

Further Probability Distributions

Mark Schemes

Question 1

A 'lucky dip' bag contains seven bars of chocolate and 5 packets of sweets. Suraya selects two items at random without replacing them.

The probability distribution table for the discrete random variable X , "the number of packets of sweets selected", is shown below.

X	0	1	2
$P(X = x)$	$\frac{21}{66}$	$\frac{7k}{66}$	$\frac{2k}{66}$

(a) Find the value of k .

[3]

(b) Find $E(X)$.

[2]

(c) Find $E(X^2)$.

[2]

(d) Find $\text{Var}(X)$.

[3]

a) Probabilities will sum to 1.

$$\frac{21}{66} + \frac{7k}{66} + \frac{2k}{66}$$

$k = 5$

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b) $E(X) = \sum x P(X=x)$ (in formula booklet)

$$E(X) = (0)\left(\frac{21}{66}\right) + (1)\left(\frac{35}{66}\right) + (2)\left(\frac{10}{66}\right)$$

$E(X) = \frac{5}{6} = 0.833 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$

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c) $E(X^2) = \sum x^2 P(X=x)$ (not in formula booklet)

$$E(X^2) = (0)^2 \left(\frac{21}{66}\right) + (1)^2 \left(\frac{35}{66}\right) + (2)^2 \left(\frac{10}{66}\right)$$

$$E(X^2) = \frac{25}{22} = 1.14 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

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(d) Find $\text{Var}(X)$.

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d) $\text{Var}(X) = E(X - \mu)^2 = E(X)^2 - [E(X)]^2$ (in formula booklet)

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{25}{22} - \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^2$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{175}{396} = 0.442 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

Question 2

A population of grasshoppers is being studied. It is found that the length of an adult grasshopper, in cm, has PDF

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} kx^2(6-x), & 0 \leq x \leq 6 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(a) Find the value of k .

[4]

(b) Sketch the probability density function.

[2]

(c) Find the probability that a grasshopper picked at random is less than 4 cm in length.

[2]

a) The area under the curve is equal to 1.

$$k \int_0^6 x^2(6-x) dx = 1 \quad \text{solve with GDC}$$

$$k = \frac{1}{108}$$

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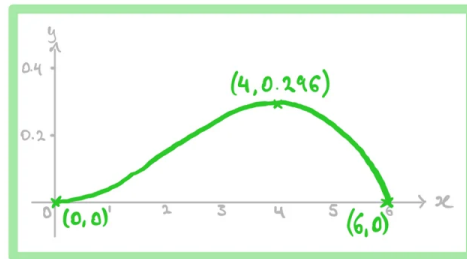
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b) Sketch $f(x)$ on your GDC.



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(c) Find the probability that a grasshopper picked at random is less than 4 cm in length.

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$$c) P(X < 4) = \frac{1}{108} \int_0^4 x^2(6-x) dx$$

$$P(X < 4) = \frac{16}{27} = 0.593 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

Question 3

A game is played with two fair spinners. Each spinner is divided into three sections numbered 1, 2 and 3. A player's score is obtained by spinning both spinners simultaneously and adding together the numbers that they land on.

(a) Complete the table below for the probability distribution of the game.

Score, X	2	3	4	5	6
$P(X = x)$	$\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{2}{9}$	$\frac{3}{9}$	$\frac{2}{9}$	$\frac{1}{9}$

(b) Find the expected score, $E(X)$.

[2]

Jian Wei wants to award prizes such that a player receives \$3 for the score that they achieve.

(c) Find the expected prize money for the game.

