



General Certificate of Education (A-level)
June 2011

Statistics

SS02

(Specification 6380)

Statistics 2

Report on the Examination

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General

Many candidates were well prepared for this paper but as usual found calculation more straightforward than interpretation. Some candidates found the space provided to answer the questions (most often question 4 and but sometimes question 5) insufficient. They are advised to use additional sheets rather than the margins or the space for other questions.

Question 1

Most candidates made a reasonably good attempt at this question. Some failed to answer part (a)(ii) - presumably being unaware of the meaning of 'seasonal effect' but were still able to use the seasonal effect in part (a)(iii). In part (a)(iii), some candidates forecast the attendance in week 15 by considering only the data from the 3 nights when Riz had been the DJ. While it is true that there is no uniquely correct way to make a forecast and that this was a not completely unreasonable method, it did ignore any information which could have been obtained from the rest of the data and did not receive full marks.

Question 2

Most candidates understood that in part (a)(i) it was not enough to write down an answer from their calculator and answered this part correctly. Parts (b) and (c) were predictably answered less well but there were some excellent answers.

Question 3

Most candidates picked up marks on this question although relatively few spotted that, in part (b), the discrepancy could be explained by rounding error. Although most completed the table in part (d)(i) correctly, the diagram caused some problems. Line diagrams should contain lines (which given the orientation of Figure 2 would have to be vertical in this case) and the scale should start at zero. In part (d)(iv), most missed the point that the unequal width of the class intervals would make the diagram of no value.

Question 4

As expected, most candidates did well on part (a) although some lost a mark by giving the answers to three decimal places instead of the three significant figures required. Part (b) defeated many candidates, a good proportion of whom would probably have had no problem if it had appeared in the S1 paper. Part (c) also caused problems, although most candidates scored some marks. Disappointingly, in part (d), few candidates made the connection that because Poisson was not an adequate model, the number of reports of lost credit cards was not random. However, some scored the marks in other ways.

Question 5

Most candidates were well prepared for parts (a) and (b) of this question, although some who obtained correct test statistics and critical values reached incorrect or contradictory conclusions. In part (c), most could define Type I and Type II errors but fewer were able to correctly answer the questions. However, there were some excellent answers.

Question 6

Again there were some excellent answers but in the main candidates picked up their marks on part (a) and failed to come to grips with parts (b) and (c).

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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