

3.16 Simulations

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 8 marks

KEY WORDS simulation 模拟 • phenomenon 现象 • risk 风险 • limitations 局限性 • list 列表

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **simulations**.

You must be able to:

- explain how a **simulation** 模拟 models a real-world **phenomenon** 现象
- describe how simulations use **abstraction** to simplify reality
- identify benefits such as lower cost and reduced **risk** 风险
- recognize the **limitations** 局限性 of a simulation

1 Worked examples

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

■ What a simulation is

A **simulation** is a program that **models a real-world phenomenon**, using **abstraction** to simplify and represent reality.

■ Benefits

It can be **cheaper** and **safer** than a real trial, and **randomness** can make it more realistic.

■ Limitations

A simulation leaves out detail through its assumptions, so its results may not perfectly match reality.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a simulation.

[1]

2.2 State one benefit of a simulation over a real trial. [1]

2.3 State one limitation of a simulation. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A simulation is a program that [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** stores data
B models a real-world phenomenon
C compresses files
D sorts a list

3.2 One benefit of a simulation is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** more risk
B lower cost and reduced risk
C guaranteed perfect accuracy
D having no assumptions

3.3 Engineers simulate a bridge design before building it.

- (a) State one benefit of doing this. [1]
(b) State how randomness could make the simulation more realistic. [1]
(c) State one limitation of the simulation. [1]