

2.2 Data Compression

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS compression 压缩 • lossless 无损 • lossy 有损 • lossless compression 无损压缩
• lossy compression 有损压缩

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **data compression**.

You must be able to:

- explain why **compression** 压缩 reduces the bits needed to store or transmit data
- distinguish **lossless** 无损 from **lossy** 有损 compression
- describe the trade-off between file **size** and data **quality**
- explain how removing **redundancy** 冗余 speeds up transmission

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ Compression

Reduces the number of **bits** needed to store or send data, saving space and time.

■ Lossless vs lossy

- **Lossless** restores the original data **exactly** (used for text, program files; e.g. ZIP).
- **Lossy** discards some data, so it cannot be restored exactly, but achieves **smaller** files (e.g. JPEG, MP3).

■ The trade-off

Smaller size usually means lower quality. Removing redundancy makes transmission **faster** over a network.

2 Practice

2.1 State what data compression does.

[1]

2.2 State the difference between lossless and lossy compression. [2]

2.3 State one situation where lossless compression is needed. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Lossless compression [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** loses some of the data
 - B** restores the original data exactly
 - C** works only on images
 - D** increases the file size

3.2 A JPEG image file uses _____ compression. [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** lossless
 - B** lossy
 - C** no
 - D** text

3.3 A user must compress a legal text document, with no loss of data allowed.

- (a) State which type of compression to use. [1]
- (b) State why lossy compression is not suitable. [1]
- (c) State one benefit of compression when sending files. [1]