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a) Min score is 2 (1+1) and max score is 6 (3+3) and there are 9 possible outcomes.

$$\text{score} = 2 \rightarrow (1+1) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$\text{score} = 3 \rightarrow (1+2) \text{ and } (2+1) = 2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{2}{9}$$

$$\text{score} = 4 \rightarrow (2+2), (1+3) \text{ and } (3+1) = 3\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{3}{9}$$

$$\text{score} = 5 \rightarrow (2+3) \text{ and } (3+2) = 2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{2}{9}$$

$$\text{score} = 6 \rightarrow (3+3) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$b) E(X) = \sum x P(X=x) \quad (\text{in formula booklet})$$

$$E(X) = (2)\left(\frac{1}{9}\right) + (3)\left(\frac{2}{9}\right) + (4)\left(\frac{3}{9}\right) + (5)\left(\frac{2}{9}\right) + (6)\left(\frac{1}{9}\right)$$

$$E(X) = 4$$

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Jian Wei wants to award prizes such that a player receives \$3 for the score that they achieve.

(c) Find the expected prize money for the game.

[2]

c) expected prize money = $3 \times 4 = \$12$

Question 4

A continuous random variable has a probability distribution function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{4}(-x^2 + 2x), & 0 \leq x < 2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(a) Show that the mean of the random variable is equal to 1.

[4]

(b) Find the variance of the random variable.

[6]

(c) Hence, find the standard deviation of the random variable, leaving your answer in the form $\frac{\sqrt{a}}{b}$.

[3]

a) $E(X) = \mu = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx$ (in formula booklet)

$$E(X) = \frac{3}{4} \int_0^2 x(-x^2 + 2x) dx = \frac{3}{4} \int_0^2 -x^3 + 2x^2 dx$$

$$E(X) = \frac{3}{4} \left[-\frac{x^4}{4} + \frac{2x^3}{3} \right]_0^2 = \frac{3}{4} \left(-4 + \frac{16}{3} \right) = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{4}{3}$$

$E(X) = 1$

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b) $\text{Var}(X) = E(X - \mu)^2 = E(X)^2 - [E(X)]^2$ (in formula booklet)

$$E(X^2) = \sum x^2 P(X = x) \quad (\text{not in formula booklet})$$

$$E(X^2) = \frac{3}{4} \int_0^2 x^2(-x^2 + 2x) dx = \frac{3}{4} \int_0^2 -x^4 + 2x^3 dx$$

$$E(X^2) = \frac{3}{4} \left[-\frac{x^5}{5} + \frac{2x^4}{2} \right]_0^2 = \frac{3}{4} \left(-\frac{32}{5} + 8 \right) = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{8}{5} = \frac{6}{5}$$

$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{6}{5} - 1^2 = \frac{1}{5}$

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(a) Show that the mean of the random variable is equal to 1.

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$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{6}{5} - 1^2 = \frac{1}{5}$$

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(c) Hence, find the **standard deviation** of the random variable, leaving your answer in the form $\frac{\sqrt{a}}{b}$.

[3]

c) Standard deviation, $\sigma = \sqrt{\text{variance}}$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{5}} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}$$

Question 5

At a school probability fair, some students create a game using one complete suit from a standard pack of cards. A player must pay \$1 to pick a card at random. If their card is a **jack, queen or a king they will receive \$1 back**, if their card is an ace they will receive \$5 otherwise if their card is an **ordinary number card from 2 to 10, they will receive nothing**.

(a) Show that the game is **not fair**.

[4]

(b) Calculate

- (i) $E(X^2)$
- (ii) $\text{Var}(X)$

The students want to make the game fair, so decide to give a prize to anyone who picks an ordinary number card.

(c) Calculate the value of the new prize for choosing an ordinary number card.

[2]

a) Create a table of outcomes

X	number card	royal	ace
$P(X=x)$	$\frac{9}{13}$	$\frac{3}{13}$	$\frac{1}{13}$
Prize	\$0	\$1	\$5
Profit	-\$1	\$0	\$4

For a fair game the expected profit = 0

$$\text{expected profit} = (-1)\left(\frac{9}{13}\right) + (0) + (4)\left(\frac{1}{13}\right) = \frac{-5}{13}$$

$$\text{expected profit} = \frac{-5}{13} \neq 0, \therefore \text{the game is not fair}$$

$$\text{Note: } E(X) = \frac{8}{13}$$

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The students want to make the game fair, so decide to give a prize to anyone who picks an ordinary number card.

