

Using Averages

For each of the following sets of data:

- Work out the mean, mode, and median.
- Decide which of the averages is the best one to use in that situation.

1. Sales in a shoe shop for one week.

Size of shoe	Number of pairs sold
2	1
3	2
4	7
5	28
6	35
7	33
8	12
9	5
10	2

2. Salaries paid to workers in a factory.

Job	Salary	Frequency
Factory worker	£12 000	13
Line manager	£18 000	7
Department manager	£45 000	5
Managing Director	£150 000	1

3. Scores in a mental arithmetic test.

Score	Frequency
1	0
2	1
3	0
4	3
5	4
6	7
7	8
8	4
9	2
10	1

Teaching Notes Using Averages

Answers

1. mean = 6.224 mode = 6 median = 6

mode is most useful

2. mean = £25 269 mode = £12 000 median = £15 000

median is most useful

3. mean = 6.4 mode = 7 median = 6.5

mean is most useful