MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Frequency tables

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you count up survey answers or game scores into a tidy table, so the most common result jumps out instead of hiding in a long list. A frequency table turns a pile of answers into a clear count of each one, which is how you find the most popular choice or the most common score. You use it when you tally votes, count survey responses, or keep score over a season and want to see who won most often.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q A class voted for their favourite colours: Red 5, Blue 8, Green 3. Which colour is most frequent?

SOLUTION

This is a most-frequent question, and the one rule to remember is that the most frequent category is the one with the biggest count.

Red is 5, Blue is 8, Green is 3. The biggest number is 8.

Blue is the most frequent, with 8 votes.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Here are test scores and how many students got each score: 5 appears twice, 6 appears once, 7 appears once, 8 appears some times, and 9 appears once. There were 12 results in all. How many students scored 8?

SOLUTION

This is a missing-frequency question. The frequencies have to add up to the total, so add up what you know and subtract it from the total.

The known frequencies add to 2 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 5

12 - 5 = 7, so 7 students scored 8.

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Practice questions

1 **Favourite colours: Red 3, Blue 5, Green 2. How many students voted in all?**

Item	Frequency
Item 1	3
Item 2	5
Item 3	2
Total	?

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2 **Dogs got 4 tally marks, Cats got 7 tally marks, and Birds got 3 tally marks. How many animals were counted in all?**

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3 **Books read in a week: A 6, B 2, C 9. Who read the most?**

- A — A — 6 books
- B — B — 2 books
- C — C — 9 books
- D — A — 9 books

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4

Books read in a week: A 6, B 2, C 9. Who read the fewest?

A — A — 6 books

B — B — 2 books

C — C — 9 books

D — C — 2 books

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5 A shop sells 10 red pens, 20 blue pens, and 30 black pens. How many MORE blue pens than red pens are there?

Item	Frequency
Item 1	10
Item 2	20
Item 3	30
Total	?

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6 A survey asks if students like pizza. 12 say yes and 8 say no. How many more students said yes than no?

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7 A survey counts pets: 5 dogs and 5 cats. Which pet is most frequent?

- A Dogs
- B Cats
- C Tie: dogs and cats
- D Neither pet was counted

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8 Four teams score 2, 3, 5, and 10 points. What is the range of the team scores?

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9 Favourite colours: Red 4, Blue 11, Green 4. What is the least frequent count?

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10 In ten games, the goals were: 0 goals in 3 games, 1 goal in 5 games, 2 goals in 2 games. What is the mean (average) number of goals per game?

A 0.9 goals per game

B 0.8 goals per game

C 1.0 goals per game

D 1.1 goals per game

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ANSWER KEY

1. 10

2. 14

3. C — 9 books

4. B — 2 books

5. 10

6. 4

7. Tie: dogs and cats

8. 8

9. 4

10. 0.9 goals per game

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