(c) Calculate the value of the new prize for choosing an ordinary number card.

[2]

b) i) $E(X^2) = \sum x^2 P(X=x)$ (not in formula booklet)

$$E(X^2) = 0 + \frac{3}{13}(1)^2 + \frac{1}{13}(5)^2$$

$$E(X^2) = \frac{28}{13} = \$2.15 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

ii) $\text{Var}(X) = E(X - \mu)^2 = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$ (in formula booklet)

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{28}{13} - \left(\frac{8}{13}\right)^2$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{300}{169} = \$1.78 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

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(c) Calculate the value of the **new prize** for choosing an ordinary number card.

[2]

c) Let x = prize for number card

$$E(X) = 1 = \frac{9}{13}x + \frac{3}{13}(1) + \frac{1}{13}(5)$$

$$x = \frac{5}{9} = \$0.56$$

Question 6

A discrete random variable B has probability distribution given by $B = ab(b + 1)$, where $b = 5, 6, 7$.

(a) Find the value of a .

(b) Complete the probability distribution table below.

B	5	6	7
$P(B = b)$			

(c) Find the mean of B.

(d) Find the standard deviation of B.

$$a) \sum B P(B=b) = 1$$

$$1 = 5a(5+1) + 6a(6+1) + 7a(7+1)$$

$$a = \frac{1}{128}$$

[3]

[2]

[2]

[5]

A discrete random variable B has probability distribution given by $B = ab(b + 1)$, where $b = 5, 6, 7$.

(a) Find the value of a .

$$a = \frac{1}{128}$$

(b) Complete the probability distribution table below.

B	5	6	7
$P(B = b)$	$\frac{15}{64}$	$\frac{21}{64}$	$\frac{7}{16}$

(c) Find the mean of B.

(d) Find the standard deviation of B.

$$b) P(B=5) = \left(\frac{1}{128}\right) 5(5+1) = \frac{30}{128} = \frac{15}{64}$$

$$P(B=6) = \left(\frac{1}{128}\right) 6(6+1) = \frac{42}{128} = \frac{21}{64}$$

$$P(B=7) = \left(\frac{1}{128}\right) 7(7+1) = \frac{56}{128} = \frac{7}{16}$$

[3]

[2]

[2]

[5]

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(c) Find the **mean** of B.

(d) Find the **standard deviation** of B.

c) $E(X) = \sum x P(X=x)$ (in formula booklet)

$$E(B) = (5)\left(\frac{15}{64}\right) + (6)\left(\frac{21}{64}\right) + (7)\left(\frac{7}{16}\right)$$

[3]

$$E(B) = \frac{397}{64} = 6.20 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

[2]

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(d) Find the **standard deviation** of B.

d) $E(X^2) = \sum x^2 P(X=x)$ (not in formula booklet)

$$E(B^2) = (5^2)\left(\frac{15}{64}\right) + (6^2)\left(\frac{21}{64}\right) + (7^2)\left(\frac{7}{16}\right) = \frac{2503}{64}$$

[3]

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X - \mu)^2 = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 \text{ (in formula booklet)}$$

$$\sigma_B = \sqrt{\text{Var}(B)} = \sqrt{E(B^2) - E(B)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{2503}{64} - \left(\frac{397}{64}\right)^2} = \frac{3\sqrt{287}}{64}$$

[2]

$$\sigma_B = 0.7941\dots = 0.794 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

[2]

[5]

Question 7

A continuous random variable X has the probability density function given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} tx^3 - \frac{x^2}{18} + \frac{7}{36}x, & 0 \leq x < 6 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(a) Find the value of t .

(b) Hence, find the values of

- (i) the mean
- (ii) the mode
- (iii) the median.

