MATHEMATICS · GRADES 7-9

Frequency Distributions

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 7-9

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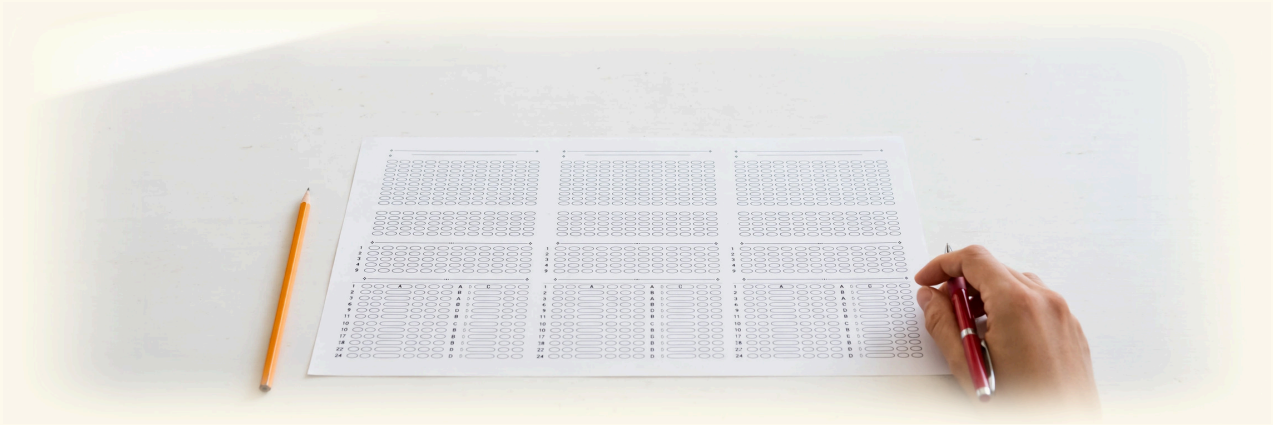
Overview of the concept

This is how you sort a messy pile of results into groups, like test scores or survey answers, so you can see at a glance where most of them land. A long list of raw numbers tells you almost nothing until you group them, and then the pattern jumps out. A teacher uses this to see how a class did on a test, a store uses it to see which sizes sell most, and a survey uses it to show what most people actually think.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Make a frequency table for 2, 3, 2, 5, 3, 2

SOLUTION

List each different value: 2, 3, 5.

Count each: 2 appears 3 times, 3 appears 2 times, 5 appears 1 time.

The table is: 2 goes with 3; 3 goes with 2; 5 goes with 1.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Data: red, blue, red, green, red. Give the frequencies.

SOLUTION

List each colour: red, blue, green.

Count: red 3, blue 1, green 1.

Frequencies: red 3, blue 1, green 1.

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Practice questions

1 Sort these numbers into a frequency table: 4, 6, 4, 7, 6, 4. Which table is correct?

- **A** 4 goes with 3; 6 goes with 2; 7 goes with 1
- **B** 4 goes with 2; 6 goes with 3; 7 goes with 1
- **C** 4 goes with 3; 6 goes with 1; 7 goes with 2
- **D** 4 goes with 1; 6 goes with 2; 7 goes with 3

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2 A class votes for a favourite colour: blue, green, blue, yellow, blue. How many MORE children picked blue than green?

- **A** 2
- **B** 1
- **C** 3
- **D** 4

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3 **Build a frequency table for the number of goals scored in six games: 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3. Which score has a frequency of 2?**

Value	Tally	Frequency
1		
2		
3		

A 1

B 2

C 3

D 4

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4 Six children pick a letter from a bag: A, B, A, C, A, B. How many letters were picked in all?

- **A** 6
- **B** 5
- **C** 7
- **D** 4

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5 **Group these quiz scores into a frequency table: 4, 4, 4, 5, 5. How many scores are 5 or more?**

Value	Tally	Frequency
4		
5		

A 2

B 3

C 1

D 5

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6

A survey asks children for their favourite pet: cat, dog, cat, bird, cat, dog. Which pet was picked least often?

A Cat

B Dog

C Bird

D They tied

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7 **Make a frequency table for the ages at a party: 7, 8, 7, 9, 8, 7. How many children are 8 or older?**

Value	Tally	Frequency
7		
8		
9		

A 3

B 2

C 4

D 5

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8 A coin is flipped five times with these results: heads, tails, heads, heads, tails. What fraction of the flips were heads?

- **A** $\frac{3}{5}$
- **B** $\frac{2}{5}$
- **C** $\frac{1}{2}$
- **D** $\frac{3}{2}$

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9 Tally the results of a beanbag toss: 10, 20, 10, 30, 20, 10. How many tosses scored 20 or more?

- **A** 3
- **B** 2
- **C** 4
- **D** 1

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10 **Seven spins land on: 3, 3, 5, 3, 5, 5, 5. Which value appears most often, and how many times?**

Value	Tally	Frequency
3		
5		

A 5, four times

B 3, four times

C 5, three times

D 3, three times

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ANSWER KEY

1. 4 goes with 3; 6 goes with 2; 7 goes with 1

2. 2

3. 2

4. 6

5. 2

6. Bird

7. 3

8. $\frac{3}{5}$

9. 3

10. 5, four times

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