

E8.2 Relative and expected frequencies

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 16 marks

KEY WORDS relative frequency • expected frequency • trial • bias
• reliable

Objective

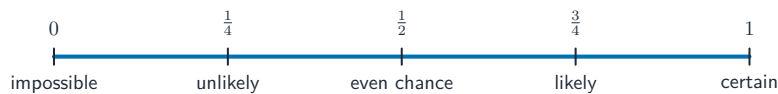
Build the skills to answer Extended exam questions on **relative and expected frequencies** – calculating a **relative frequency** from experimental results, calculating an **expected frequency** from a probability, and commenting on whether a result suggests **bias**.

You must be able to:

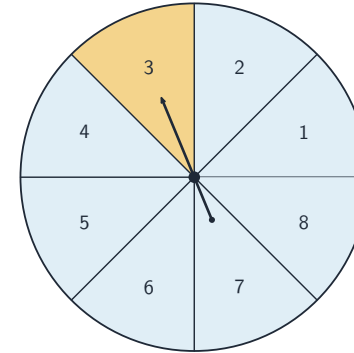
- calculate a relative frequency from a set of trials
- calculate an expected frequency as probability $\times$ number of trials
- use a relative frequency to estimate a probability, and comment on reliability

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

- Relative frequency looks back; expected frequency looks forward



Every probability lies between 0 and 1 – so does every relative frequency



Eight identical sectors, so every number is **equally likely**.

$$P(3) = \frac{\text{favourable outcomes}}{\text{total outcomes}} = \frac{1}{8}$$

On a fair spinner every sector is equally likely

- **Relative frequency** = $\frac{\text{number of times it happened}}{\text{number of trials}}$. It is what the experiment GAVE you.
- **Expected frequency** = probability $\times$ number of trials. It is what theory PRE-DICTS.
- **Estimating a probability:** use the relative frequency, and say that more trials make the estimate more reliable.
- **Commenting on fairness:** compare the relative frequency with the theoretical probability, and say whether the difference is big enough to matter given the number of trials.

Answer shapes (marked by **method marks** – M1 for a correct method, A1 for the correct answer): the multiplication or the fraction is the method mark, and the comment is a separate mark that a number alone cannot earn.

2 Practice

2.1 A coin is flipped 80 times and lands on heads 34 times. Find the relative frequency of heads. [2]

2.2 A fair six-sided dice is rolled 300 times. Find the expected number of sixes. [2]

2.3 The probability that a component is faulty is 0.03. In a batch of 2000, find the expected number of faulty components. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A spinner has five equal sectors numbered 1 to 5. It is spun 400 times.

(a) Find the expected number of times it lands on 3. [2]

(b) It actually lands on 3 on 68 occasions. Find the relative frequency of landing on 3.[2]

(c) Comment on whether the spinner appears to be fair. [2]

3.2 In a trial, 215 of 250 seeds germinate.

(a) Find the relative frequency of germination. [2]

(b) Estimate the number that would germinate from a batch of 4000 seeds. [2]