[4]

[8]

a) The area under the curve is equal to 1.

$$\int_0^6 \left(tx^3 - \frac{x^2}{18} + \frac{7}{36}x \right) dx = 1$$

$$\therefore \frac{t(6)^4}{4} - \frac{(6)^3}{54} + \frac{7(6)^2}{72} = 1$$

$$t = \frac{1}{216}$$

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$$t = \frac{1}{216}$$

(b) Hence, find the values of

- (i) the mean
- (ii) the mode
- (iii) the median.

[4]

[8]

b)i) $E(X) = \mu = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x) dx$ (in formula booklet)

$$E(X) = \mu = \int_0^6 x \left(\frac{1}{216}x^3 - \frac{1}{18}x^2 + \frac{7}{36}x \right) dx$$

$$E(X) = \mu = \frac{16}{5} = 3.2$$

ii) Mode \rightarrow Graph $f(x)$ and find its maximum.

$$\text{Mode occurs at } x = 2.5857... = 2.59 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

iii) Median $\rightarrow \int_0^m f(x) dx = 0.5$

$$0.5 = \int_0^m \left(\frac{1}{216}x^3 - \frac{1}{18}x^2 + \frac{7}{36}x \right) dx$$

$$m = 3.1508...$$

Question 8

A random variable has $E(X) = 23$ and $\text{Var}(X) = 1.5$.

Find

- (i) $E(X - 6)$
- (ii) $E(-2X + 5)$
- (iii) $\text{Var}(X + 7)$
- (iv) $\text{Var}(3X - 3)$

$$E(aX + b) = aE(X) + b \quad (\text{in formula booklet})$$

$$\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2 \text{Var}(X) \quad (\text{in formula booklet})$$

i) $E(X - 6) = 23 - 6 = 17$

ii) $E(-2X + 5) = -2(23) + 5 = -41$

[6] iii) $\text{Var}(X + 7) = 1.5$

iv) $\text{Var}(3X - 3) = 3^2(1.5) = 13.5$

Question 9

Consider the function defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{10}x^2 & 0 \leq x < 2 \\ \frac{82}{135} - \frac{14}{135}x & 2 \leq x \leq 5 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

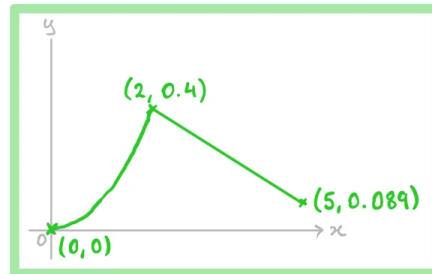
where $f(x)$ is the probability density function of a continuous random variable.

(a) Sketch the graph of $f(x)$.

(b) Find the value of $E(X)$.

(c) Find the value of $\text{Var}(X)$.

a) Graph $f(x)$ on your GDC.



[3]

[4]

[4]

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(a) Sketch the graph of $f(x)$.

[3]

(b) Find the value of $E(X)$.

[4]

(c) Find the value of $\text{Var}(X)$.

[4]

b) $E(X) = \mu = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx$ (in formula booklet)

$$E(X) = \int_0^2 \frac{1}{10} x^3 dx + \int_2^5 x \left(\frac{82}{135} - \frac{14}{135} x \right) dx$$

$$E(X) = \frac{41}{15} = 2.73 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

Consider the function defined by

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$$E(X) = \frac{41}{15} = 2.73 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$

[4]

(c) Find the value of $\text{Var}(X)$.

[4]

c) $\text{Var}(X) = E(X - \mu)^2 = E(X)^2 - [E(X)]^2$ (in formula booklet)

$$E(X^2) = \int_0^2 \frac{1}{10} x^4 dx + \int_2^5 x^2 \left(\frac{82}{135} - \frac{14}{135} x \right) dx = \frac{427}{50}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{427}{50} - \left(\frac{41}{15} \right)^2 = \frac{481}{450} = 1.07 \text{ (3 s.f.)}$$