

3.6 Selecting an Experimental Design

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 8 marks

KEY WORDS matched-pairs design 配对设计 • completely randomized design 完全随机设计
• blocking 区组 • experiment 实验 • treatment 处理

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **selecting an experimental design**.

You must be able to:

- describe a **completely randomized design** 完全随机设计
- explain how **blocking** 区组 reduces variability
- describe a **randomized block design** and a **matched-pairs design** 配对设计

1 Worked examples

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

■ Completely randomized design

All experimental units are assigned to the treatments **entirely at random**.

■ Blocking

Blocking groups similar units together (e.g. by age), then randomizes **within** each block. This **reduces variability** from that known factor, making treatment differences clearer.

■ Matched pairs

A **matched-pairs design** is a special case: two similar units per block (or the same unit measured twice, before and after).

2 Practice

2.1 Describe a completely randomized design.

[1]

2.2 State the purpose of blocking. [1]

2.3 State what a matched-pairs design is. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Blocking is used to [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** add bias
B reduce variability from a known factor
C avoid randomization
D increase error

3.2 A design that randomizes within groups of similar units is a [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** completely randomized design
B randomized block design
C census
D voluntary response survey

3.3 Researchers block by age group before assigning treatments.

- (a) Name this design. [1]
(b) State why they block by age. [1]
(c) Name a design that pairs two similar units. [1]