

6.11 Carrying Out a Test for the Difference of Two Population Proportions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS significance level • p-value P • test statistic

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **carrying out a test for a difference of two proportions**.

You must be able to:

- compute the test statistic z using the pooled standard error
- find the **p-value** and compare it to α
- state a conclusion in context

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

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

■ The full procedure

1. State $H_0 : p_1 = p_2$ and H_a ; check conditions.
2. Compute $z = \frac{\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2}{\sqrt{\hat{p}_c(1 - \hat{p}_c) \left(\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2} \right)}}$.
3. Find the **p-value** from z .
4. Compare to α : reject H_0 if p-value $< \alpha$, else fail to reject.
5. State the conclusion **in context**.

■ A worked test

$\hat{p}_1 = 0.60$ ($n_1 = 50$), $\hat{p}_2 = 0.45$ ($n_2 = 60$). Pooled $\hat{p}_c = \frac{30+27}{110} = 0.518$. Then

$$z = \frac{0.60 - 0.45}{\sqrt{0.518(0.482) \left(\frac{1}{50} + \frac{1}{60} \right)}} \approx \frac{0.15}{0.096} \approx 1.57,$$

a two-sided p-value $\approx 0.12 > 0.05$ – fail to reject H_0 .

2 Practice

2.1 State the steps to carry out a two-proportion test. [2]

2.2 A two-proportion test gives $z = 2.5$. State whether this is likely significant at $\alpha = 0.05$. [1]

2.3 State what to compare the p-value to. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 After computing z , you find the [1]

- ☐ **A** slope
☐ **B** p-value
☐ **C** mean
☐ **D** residual

3.2 A two-proportion test rejects H_0 when the p-value is [1]

- ☐ **A** above α
☐ **B** below α
☐ **C** exactly zero
☐ **D** exactly one

3.3 A two-proportion test gives a p-value of 0.03 at $\alpha = 0.05$.

- (a) State the decision. [1]
(b) State whether the two proportions differ significantly. [1]
(c) State the conclusion in context. [1]

Solutions

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

- state hypotheses and check conditions; compute z ; find the p-value; compare to α and conclude in context

2.2

- yes – $z = 2.5$ gives a small p-value, likely below 0.05

2.3

- the significance level α

3.1 B

- p-value.

3.2 B

- below α .

3.3

(a)

- reject H_0

(b)

- yes

(c)

- there is convincing evidence that the two proportions differ