# 5.7 Decision limitations

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

**KEY WORDS** p-value p

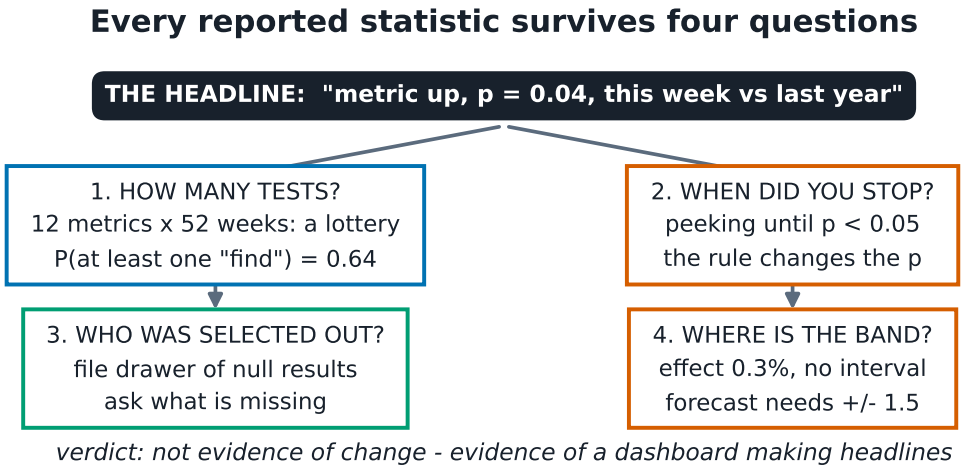
## Objective

Spot multiple-testing and stopping-rule traps; audit reported statistics in business claims; demand uncertainty in forecasts.

## 1 Key knowledge and worked examples

### ■ The four gates

How many tests were run? When did you stop? Who was selected out? Where is the band? Twenty tests at $\alpha = 0.05$ expect a "finding" with probability 0.64 – a lottery, not a discovery. A forecast without an interval is a mood.




*Every reported statistic survives four questions - or it is a story*

### ■ Worked example. The dashboard headline

12 metrics scanned weekly; one hits p = 0.04 against last year, effect 0.3%. Question 1 alone retires it: $12 \times 52$ implicit comparisons. Verdict: not evidence of change – evidence of a dashboard making headlines. The honest response: a pre-registered confirmation on fresh data.



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## 2 Practice

**2.1** A chain reports "store 7 improved, p = 0.03" – one of its 14 stores, chosen after looking. Compute the chance that at least one of 14 independent tests clears 0.05, and name TWO gates the claim fails. [4]

**2.2** An A/B test was checked daily and stopped on day 9, the first morning $p < 0.05$. In two lines, what does the stopping rule do to the nominal error rate, and what rule would have kept it honest? [2]

**2.3** "Next month's revenue: £84,300." With sd £9,000 across months ($n \approx 30$), construct the band the forecast should wear (95%, $t \approx 2$), and say in one line how the owner should use it. [3]

**2.4** For each report defect – (a) 12 metrics, one flagged; (b) stopped when p dipped; (c) eleven flat stores omitted; (d) £84,300 with no band – name its gate. [4]



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