's weight exceeds 170 lbs?
- b) If ten people occupy an elevator, what is the probability that the average weight per person exceeds 170 lbs?
- c) If the elevator's design gives a maximum load of 1700 lbs (10×170 lbs), would you recommend that ten be the maximum number of passengers? Explain your answer.

4. A regional computer centre wants to determine the average time between failures for its disk drives. To estimate this, the centre recorded the time between failures for a random sample of disk-drive failures, and found that the mean was 1762 hours with a standard deviation of 215 hours.

Based on this sample data, estimate the true mean time between failures with a 90% confidence interval, if

- a) the size of the sample was 45 disk-drive failures
- b) the size of the sample was 12 disk-drive failures

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5. An entomologist wishes to estimate the average development time of the citrus red mite correct to within 0.5 days. From previous experiments it is known that σ is in the neighbourhood of 4 days. How large a sample should the entomologist take to be 95% confident of her estimate?